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

REPORT
on the
BUTTON INDUSTRY
in
CANADA
1928

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
OTTAWA - CANADA

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1928.

Ottawa, December, 1929.- A report is herewith presented on the Button Industry in Canada for the calendar year 1928. 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 1927 and 1928 is given in Table 1.

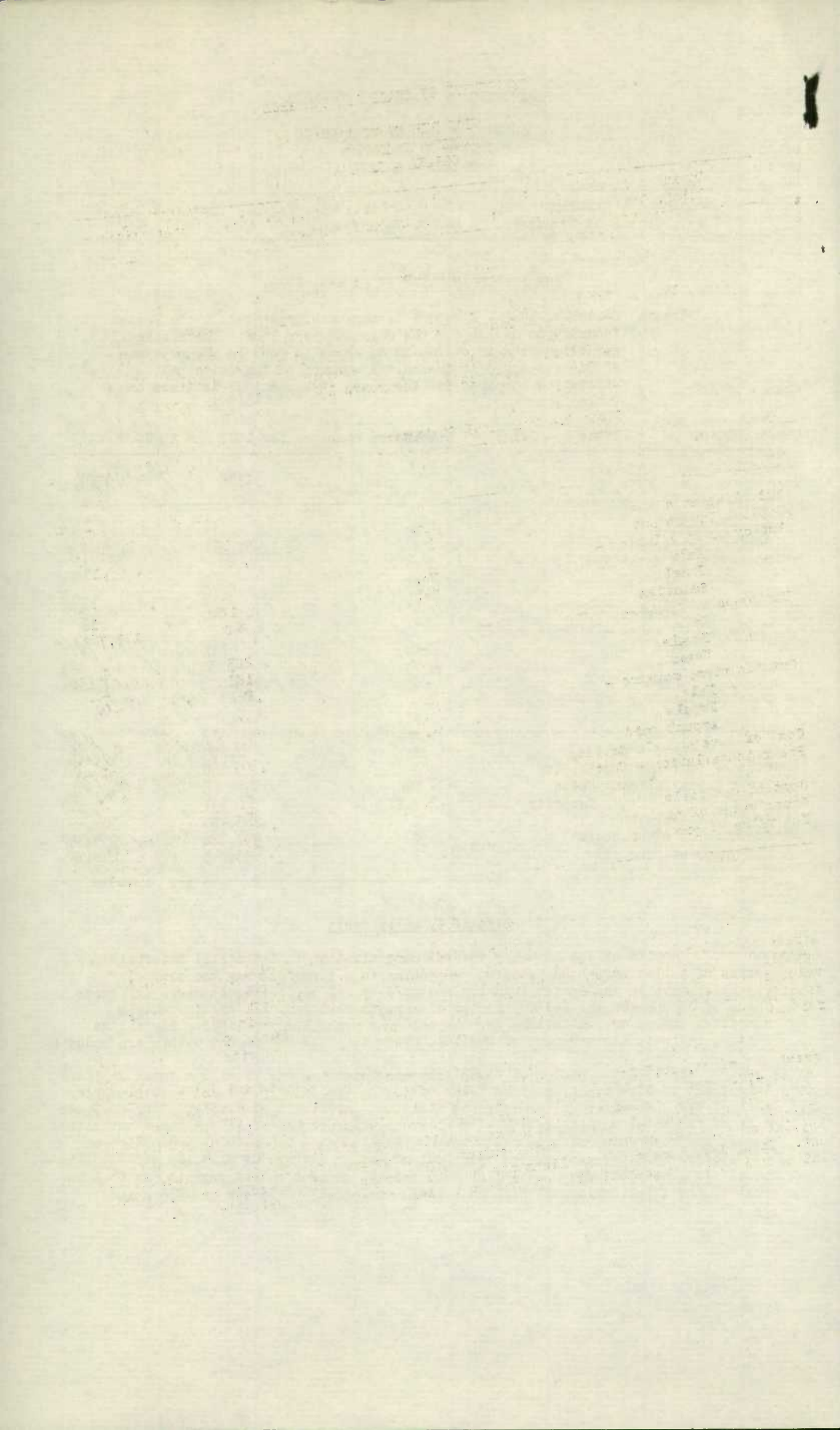
Table 1.- Principal Statistics compared for 1927 and 1928.

