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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

REPORT
on the
BUTTON INDUSTRY
in
CANADA
1927

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Minister of Trade and Commerce

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
OTTAWA - CANADA

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F. S. S., (Hon.), F.R.S.C.
Chief, Census of Industry: J. C. Macpherson,

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1927.

Ottawa, January, 1929.- A report is herewith presented on the Button Industry in Canada for the calendar year 1927. There were 13 establishments in operation of which 11 were in the province of Ontario and 2 in Quebec. A summary of the principal statistics compared for the years 1926 and 1927 is given in Table 1.

Table 1.- Principal Statistics compared for 1926 and 1927.

		1926	1927
Establishments	No.	13	13
Capital investment	\$	1,390,717	1,393,132
Employees on salaries -			
Male	No.	50	49
Female	No.	17	16
Salaries	\$	148,208	147,762
Employees on wages - average number -			
Male	No.	236	226
Female	No.	253	193
Wages	\$	310,832	264,908
Outside piece workers -			
Male	No.	-	-
Female	No.	26	32
Amount paid	\$	3,426	3,793
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$	19,107	20,561
Power installation - Units	No.	57	57
Capacity	H.P.	574	525
Cost of materials	\$	358,979	306,498
Gross value of products	\$	1,088,953	955,397
Net value of products	\$	729,974	648,899

Size of Establishments

In view of the tendency towards concentration in industrial enterprise, a series of tables have been prepared presenting in a threefold way the size of establishments in the Button industry measured by (a) capital investment (b) gross value of production and (c) the number of persons employed, all within certain specified groups or limitations for the calendar years 1926 and 1927. The tables further indicate the movement of capital, production and employment within the industry.

In 1926 the number of establishments reporting was 13 with a total capital investment of \$1,390,717; a gross value of production of \$1,088,953 and a total employment of 556. Six establishments had a capital investment of \$1,114,868 or 80.2 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of \$185,811 per establishment. In gross value of production seven establishments had a total production of \$916,668 or 84.2 per cent of the total output and an average of \$130,952 per establishment. In employment 8 establishments had 496 persons on the payroll or 89.2 per cent of the total employment with an average employment of 62 per establishment.

In 1927 the number of establishments reporting was 13 with a total capital investment of \$1,393,132, a gross value of production of \$955,397 and a total employment of 484. Six establishments had a total capital investment of \$1,147,295 or 82.3 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of \$191,216 per establishment. In gross value of production 7 establishments had a total production of \$303,355 or 31.8 per cent of the total output with an average production of \$114,765 per establishment. In employment 8 establishments had 431 persons on the payroll or 89.0 per cent of the total employment and an average of 54 persons per establishment.

CAPITAL

Groups of Value	1926			1927		
	Estab- lish- ments No.	Total Capital \$	Average Capital per Establish- ment \$	Estab- lish- ments No.	Total Capital \$	Average Capital per Establish- ment \$
	Under \$50,000	5	142,670	28,534	5	105,165
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	2	133,179	66,589	2	140,672	70,336
\$100,000 " " 200,000	4	497,710	124,427	4	532,730	133,182
\$200,000 " " 500,000	2	617,158	308,579	2	614,565	307,282
\$500,000 " " 1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	1,390,717	106,978	13	1,393,132	107,164

PRODUCTION

Groups of Value	1926			1927		
	Estab- lish- ments No.	Total Value of Produc- tion \$	Average Value per Establish- ment \$	Estab- lish- ments No.	Total Value of Produc- tion \$	Average Value per Establish- ment. \$
	Under \$50,000	6	172,235	28,714	6	152,042
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	3	274,286	91,428	2	124,880	62,440
\$100,000 " " 200,000	3	401,414	133,804	4	458,129	114,532
\$200,000 " " 500,000	1	240,933	240,968	1	220,346	220,346
\$500,000 " " 1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	1,038,953	83,766	13	955,397	73,492

EMPLOYEES

Groups of Employees	1926			1927		
	Estab- lish- ments No.	Total Employees No.	Average Employees per Estab- lishment No.	Estab- lish- ments No.	Total Employees No.	Average Employees per Estab- lishment. No.
	Under 20	5	60	12	5	53
20 but under 50	4	148	37	4	94	23
50 " " 100	3	203	67	3	192	64
100 " " 200	1	145	145	1	145	145
200 " " 500	-	-	-	-	-	-
500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	556	43	13	484	37

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1927.

