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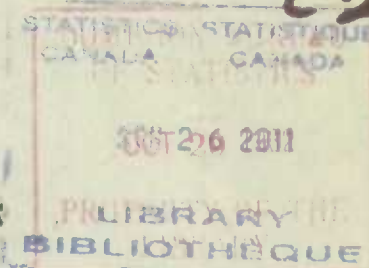
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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

FORESTRY BRANCH



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**PRELIMINARY REPORT**

**ON THE**

**COFFIN & CASKET INDUSTRY**

**IN**

**CANADA**

**1931**

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Published by Authority of the HON. H. H. STEVENS, M. P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA  
1932

32-0-22

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 wood-using industries and other publications of the Census of Industry.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY-FORESTRY BRANCH  
OTTAWA, CANADA

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THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1930 AND 1931.

Ottawa, October, 1932. A report on the manufacture of coffins, caskets and shells or rough boxes in Canada during 1930 and 1931 has been completed by the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 35 firms engaged in the manufacture of these products in 1931 and 36 in 1930. The total amount of capital invested in the industry decreased from \$3,784,344 in 1930 to \$3,685,003 in 1931. The employees of all classes numbered 787 in 1931 as compared to 778 in 1930. The total payroll in 1931 was \$887,323 and in 1930 \$877,128. This industry in 1931 purchased \$17,422 worth of fuel and employed power to the amount of 2,260 horse-power. Its materials in 1931 cost \$1,102,101 and its total products were valued at \$2,767,491.

Out of the total of 35 factories 14 were located in Ontario, 10 in Quebec, 2 in Nova Scotia, 4 in British Columbia, 2 in Manitoba and one each in Saskatchewan, 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 10,183 m. ft. board measure costing \$422,347. About seventy six per cent of this lumber was softwood, used chiefly in the manufacture of rough boxes and shells. The next important items were linings and coverings for coffins and caskets. Hardware and mountings; nails, tacks and screws; paint, oil and varnish were other important materials purchased.

Table 3 gives details of the materials used in 1930 and 1931.

This industry in 1931 turned out over sixty-seven thousand caskets valued at \$2,113,319, eight thousand coffins at \$84,538 and over forty-eight thousand rough boxes and shells valued at \$254,584. Undertakers' supplies to the value of \$272,652, also formed a part of the products of the industry.

Table 4 gives the details of the products manufactured in 1930 and 1931 and Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 cover capital invested, employment, fuel used and power employed during these two years.



THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA 1930 AND 1931.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics, 1930 and 1931.

Items		1 9 3 0	1 9 3 1
Establishments	No.	36	35
Capital Invested	\$	3,784,344	3,685,003
Employees on salaries	No.	77	134
Salaries paid	\$	182,936	257,513
Employees on wages	No.	701	653
Wages paid	\$	694,192	629,810
Fuel Used	\$	18,522	17,422
Power Employed	H.P.	2,253	2,260
Cost of Materials	\$	1,337,718	1,102,101
Value of Products	\$	3,186,476	2,767,401

Table 2. - Distribution of Establishments by Provinces, 1930 and 1931.

Provinces	1 9 3 0	1 9 3 1
	No.	No.
CANADA	36	35
Ontario	15	14
Quebec	10	10
Nova Scotia	3	2
British Columbia	3	4
Manitoba	2	2
Saskatchewan	1	1
New Brunswick	1	1
Prince Edward Island	1	1

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1930 and 1931.

Materials		Quantity		Value	
		1930	1931	1930	1931
TOTAL		-	-	1,337,718	1,102,101
Lumber or logs, softwood	M. ft. b.m.	7,726	7,776	247,317	228,035
Lumber or logs, hardwood	" b.m.	2,236	2,407	143,223	194,312
Bolts, etc., softwood	Cord	-	-	-	-
Veneer and plywood	M. surf. ft.	-	574	-	28,721
All other materials	Value only	-	-	947,178	651,033

THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1930 AND 1931.

Table 4. - Products Manufactured, 1930 and 1931.

Products	Quantity		Value	
	1930	1931	1930	1931
	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	134,531	124,288	3,186,476	2,767,491
Caskets	No. 80,378	67,282	2,323,480	2,113,319
Coffins	" 4,534	8,509	43,303	84,538
Shells or rough boxes	" 49,619	48,497	263,171	254,584
Other undertakers' supplies	-	-	507,258	272,652
Secondary Products —				
Sash, doors and other millwork, moulding, hardwood flooring, matched and planed lumber, sanitary woodwork, garment hangers, excelsior cigar boxes, handles, reels and boxes, etc.	-	-	49,264	42,398

NOTE: Data given here do not necessarily represent the total Canadian production under each heading since these products are also listed under other industries.

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1930 and 1931.

Items	1930	1931
	\$	\$
TOTAL	3,784,344	3,685,003
Land, buildings, fixtures and machinery	1,882,402	1,793,068
Materials, stocks in process, etc.	1,156,815	657,786
Inventory value of finished products on hand	-	759,363
Cash, trading and operating accounts, etc.	745,127	474,786

Table 6. - Employment, 1930 and 1931.

Classes of Employees	Total No. of Employees		Males		Females		Total Salaries and Wages	
	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	\$	\$
TOTAL	778	787	664	671	114	116	877,128	887,323
Salaried employees	77	134	63	108	14	26	182,936	257,513
Employees on wages	701	653	601	563	100	90	694,192	629,810

THE COFFIN AND CASKET INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1930 AND 1931.

Table 7. - Fuel Used, 1930 and 1931.

Kind of Fuel		Quantity		Value	
		1930	1931	1930	1931
				\$	\$
TOTAL		-	-	18,522	17,422
Bituminous coal, Canadian	Tons	1,290	1,039	6,528	4,622
" " Imported	"	808	984	5,607	7,165
Anthracite coal	"	76	70	761	657
Lignite coal, Canadian	"	93	15	650	150
Coke	"	4	19	60	190
Gasoline	Gal.	461	240	139	72
Kerosene	"	25	90	5	15
Fuel Oil	"	3,875	4,008	464	477
Wood	Cord	358	332	2,951	2,367
Gas - Manufactured	M. c. ft.	1,293	1,103	1,280	1,190
Natural	" " "	139	322	70	201
Other fuel	-	-	-	7	316

Table 8. - Power Employed, 1930 and 1931.

Power Units	Number of Units		Total Horse-power	
	1930	1931	1930	1931
Total Power Employed	162	167	2,253	2,260
Stationary Engines:-				
Steam	6	5	415	375
Oil, gas and gasoline	5	4	42	38
Hydraulic turbines or waterwheels	-	1	-	5
Electric motors:-				
(a) Purchased power	151	157	1,796	1,842
(b) Operated by power generated by the establishment	1	-	40	-
Boilers installed	16	27	1,030	1,273





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