| | | 1928 | 1927 |
|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|
| Establishments | No. | 13 | 13 |
| Capital Investment | \$ | 1,468,361 | 1,393,132 |
| Employees on salaries - | | | |
| Male | No. | 48 | 49 |
| Female | No. | 17 | 16 |
| Salaries | \$ | 141,940 | 147,762 |
| Employees on wages - average number - | | | |
| Male | No. | 225 | 226 |
| Female | No. | 182 | 193 |
| Wages | \$ | 259,828 | 264,908 |
| Outside piece workers - | | | |
| Male | No. | - | - |
| Female | No. | 29 | 32 |
| Amount paid | \$ | 2,209 | 3,793 |
| Cost of fuel and electricity | \$ | 19,668 | 20,561 |
| Power installation - Units | No. | 55 | 57 |
| Capacity | H.P. | 537 | 525 |
| Cost of materials | \$ | 263,480 | 306,498 |
| Gross value of products | \$ | 937,326 | 955,397 |
| Net value of products | \$ | 673,346 | 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 1927 and 1928. The tables further indicate the movement of capital, production and employment within the industry.

In 1928 the number of establishments reporting was 13 with a total capital investment of \$1,468,361; a gross value of production of \$937,326 and a total employment of 472. Seven establishments had a capital investment of \$1,319,333 or 89.9 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of \$188,476 per establishment. In gross value of production seven establishments had a total production of \$799,161 or 85.2 per cent of the total output and an average of \$114,166 per establishment. In employment seven establishments had 407 persons on the payroll or 86.2 per cent of the total employment with an average employment of 58 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 of \$803,355 or 84.1 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 | 1928 | | | 1927 | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Estab-lish-ments | Total Capital | Average Capital per Establishment | Estab-lish-ments | Total Capital | Average Capital per Establishment |
| | No. | \$ | \$ | No. | \$ | \$ |
| Under \$50,000 | 5 | 91,800 | 18,360 | 5 | 105,165 | 21,033 |
| \$50,000 to under \$100,000 | 1 | 57,228 | 57,228 | 2 | 140,672 | 70,336 |
| \$100,000 " " \$200,000 | 5 | 702,018 | 140,404 | 4 | 532,730 | 133,182 |
| \$200,000 " " \$500,000 | 2 | 617,315 | 308,657 | 2 | 614,565 | 307,282 |
| \$500,000 " " \$1,000,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| \$1,000,000 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 13 | 1,468,361 | 112,951 | 13 | 1,393,132 | 107,164 |

PRODUCTION

| Groups of Value | 1928 | | | 1927 | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Estab-lish-ments | Total Value of Production | Average Value per Establishment | Estab-lish-ments | Total Value of Production | Average Value per Establishment |
| | No. | \$ | \$ | No. | \$ | \$ |
| Under \$50,000 | 6 | 138,165 | 23,026 | 6 | 152,042 | 25,340 |
| \$50,000 to under \$100,000 | 3 | 217,120 | 72,373 | 2 | 124,880 | 62,440 |
| \$100,000 " " \$200,000 | 3 | 364,709 | 121,570 | 4 | 458,129 | 114,532 |
| \$200,000 " " \$500,000 | 1 | 217,332 | 217,332 | 1 | 220,346 | 220,346 |
| \$500,000 " " \$1,000,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| \$1,000,000 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 13 | 937,326 | 72,102 | 13 | 955,397 | 73,492 |

EMPLOYEES

| Groups of Employees | 1928 | | | 1927 | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Estab-lish-ments | Total Employees | Average Employees per Establishment | Estab-lish-ments | Total Employees | Average Employees per Establishment |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Under 20 | 6 | 65 | 11 | 5 | 53 | 11 |
| 20 but under 50 | 4 | 130 | 32 | 4 | 94 | 23 |
| 50 " " 100 | 2 | 131 | 65 | 3 | 192 | 64 |
| 100 " " 200 | 1 | 146 | 146 | 1 | 145 | 145 |
| 200 " " 500 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 500 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 13 | 472 | 36 | 13 | 484 | 37 |

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1928.