PRODUCTION

The quantity and value of the various products of the industry will be found in Table II. for the calendar year 1927. The total value of production in 1926 was \$1,088,953, whilst for the period covered by this report the amount reported was \$955,397 a net decrease of \$133,556 over the two year period.

Table II. - Production - 1927

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Value \$
Fresh water pearl buttons	gross	330,346	117,232
Metal buttons	gt. gross	17,792	64,721
Vegetable ivory buttons	gross	537,021	382,305
Pearl buttons	gross	83,243	96,751
Galalith and artificial horn buttons	gross	8,915	17,050
Patent detachable bachelor buttons	gross	6,208	8,691
Patent separable cuff buttons	gross	707	3,036
Celluloid buttons and buckles	gross	-	73,903
All other buttons	gross	-	37,033
Metal fasteners	gt. gross	18,143	23,586
Metal loops	h. gross	5,620	5,058
Metal slides	D. gross	13,540	16,383
Buttons, buckles and ornaments	gross	7,000	20,524
Boxes	C.	74	2,655
Tags	M.	1,604	6,381
Shrinking cloth	yards	1,363,550	34,252
Covered buttons	gross	6,878	5,751
Moulds and dies	gross	55,000	13,957
Silk tassels and ornaments	gross	205	610
All other products and amount received for custom work	-	-	20,518
		-	955,397

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

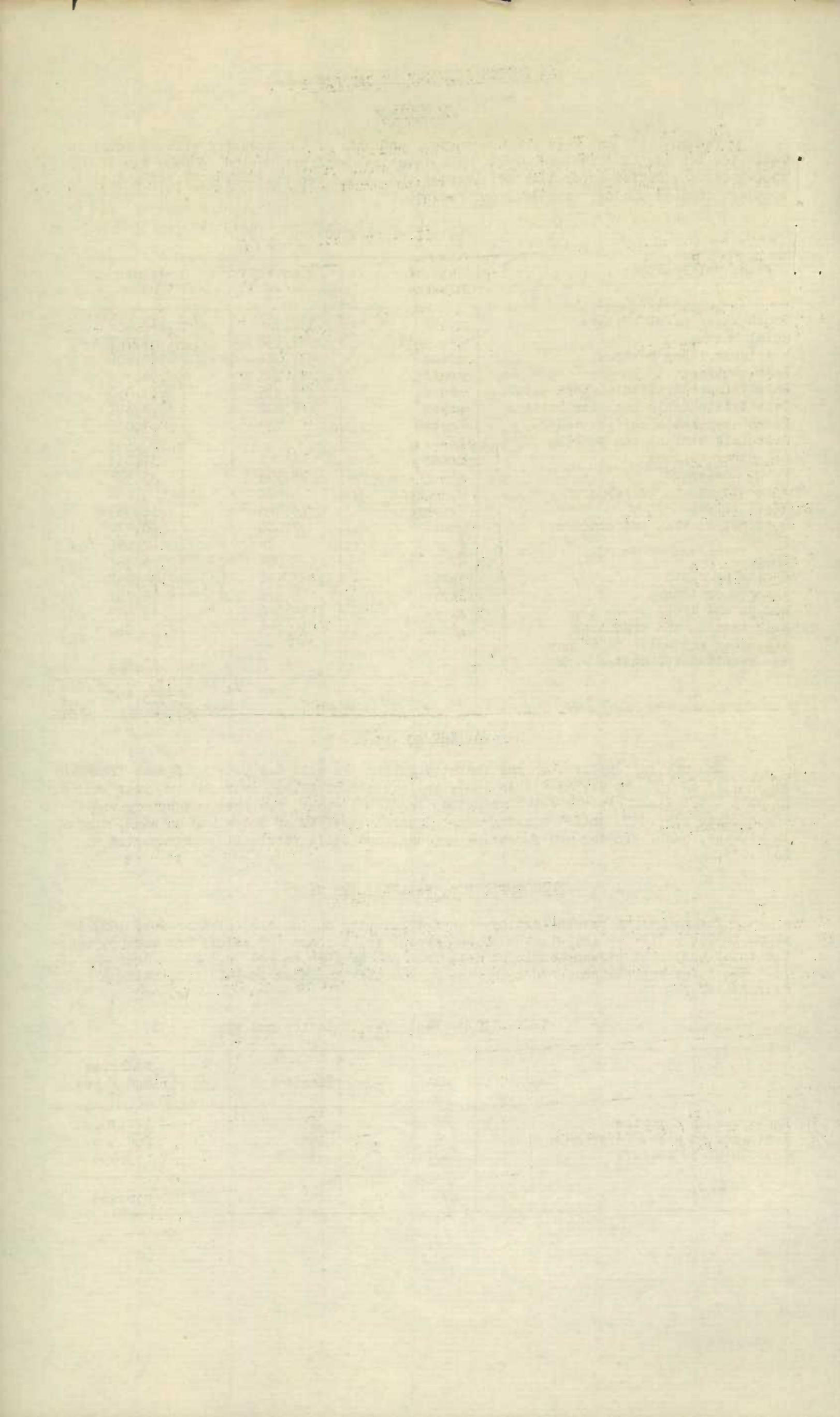
The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1927 rose from \$1,390,717 in 1926 to \$1,393,132 in 1927, an increase of \$2,415 over the two year period, Of this total fixed capital which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools amounted to \$757,057 whilst working capital which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable was reported at \$636,075.

EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES

The number of persons employed in the industry during the calendar year 1927 is shown in Table III. by (a) classes of employment (b) sex and (c) salary and wage payments. The total number of persons employed fell from 556 in 1926 to 484 in 1927, a decrease of 72. The total payroll which in 1926 was \$524,466 only amounted to \$412,670, being a decrease of \$49,796.

Table III. - Employees, salaries and wages - 1927

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
Employees on salaries	49	16	147,762
Employees on wages (average number)	226	193	264,908
Outside piece workers	-	32	3,793
TOTAL	275	241	416,463



THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1927

OTHER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The number of days the establishments were in operation during the calendar year 1927 together with the number of hours normally worked by wage earners per day and per week will be found in Table IV (a). The number of wage earners employed throughout the year is given by sex and by months in Table IV (b). The maximum number employed was 446 in the month of March, whilst the minimum number reported was 394 in November and December.

Table IV (a). - Days in operation and hours worked, 1927

Number of establishments in operation	13	
	Total	Average per establishment
Days in operation on full time	3,586	275.9
Days in operation on part time	253	19.4
Days idle	113	8.7
Hours worked by wage earners per day or shift	115	8.8
Hours worked by wage earners per week	632	48.6

Table IV (b). - Wage earners by Months, 1927.

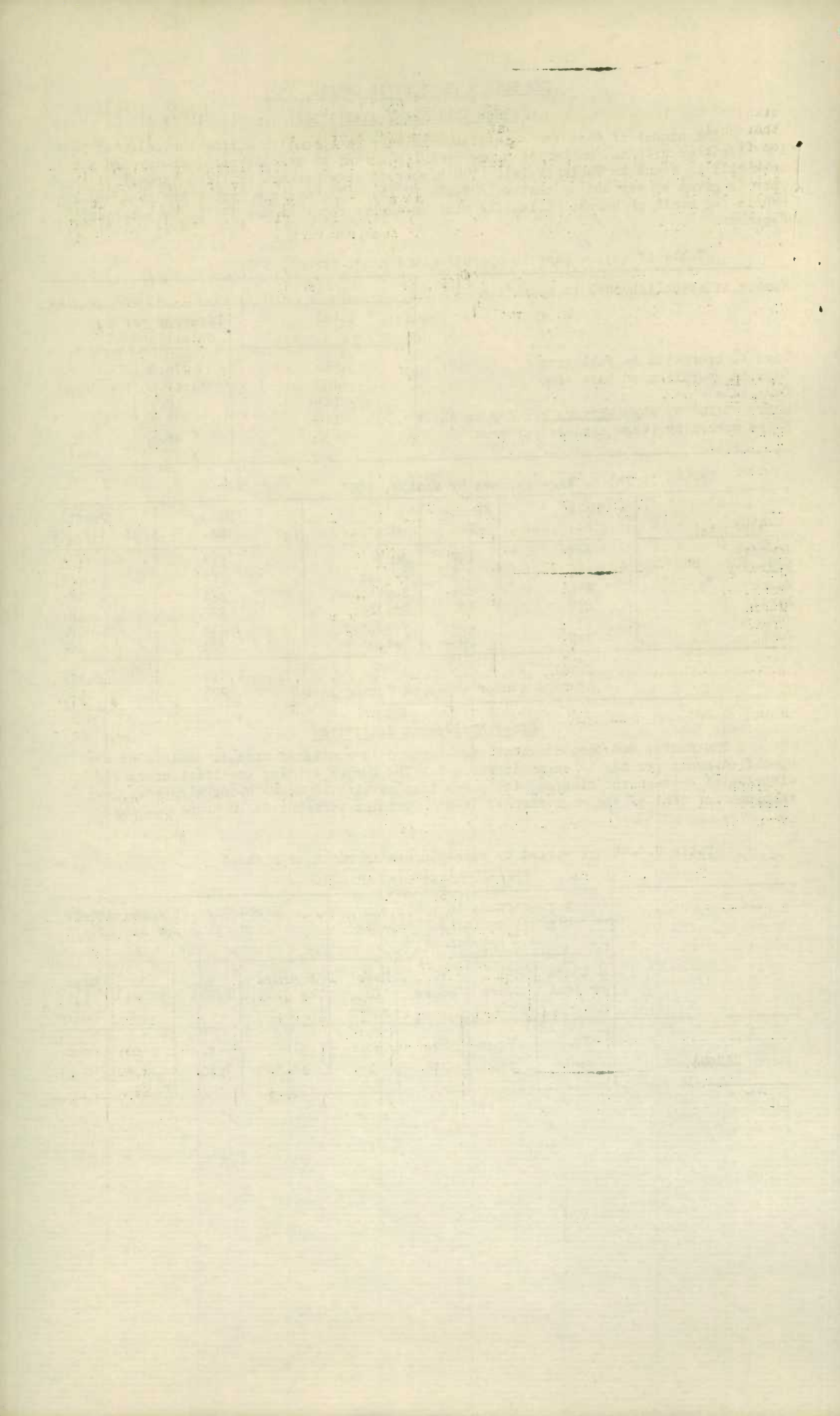
Months	Male No.	Female No.	Months	Male No.	Female No.
