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

REPORT
on the
BUTTON INDUSTRY
in
CANADA
1929

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND CHARITIES

COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND CHARITIES

FOR THE YEAR 1911

1912

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
OTTAWA - CANADA

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Chief, Census of Industry: J. C. Macpherson.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1929.

Ottawa, October, 1930. - A report is herewith presented on the Button Industry in Canada for the calendar year 1929. 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 1928 and 1929 is given in Table 1.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics compared for 1928 and 1929.

		1 9 2 8	1 9 2 9
Establishments	No.	13	13
Capital Investment	\$	1,468,361	1,517,123
Employees on salaries -			
Male	No.	48	41
Female	No.	17	15
Salaries	\$	141,940	131,422
Employees on wages - average number -			
Male	No.	225	211
Female	No.	182	191
Wages	\$	259,823	255,034
Outside piece workers -			
Male	No.	-	-
Female	No.	29	26
Amount paid	\$	2,209	1,985
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$	19,668	17,927
Power installation - Units	No.	55	57
Capacity	H.P.	537	543
Cost of materials	\$	263,480	278,825
Gross Value of products	\$	937,326	955,256
Net value of products	\$	673,846	676,431

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 1928 and 1929. 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.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1929.

In 1929 the number of establishments reporting was 13 with a total capital investment of \$1,517,123, a gross value of production of \$955,256 and a total employment of 458. Seven establishments had a total capital investment of \$1,360,404 or 90 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of \$194,343 per establishment. In gross value of production 4 establishments had a total production of \$501,227 or 63 per cent of the total output with an average production of \$150,307 per establishment. In employment 7 establishments had 403 persons on the payroll or 88 per cent of the total employment and an average of 58 persons per establishment.

CAPITAL

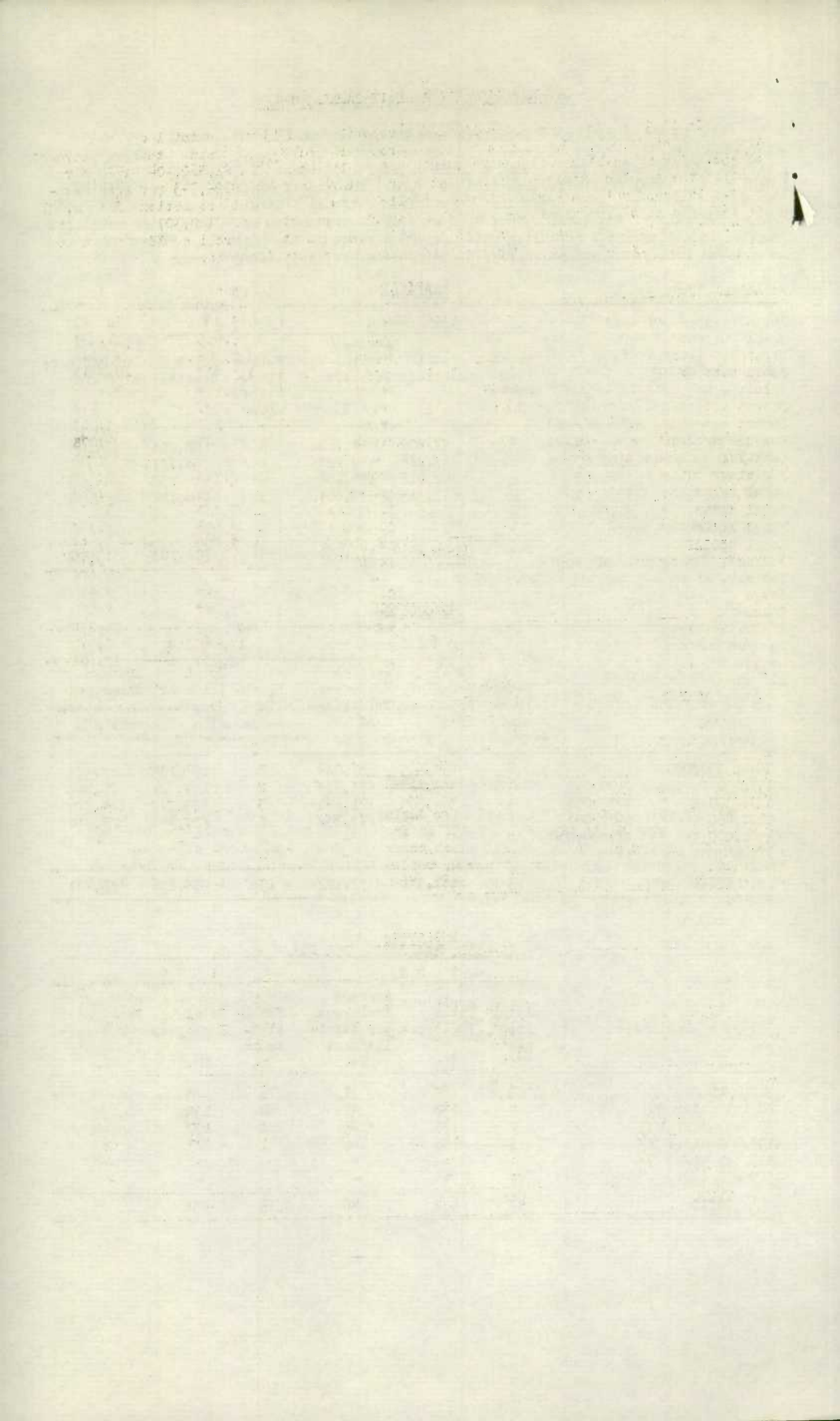
Groups of Value	1928			1929		
	Estab- lish- ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Establish- ment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Establish- ment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	5	91,800	18,360	5	98,008	19,602
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	1	57,228	57,228	1	58,711	58,711
\$100,000 " " \$200,000	5	702,018	140,404	4	514,252	128,563
\$200,000 " " \$500,000	2	617,315	308,657	3	846,152	282,051
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	1,468,361	112,951	13	1,517,123	116,702