PRODUCTION

The quantity and value of the various products of the industry will be found in Table II. for the calendar year 1928. The total value of production in 1927 was \$955,397 whilst for the period covered by this report the amount reported was \$937,326 a net decrease of \$18,071 over the two year period.

Table II.- Production - 1928

| Principal Products | Unit of Measure | Quantity | Value \$ |
|--|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Fresh water pearl buttons | gross | 382,981 | 124,277 |
| Metal buttons | gt. gross | 17,368 | 54,261 |
| Vegetable ivory buttons | gross | 528,541 | 348,651 |
| Pearl buttons | gross | 92,622 | 104,815 |
| Galalith and artificial horn buttons | gross | 5,874 | 8,946 |
| Patent detachable bachelor buttons | gross | 3,830 | 9,800 |
| Patent separable cuff buttons | gross | 507 | 2,206 |
| Celluloid buttons and buckles | gross | 21,730 | 55,136 |
| All other buttons | - | - | 61,459 |
| Metal fasteners | gt. gross | 14,091 | 28,447 |
| Metal loops | D. gross | 12,296 | 10,483 |
| Metal slides | D. gross | 13,956 | 13,677 |
| Buttons, buckles and ornaments | gross | 7,500 | 15,962 |
| Boxes | C. | 76 | 2,354 |
| Tags | M | 1,577 | 6,195 |
| Shrinking cloth | yards | 1,291,421 | 32,283 |
| Covered buttons | gross | 9,315 | 6,214 |
| Moulds and dies | gross | 57,000 | 14,617 |
| Silk tassels and ornaments | gross | 77 | 148 |
| All other products and amount received for custom work | - | - | 27,395 |
| TOTAL | - | - | 937,326 |

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1928 rose from \$1,393,132 in 1927 to \$1,468,361 in 1928, an increase of \$75,229 over the two year period. Of this total fixed capital which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools amounted to \$769,667 whilst working capital which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable was reported at \$698,694.

EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES

The number of persons employed in the industry during the calendar year 1928 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 516 in 1927 to 501 in 1928, a decrease of 15. The total payroll which in 1927 was \$416,463 amounted to \$403,977 in 1928, being a decrease of \$12,486.

Table III.- Employees, salaries and wages - 1928

| | Male | Female | Salaries and Wages |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| | No. | No. | \$ |
| Employees on salaries | 48 | 17 | 141,940 |
| Employees on wages (average number) | 225 | 182 | 259,828 |
| Outside piece workers | - | 29 | 2,209 |
| TOTAL | 273 | 228 | 403,977 |

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THE HUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1928.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The number of days the establishments were in operation during the calendar year 1928 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 415 in the month of May, whilst the minimum number reported was 387 in January.

Table IV (a).- Days in operation and Hours worked, 1928.

| Number of Establishments in operation | 13 | |
|---|-------|---------------------------|
| | Total | Average per establishment |
| Days in operation on full time | 3,648 | 280.61 |
| Days in operation on part time | 182 | 14.00 |
| Days idle | 122 | 9.39 |
| Hours worked by wage earners per day or shift | 115 | 8.84 |
| Hours worked by wage earners per week | 639 | 49.15 |

Table IV (b).- Wage earners by Months, 1928.

| Months | Male No. | Female No. | Months | Male No. | Female No. |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| January | 215 | 172 | July | 220 | 178 |
| February | 232 | 173 | August | 225 | 177 |
| March | 235 | 175 | September | 223 | 181 |
| April | 230 | 176 | October | 219 | 186 |
| May | 231 | 184 | November | 215 | 185 |
| June | 227 | 180 | December | 219 | 190 |
| Total | | | | 2,691 | 2,157 |
| Average number employed during year | | | | 225 | 182 |

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 quarter of 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, 1928.

| | 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 |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | p.c. | p.c. | p.c. | p.c. |
| CANADA | 99 | 141 | 209 | 1 | 22.00 | 31.33 | 46.45 | .22 |

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 columns 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 9.25, whilst the average standard weekly hours worked out at 49.15 per plant.