January	223	197	July	214	188
February	246	213	August	223	191
March	242	204	September	231	185
April	238	202	October	222	181
May	233	198	November	212	182
June	218	195	December	212	182
Total				2,714	2,318
Average number employed during year				226	193

Other Employment Statistics

The number and percentage of wage-earners in months of highest employment working specified hours per day is shown in Table V. The number working specified hours was distributed between the classes, the percentage working 10 hours being highest. Less than one per cent of the wage-earners in the Dominion worked over 10 hours per day.

Table V. - Hours worked by wage-earners in month of highest employment, 1927.

	Wage-earners in month of highest employment working per day of				Percentage of wage-earners working per day of			
	8 hours or less	9 hours	10 hours	Over 10 hours	8 hours or less	9 hours	10 hours	Over 10 hours
CANADA	No. 94	No. 156	No. 236	No. 1	p.c. 19.3	p.c. 32.0	p.c. 48.5	p.c. 0.2



The number of hours worked per day in the month of highest employment and the standard working hours per week are shown by provinces in Table VI. It should be noted that whilst the statistics relating to hours of labour in columns 1, 2 and 3 are based on figures compiled for the month of highest employment, those in column 4 and 5 represent the total and average of standard weekly hours of labour for the number of establishments reporting to the Bureau. For this reason the relation between daily and weekly hours of labour is to some extent impaired. The average daily hours of labour on the above basis was 9.3, whilst the average standard weekly hours worked out at 48.6 per plant.

