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FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH

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PRELIMINARY REPORT

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on the

COFFIN & CASKET INDUSTRY

in

CANADA

1926-1927

(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

+ + +

OTTAWA

1929

**Note:**

Production figures as given in this bulletin do not necessarily represent the total output in Canada of the commodities listed, as there may be also a considerable production in other industrial groups. For complete information this bulletin must be read with the rest of the series on woodusing industries and other publications of the Census of Industry.



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY - FOREST PRODUCTS BRANCH  
OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B. A., F. S. S., (Hon.), F. R. S. C.  
Forest Products Statistics: R. G. Lewis, B. Sc. F.

THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA

1926 and 1927

Ottawa, January, 1929.- A report on the manufacture of coffins, caskets and shells or rough boxes in Canada during 1926 and 1927 has been completed by the Forest Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 34 firms engaged in the manufacture of these products in 1927 as compared to 36 in 1926. The total amount of capital invested in the industry increased from \$2,991,223 in 1926 to \$3,272,828 in 1927. The employees of all classes numbered 651 in 1927 as compared to 629 in 1926. The total payroll in 1927 was \$720,502 and in 1926 \$673,083. This industry in 1927 purchased \$23,797 worth of fuel and employed power to the amount of 1255 horse-power. Its materials in 1927 cost \$1,174,276 and its total products were valued at \$2,605,338.

Out of the total of 34 factories, 16 were located in Ontario, 10 in Quebec, 3 in Nova Scotia, 2 in Manitoba and one each in **British Columbia, 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 8,261 m. feet board measure costing \$324,795. About eighty-one per cent 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 items were 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 1926 and 1927.

This industry in 1927 turned out over sixty-three thousand caskets valued at \$1,795,867, eight thousand coffins at \$110,836 and over forty-one thousand rough boxes and shells valued at \$229,383. Undertakers' supplies to the value of \$848,632, also formed a part of the products of the industry.

Table 4 gives the details of the products manufactured in 1926 and 1927 and Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 cover capital invested, employment, fuel used and power employed during these two years.

STATE OF NEW YORK  
IN SENATE

January 10, 1907.

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE



The Commission on the Land Office has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 10th inst. and to express its appreciation of the thoroughness and accuracy of the same. The report is being referred to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,  
J. B. [Signature]

Commissioner of the Land Office

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THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1926 and 1927

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1926 - 1927.

Items		1 9 2 6	1 9 2 7
Establishments	No.	36	34
Capital invested	\$	2,991,223	3,272,828
Employees on salaries	No.	63	66
Salaries paid	\$	129,190	149,187
Employees on wages	No.	566	585
Wages paid	\$	543,893	571,315
Fuel used	\$	21,744	23,797
Power employed	H.P.	1,259	1,255
Cost of materials	\$	1,108,988	1,174,276
Value of products	\$	2,466,117	2,605,338

Table 2. - Distribution of Establishments by Provinces, 1926-1927.

Provinces		1 9 2 6	1 9 2 7
		No.	No.
	CANADA	36	34
Ontario		14	16
Quebec		12	10
Nova Scotia		3	3
British Columbia		3	1
Manitoba		2	2
New Brunswick		1	1
Prince Edward Island		1	1

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1926 and 1927.

Materials		Quantity		Value	
		1926	1927	1926	1927
TOTAL		-	-	\$ 1,108,988	\$ 1,174,276
Lumber or logs, softwood	M. ft.	6,804	6,652	229,940	223,276
Lumber or logs, hardwood	"	1,762	1,609	122,533	101,519
Bolts, etc., softwood	cords	30	-	150	-
Veneer and plywood	M. surf. ft.	213	21	12,800	849
All other materials	Value only	-	-	743,565	848,632

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ALBANY		1880	
NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	SEX
JOHN A. BROWN	ALBANY	45	M
MARY A. BROWN	ALBANY	42	F
WILLIAM A. BROWN	ALBANY	18	M
ELIZABETH A. BROWN	ALBANY	15	F
CHARLES A. BROWN	ALBANY	12	M
ANNE A. BROWN	ALBANY	10	F
JAMES A. BROWN	ALBANY	8	M
MARGARET A. BROWN	ALBANY	6	F
JOHN B. BROWN	ALBANY	4	M
MARY B. BROWN	ALBANY	3	F

COUNTY OF ALBANY		1880	
NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	SEX
JOHN C. BROWN	ALBANY	35	M
MARY C. BROWN	ALBANY	32	F
WILLIAM C. BROWN	ALBANY	15	M
ELIZABETH C. BROWN	ALBANY	12	F
CHARLES C. BROWN	ALBANY	10	M
ANNE C. BROWN	ALBANY	8	F
JAMES C. BROWN	ALBANY	6	M
MARGARET C. BROWN	ALBANY	4	F
JOHN D. BROWN	ALBANY	3	M
MARY D. BROWN	ALBANY	2	F

COUNTY OF ALBANY		1880	
NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	SEX
JOHN E. BROWN	ALBANY	25	M
MARY E. BROWN	ALBANY	22	F
WILLIAM E. BROWN	ALBANY	10	M
ELIZABETH E. BROWN	ALBANY	8	F
CHARLES E. BROWN	ALBANY	6	M
ANNE E. BROWN	ALBANY	4	F
JAMES E. BROWN	ALBANY	3	M
MARGARET E. BROWN	ALBANY	2	F
JOHN F. BROWN	ALBANY	1	M
MARY F. BROWN	ALBANY	1	F



THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1926 AND 1927.

