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CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT  
on the  
COFFIN & CASKET INDUSTRY  
in  
CANADA  
1921 and 1922

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Published by Authority of the Hon. Thos. A. Low. M. P.,  
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CENSUS OF INDUSTRY - FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS  
OTTAWA, CANADA.

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THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA

1921 and 1922

Ottawa, June, 1924.- A report on the manufacture of coffins, caskets and shells or rough boxes in Canada during 1921 and 1922 has been completed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 34 firms engaged in the manufacture of these products in 1922 as compared to 28 in 1921. The total amount of capital invested in the industry increased from \$2,595,825 in 1921 to \$2,856,526 in 1922. The employees of all classes numbered 656 in 1922 as compared to 435 in 1921. The total pay roll in 1922 was \$702,893 and in 1921, \$555,770. This industry in 1922 purchased \$27,096 worth of fuel, paid out \$247,103 in miscellaneous expenses and employed power to the amount of 1300 horse-power. The materials in 1922 cost \$1,030,174 and its total products were valued at \$2,173,125.

Out of the total of 34 factories, 12 were located in Ontario, 11 in Quebec, 3 each in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, 2 each in Manitoba and New Brunswick and one in Prince Edward Island.

Tables 1 and 2 give a summary of the principal statistics of this industry and the distribution of its factories by provinces.

The chief material used by the manufacturers of coffins and caskets is lumber which was purchased to the extent of 274,361,000 feet board measure costing \$361,693. Over eighty per cent of this lumber was softwood, used chiefly in the manufacture of rough boxes and shells. The forty-five million feet of hardwood, however, made up over sixty per cent of the value of all lumber used. A quantity of veneer was also purchased but the next important item was linings and coverings for coffins and caskets. Hardware and mountings; nails, tacks and screws and paint, oil and varnish were other important materials purchased. The total value of all raw materials was \$1,030,174 in 1922 and \$816,916 in 1921.

Table 3 gives details of the raw materials used in 1921 and 1922.

This industry in 1922 turned out over fourteen thousand caskets valued at \$1,125,198, ten thousand coffins at \$724,365 and almost forty thousand rough boxes and shells valued at \$292,231. Undertakers' supplies to the value of \$22,023 also formed a part of the products of the industry. Its total products were valued at \$2,173,125 in 1922 as compared to \$1,966,846 in 1921.

Table 4 gives the details of the products manufactured in 1921 and 1922 and Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 cover capital invested, employment, fuel used and power employed during these two years.



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## THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1921 and 1922.

Table 1.- Principal Statistics, 1921-1922

Items		1921	1922
Establishments .....	No.	28	34
Capital invested .....	\$	2,595,825	2,856,526
Employees on salaries .....	No.	58	89
Salaries paid .....	\$	109,679	175,059
Employees on wages .....	No.	377	567
Wages paid .....	\$	446,091	527,834
Fuel used .....	\$	33,779	27,096
Miscellaneous expenses .....	\$	243,665	247,103
Power employed .....	H.P.	-	1,300
Cost of materials .....	\$	816,916	1,030,174
Value of products .....	\$	1,966,846	2,173,125

Table 2.- Distribution of Establishments by provinces, 1921-1922

Provinces	1921	1922
	No.	No.
CANADA	28	34
Ontario .....	11	12
Quebec .....	10	11
Nova Scotia .....	3	3
British Columbia .....	1	3
Manitoba .....	2	2
New Brunswick .....	-	2
Prince Edward Island .....	1	1

Table 3.- Materials Used, 1921 and 1922

Materials		Quantity		Value	
		1921	1922	1921	1922
TOTAL		-	-	816,916	1,030,174
Lumber, softwood .....	M.ft.b.m.	9,664	4,724	228,982	135,208
Lumber, hardwood .....	"	1,413	5,093	45,379	226,485
Veneer .....	M.s.f.	9	83	250	2,841
Linings and coverings ..	\$	-	-	275,037	295,595
Hardware and mountings ..	\$	-	-	63,386	129,087
Nails, tacks, screws, etc..	\$	-	-	14,571	8,735
Paint, oil and varnish ..	\$	-	-	11,334	5,342
Plate glass .....	\$	-	-	-	638
Other glass .....	\$	-	-	2,268	341
Bar iron and steel .....	\$	-	-	6	24
Hoop and band iron .....	\$	-	-	25	-
Castings, iron and steel ..	\$	-	-	178	16
Iron piping .....	\$	-	-	2,127	-
All other materials .....	\$	-	-	173,373	225,862

Table 4.- Products Manufactured, 1921 and 1922

Products	Quantity		Value	
	1921	1922	1921	1922
	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	-	-	1,966,846	2,173,125
Caskets .....	-	14,832	1,952,635	1,125,198
Coffins .....	-	10,562		724,365
Rough boxes and shells .....	-	39,696		292,231
Undertakers' supplies .....	-	-	-	22,023
All other products .....	-	-	14,211	9,308

THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1921 and 1922.

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Table 5.- Capital Invested, 1921-1922

Items	1921	1922
	\$	\$
TOTAL	2,595,825	2,856,526
Land, buildings and fixtures .....	852,052	991,985
Machinery and tools .....	473,471	529,842
Materials, stock, etc. on hand .....	973,956	986,464
Cash, accounts, etc.....	296,346	348,235

Table 6.- Employment, 1921 and 1922

Classes of Employees	Total number of employees		Males		Females		Total salaries and wages	
	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	435	656	374	570	61	86	555,770	702,893
Salaried officers .....	4	14	4	14	-	-	10,600	33,032
Superintendents and managers .....	12	16	12	16	-	-	33,419	40,075
Technical staff .....	2	4	2	3	-	1	3,800	10,589
Clerical staff .....	40	55	28	38	12	17	61,860	91,363
Employees on wages .....	377	567	328	499	49	63	446,091	527,834

Table 7.- Fuel Used, 1921 and 1922

Kinds of Fuel		Quantity		Value	
		1921	1922	1921	1922
TOTAL	\$	-	-	33,779	27,096
Bituminous coal .....	tons	3,353	2,594	32,336	23,049
Anthracite coal .....	"	1	235	25	2,437
Lignite coal .....	"	-	25	-	338
Coke .....	"	-	3	-	51
Gasoline .....	gal.	580	435	236	167
Wood .....	cords	170	207	1,056	944
Other fuel .....	\$	-	-	126	110

Table 8.- Power Employed, 1921 and 1922

Power Units	Number of units		Total horse-power	
	1921	1922	1921	1922
	No.	No.	H.P.	H.P.
Total Power Employed .....	-	-	341	1,300
Stationary engines -				
Steam .....	5	8	252	475
Gas .....	-	-	-	-
Oil and gasoline .....	1	3	18	27
Electric motors, purchased power .....	7	48	71	798
Electric motors, generated power .....	-	8	-	70
Boilers installed .....	5	17	250	1,155

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