Table VI. - Hours of Labour per day and per week, 1927.

	Total daily hours and number of wage-earners in month of highest employment.			Standard working	
	Total Hours	Total Wage-earners	Average hours per day per wage-earner	Total	Average
CANADA	No. 4,527	No. 487	No. 9.3	No. 632	No. 48.6

MATERIALS USED

The total cost of all materials used in the industry during the calendar year 1927 was \$306,498 whilst the amount reported for the previous year was \$358,979 a decrease of \$52,481. The principal items of material used are given in Table VII.

Table VII. - Materials Used - 1927

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value at the factory.
			\$
Pearl shell	-	-	23,622
Vegetable ivory nuts	-	-	60,142
Galalith and artificial horn	-	-	7,250
Celluloid	-	-	30,849
Steel	lb.	119,250	8,944
Blanks	-	-	76,967
All other materials	-	-	98,724
			306,498

FUEL STATISTICS

The quantity and cost value of the various kinds of fuel used in the industry during the calendar year 1927 will be found in Table VIII. The total expenditure for all fuel during 1927 was \$12,515. Bituminous coal was again the principal fuel used with 1,607 tons valued at \$10,317, whilst fuel oil takes second place in importance with 1,534. The cost of electricity purchased was \$8,046 as compared with \$7,795 in 1926.

Table VIII. - Fuel Consumption, 1927.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value \$
Bituminous coal	ton	1,607	10,317
Anthracite coal	"	12	186
Oil (fuel)	gallon	16,756	1,534
Gas	M.C.ft.	421	478
Electricity	-	-	8,046
TOTAL	-	-	20,561

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1927.

POWER INSTALLATION

The power installed in the industry is given in Table IX. by (a) classes of power, (b) number of units in each class and (c) the horse power capacity according to manufacturer's rating.

Table IX. - Power Installation, 1927.

Classes of power	Number of units	Horse-power capacity
Steam engines and turbines	2	86
Electric motors operated by purchased power	55	439
TOTAL	57	525

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The value of all raw or partly manufactured materials together with the various kinds of buttons imported into and exported from Canada during the calendar year 1927 will be found in Table X. by principal countries.

Table X. - (a) Imports by principal countries, 1927.

Materials and articles imported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries
	\$	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials:-			
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	-	13,984	59,221
Pearl, mother of - unmanufactured	113	25,620	-
Manufactured articles: -			
Buttons, shoe papier mache	-	10,000	5
" " n.o.p.	776	2,751	2,813
" vegetable ivory	753	2,707	38,669
" cuff and collar	1,018	28,298	1,155
" recognition and lapel	294	5,397	40
" all kinds covered or not, n.o.p.	27,879	206,344	254,739
TOTAL	30,833	295,101	356,642

Table X. - (b) Exports by principal countries, 1927.

Articles Exported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries
	\$	\$	\$
Buttons	2,758	898	1,793

MEMORANDUM

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A P P E N D I X

FIRMS MANUFACTURING BUTTONS IN CANADA - 1 9 2 7

Ontario

T. Eaton Co., Ltd.	190 Yonge Street, Toronto 2.
The Canada Button Co.	1303 Queen Street West, Toronto 3.
Toronto Button Co., Limited	356 Clinton Street, Toronto 4.
Dominion Button Mfrs. Limited	57 Water Street N., Kitchener.
Kitchener Buttons Limited	Edward & Victoria Street, Kitchener.
Mitchell Button Co. Ltd.	97 Victoria Street, Kitchener.
Pilcher Mfg. Co. Ltd.	310 Albert Street, Windsor.
Windsor Pearl Button Co. Ltd.	521 Glengarry, Windsor.
Universal Button Fastening and Button Co. of Canada Limited	240 Walker Road, Walkerville.
Richard Roschman & Bros. Ltd.	27 Queen Street, Waterloo.
Northern Buttons Limited	Smiths Falls.

Quebec

Canadian Buttons Limited	2091 Beaudry Street, Montreal.
Stein Button Co.	40 Dufferin Square, Montreal.

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