Table 4. - Products Manufactured, 1926 and 1927.

Products		Quantity		Value	
		1926	1927	1926	1927
		No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL		121,171	113,421	2,466,117	2,605,338
Caskets	No.	63,844	63,334	1,668,837	1,795,867
Coffins	"	10,808	8,943	126,029	110,836
Shells or rough boxes	"	46,154	41,144	237,358	229,383
Other undertakers' supplies		-	-	390,863	458,079
Secondary Products --					
Sash, doors and other millwork)		-	-	43,030	11,173
Hardwood flooring and all )					
other matched and planed )					
lumber, skis, furniture, )					
cabinet work, excelsior and )					
woodwork and all other )					
Products.					

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1926 and 1927.

Items	1926	1927
	\$	\$
TOTAL	2,991,223	3,272,828
Land, buildings, fixtures and machinery	1,514,964	1,688,262
Materials, stocks in process, etc.	1,006,689	1,077,199
Cash, trading and operating accounts, etc.	469,570	567,367

Table 6. - Employment, 1926 and 1927.

Classes of Employees	Total No. of Employees		Males		Females		Total Salaries and Wages	
	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	629	651	518	543	111	108	673,083	720,502
Salaried employees	63	66	45	49	18	17	129,190	149,187
Employees on wages	566	585	473	494	93	91	543,893	571,315

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THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY, 1926-1927.

Table 7. - Fuel Used, 1926 and 1927.

Kinds of fuel		Quantity		Value	
		1926	1927	1926	1927
				\$	\$
TOTAL		4,566	-	21,744	23,797
Bituminous coal, Can.	Tons	2,933	1,109	20,130	5,933
" " Imported	"	-	1,857	-	13,308
Anthracite "	"	1	62	19	840
Lignite " Can.	"	-	83	-	750
Coke	"	5	8	68	69
Gasoline	gal.	370	515	118	161
Oil (fuel)	"	600	-	150	-
Wood	cord	282	142	700	931
Gas	M.c.ft.	375	1,365	439	1,645
Other fuel		-	-	120	160

Table 8. - Power Employed, 1926 and 1927.

Power Units	Number of Units		Total Horse-power	
	1926	1927	1926	1927
Total Power Employed	62	67	1,259	1,255
Stationary engines:-				
Steam	6	6	395	420
Oil, gas and gasoline	5	5	48	47
Hydraulic turbines or waterwheels	1	1	7	8
Electric motors:-				
Purchased power	50	55	809	780
Boilers installed	18	17	1,245	1,305





Coffins and caskets were the principal products of the following firms in 1927.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Montague Furnishing Co. Ltd.

Montague, P. E. I.

NOVA SCOTIA

Cameron & Fraser Ltd.  
Dominion Manufacturers Ltd.  
Snow & Co. Ltd.

Townsend Ave., New Glasgow, N. S.  
Albion St., Amherst, N. S.  
90 Argyle St., Halifax, N. S.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Tuttle Bros. Ltd.

171 Lutz St., Moncton, N. B.

QUEBEC

Bishop, S. N.  
Dominion Manufacturers Ltd.

Dube, Xavier  
Emond, M.  
Godue Casket Mfg. Co.  
Lariviere, P.  
Lehoux, Aug.  
Perrault, Seraphin  
Perron, Jos. & Fils.  
Sansregret, Mederic Fils.

Bishop's Crossing, Co. Wolfe.  
(H.O.) 109 Niagara St., Toronto.  
Bellefeuille St., Trois-Rivieres.  
St. Jean Port Joli.  
139 Kent St., Hull.  
Maple St., Sutton.  
St. Ours.  
Princeville.  
St. Gabriel de Brandon.  
Baie St. Paul.  
St. Paul D'Industrie.

ONTARIO

Border Cities Casket Co. Ltd.  
Central Casket Co. Ltd.  
Dominion Manufacturers Ltd.  
Elliott Bros.  
Elliott Bros.  
Evel Casket Co. Ltd.  
Globe Casket Co., Ltd.  
Guelph Casket Works  
Harriston Casket Co., Ltd.  
Northern Casket Co., Ltd.  
Stoddart & Son, M. J.  
Mt. Forest Casket Co. (Wm. Gibson)  
Sterling Caskets Ltd.  
Tickell & Sons., Co.  
Stratford Casket Co.

Ford, Ont.  
1481 Davenport Rd., Toronto, Ont.  
109 Niagara St., Toronto and Hamilton.  
42 Hughson, Hamilton.  
Prescott, Ont.  
519 King St. E., Hamilton.  
Dundas St., London.  
Guelph, Ontario.  
John St., Harriston.  
Lindsay, Ontario.  
Woodville.  
Mt. Forest.  
627 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.  
275 Front St., Belleville.  
King Street, Stratford.

MANITOBA

Dominion Manufacturers Co.  
Western Casket Co. Ltd.

Parr St. & Dufferin Ave., Winnipeg.  
Cor. Bannatyne Ave. & Emily St., Winnipeg.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dominion Manufacturers Ltd.

1650 First Ave. W., Vancouver, B. C.

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