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FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH

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on the
COFFIN & CASKET INDUSTRY
in
CANADA
1924-25

(Subject to revision on further examination of individual reports)

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Published by authority of the Hon. James Malcolm, M. P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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OTTAWA

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY - FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA.

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Forest Products Statistics: R. G. Lewis, B. Sc.F.

THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA
1924 and 1925

Ottawa, February, 1927.- A report on the manufacture of coffins, caskets and shells or rough boxes in Canada during 1924 and 1925 has been completed by the Forest Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 35 firms engaged in the manufacture of these products in 1925 as compared to 33 in 1924. The total amount of capital invested in the industry decreased from \$2,731,544 in 1924 to \$2,721,300 in 1925. The employees of all classes numbered 583 in 1925 as compared to 617 in 1924. The total pay roll in 1925 was \$573,936 and in 1924, \$632,202. This industry in 1925 purchased \$25,732 worth of fuel and employed power to the amount of 1482 horsepower. The materials in 1925 cost \$334,065 and its total products were valued at \$2,091,814.

Out of the total of 35 factories, 13 were located in Ontario, 12 in Quebec, 3 each in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, 2 in Manitoba and one each in New Brunswick and 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 7,243 M feet board measure costing \$266,772. About eighty percent of this lumber was softwood, used chiefly in the manufacture of rough boxes and shells. 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.

Table 3 gives details of the materials used in 1924 and 1925.

This industry in 1925 turned out over fifty-three thousand caskets valued at \$1,383,778, eleven thousand coffins at \$188,533 and over forty-one thousand rough boxes and shells valued at \$193,858. Undertakers' supplies to the value of \$302,354 also formed a part of the products of the industry.

Table 4 gives the details of the products manufactured in 1924 and 1925 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, 1924 AND 1925

Table 1.- Principal Statistics, 1924-1925.

Items		1924	1925
Establishments	No.	33	35
Capital invested	\$	2,731,544	2,721,300
Employees on salaries	No.	60	58
Salaries paid	\$	105,627	97,532
Employees on wages	No.	557	525
Wages paid	\$	526,575	476,404
Fuel used	\$	21,455	23,732
Power employed	H.P.	1,243	1,482
Cost of materials	\$	837,939	834,065
Value of products	\$	2,155,546	2,091,814

Table 2.- Distribution of Establishments by Provinces, 1924-1925.

Provinces	1924	1925
	No.	No.
CANADA	33	35
Ontario	15	13
Quebec	10	12
Nova Scotia	3	3
British Columbia	1	3
Manitoba	2	2
New Brunswick	1	1
Prince Edward Island	1	1

Table 3.- Materials Used 1924 and 1925.

Materials		Quantity		Value	
		1924	1925	1924	1925
TOTAL		-	-	837,939	834,065
Lumber or logs, softwood	M ft.	5,483	5,759	221,502	167,128
Lumber or logs, hardwood	"	1,246	1,484	131,431	99,644
Bolts, etc., softwood	cords	-	15	-	75
Veneer and plywood		2	1	40	30
All other materials		-	-	544,966	617,188

THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1924 AND 1925.

Table 4.- Products Manufactured, 1924-1925.

Products	Quantity		Value	
	1924	1925	1924	1925
	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	105,840	106,661	2,155,546	2,091,814
Caskets	No. 52,567	53,056	1,503,742	1,383,778
Coffins	" 10,704	11,353	110,820	188,533
Shells or rough boxes	" 42,496	41,941	228,470	193,858
Other undertakers' supplies	-	-	303,422	302,354
Sash, doors and other millwork	-	-	3,090	3,395
Hardwood flooring M ft.b.m.	9	84	618	4,500
All other matched lumber	"	100	-	4,000
All other planed lumber	" 24	100	870	4,500
Skis	prs. 30	16	98	56
Furniture and other cabinet work	-	-	550	800
Excelsior and woodwool	tons 10	11	540	528
Coat hangers	No. -	-	2,848	2,580
Ladders	-	-	-	234
All other woodturning	-	-	478	-
Cedar chests	-	-	-	51
Custom work	-	-	-	2,047

Table 5.- Capital Invested, 1924-1925.

Items	1924	1925
TOTAL	2,731,544	2,721,300
Land, buildings, fixtures and machinery	1,386,376	1,395,824
Materials, stocks in process, etc.	259,628	245,225
Cash, trading and operating accounts, etc.	385,540	380,181

Table 6.- Employment, 1924 and 1925.

Classes of Employees	Total No. of employees		Males		Females		Total Salaries and Wages	
	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	617	583	511	484	106	99	632,202	573,936
Salaried employees	60	58	45	44	15	14	105,627	97,532
Employees on wages	557	525	466	440	91	85	526,575	476,404

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THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1924-1925.

Table 7.- Fuel Used, 1924 and 1925.

Kinds of fuel		Quantity		Value	
		1924	1925	1924	1925
TOTAL		3,786	4,762	21,455	23,732
Bituminous coal	tons	2,778	3,084	19,803	21,751
Anthracite	"	2	2	23	24
Lignite	"	-	-	-	-
Coke	"	8	3	72	23
Gasoline	gal.	400	250	412	82
Oil (fuel)	"	-	600	-	150
Wood	cord	150	316	618	1,100
Gas	M c.ft.	450	507	447	602
Other fuel	"	-	-	80	-

Table 8.- Power Employed, 1924-1925.

Power Units	Number of Units		Total Horse-power	
	1924	1925	1924	1925
Total Power Employed	65	68	1,248	1,482
Stationary engines:-				
Steam	8	10	475	610
Oil, gas, and gasoline	4	4	39	32
Hydraulic turbines or waterwheels	2	2	12	27
Electric motors:-				
Purchased power	51	50	722	813
Boilers installed	19	19	1,305	1,300

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