Table VI.- Hours of Labour per day and per week, 1928.

| | 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 |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| CANADA | 4,162 | 450 | 9.25 | 639 | 49.15 |

MATERIALS USED

The total cost of all materials used in the industry during the calendar year 1928 was \$263,480 whilst the amount reported for the previous year was \$306,498 a decrease of \$43,018. The principal items of material used are given in Table VII.

Table VII.- Materials Used - 1928.

| Principal Materials | Unit of Measure | Quantity | Selling Value at the factory. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| | | | \$ |
| Pearl shell | lb. | 70,700 | 29,165 |
| Vegetable ivory nuts | lb. | 1,294,050 | 57,614 |
| Galalith and artificial horn | lb. | 7,907 | 2,688 |
| Celluloid | lb. | 61,640 | 22,958 |
| Steel and brass | lb. | 139,894 | 12,406 |
| Blanks | gross | 384,378 | 62,396 |
| All other materials | - | - | 76,253 |
| TOTAL | - | - | 263,480 |

FUEL STATISTICS

The quantity and cost value of the various kinds of fuel used in the industry during the calendar year 1928 will be found in Table VIII. The total expenditure for all fuel during 1927 was \$12,515 which in 1928 fell to \$11,428. Bituminous coal was again the principal fuel used with 1,094 tons valued at \$7,284, whilst anthracite coal takes second place in importance with \$2,761. The cost of electricity purchased was \$8,240 as compared with \$8,046 in 1927.

Table VIII.- Fuel Consumption, 1928.

| Kinds of Fuel | Unit of Measure | Quantity | Cost Value \$ |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| Bituminous coal | ton | 1,094 | 7,284 |
| Anthracite coal | " | 355 | 2,761 |
| Oil (fuel) | gallon | 9,902 | 921 |
| Gas | M. C. ft. | 400 | 462 |
| Electricity | - | - | 8,240 |
| TOTAL | - | - | 19,668 |

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1928.

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, 1928.

| Classes of power | Number of Units | Horse-power capacity |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| Steam engines and turbines | 2 | 86 |
| Electric motors operated by purchased power | 53 | 451 |
| TOTAL | 55 | 537 |

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 1928 will be found in Table X. by principal countries.

Table X.- (a) Imports by principal countries, 1928.

| Materials and articles imported | United Kingdom | United States | China | Japan | Other Countries | Total |
|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Raw and partly manufactured materials:- | | | | | | |
| Ivory nuts, vegetable | 4,222 | 53,236 | - | - | 2,435 | 59,893 |
| Button blanks of animal shell in the rough | - | 15,928 | 12,368 | 38,502 | - | 66,798 |
| Pearl, mother of - unmanufactured | - | 40,756 | - | - | - | 40,756 |
| Celluloid, xylonite etc. in sheets | 56,219 | 1,379,241 | - | - | 207,492 | 1,642,952 |
| Manufactured articles:- | | | | | | |
| Buttons, shoe papier mache | - | 8,523 | - | - | - | 8,523 |
| " " n.o.p. | 863 | 995 | - | - | 2,195 | 4,053 |
| " vegetable ivory | 319 | 652 | - | - | 14,862 | 15,833 |
| " cuff and collar | 954 | 30,377 | - | - | 4,101 | 35,432 |
| " recognition and lapel | 61 | 4,588 | - | - | - | 4,649 |
| " all kinds covered or not, n.o.p. | 30,119 | 197,301 | - | - | 234,691 | 462,111 |
| TOTAL | 92,757 | 1,731,597 | 12,368 | 38,502 | 465,776 | 2,341,000 |

Table X.- (b) Exports by principal countries, 1928.

| Articles Exported | United Kingdom | United States | Other Countries | Total |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Buttons | 1,106 | 441 | 879 | 2,426 |

A P P E N D I X

FIRMS MANUFACTURING BUTTONS IN CANADA - 1928.

Ontario

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| T. Eaton Co., Ltd. | 190 Yonge Street, Toronto 2. |
| The Canada Button Co. | 260 Spadina Ave., 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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