PRODUCTION

Groups of Value	1928			1929		
	Estab- lish- ments	Total Value of Produc- tion	Average Value per Establish- ment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Value of Produc- tion	Average Value per Establish- ment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	6	138,165	23,026	7	194,105	27,729
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	3	217,120	72,373	2	159,924	79,962
\$100,000 " " \$200,000	3	364,709	121,570	3	373,729	124,576
\$200,000 " " \$500,000	1	217,332	217,332	1	227,498	227,498
\$500,000 " " \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	937,326	72,102	13	955,256	73,481

EMPLOYEES

Groups of Employees	1928			1929		
	Estab- lish- ments	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab- lishment	Estab- lish- ments	Total Employees	Average Employees per Estab- lishment
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Under 20	6	65	11	6	55	9
20 but under 50	4	130	32	4	139	35
50 but under 100	2	131	65	2	137	69
100 but under 200	1	146	146	1	127	127
200 but under 500	-	-	-	-	-	-
500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	13	472	36	13	458	35



THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1929.

PRODUCTION

The quantity and value of the various products of the industry will be found in Table II for the calendar year 1929. The total value of production in 1928 was \$937,326, whilst for the period covered by this report the amount reported was \$955,256, a net increase of \$17,930 over the two year period.

Table II. - Production, 1929.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Value \$
Fresh water pearl buttons	gross	423,094	122,697
Metal buttons	gt. gross	16,609	61,453
Vegetable ivory buttons	gross	532,704	345,116
Pearl buttons	gross	113,832	101,514
Galalith and artificial horn buttons	gross	23,944	40,589
Patent detachable bachelor buttons	gross	2,220	17,048
Patent separable cuff buttons	gross	267	3,607
Celluloid buttons and buckles	gross	24,560	59,208
Celluloid buttons (value only)	-	-	32,810
All other buttons	gross	10,211	12,779
Metal fasteners	gt. gross	16,791	21,823
Metal loops	D. gross	7,273	3,474
Metal slides	D. gross	9,693	3,958
Metal snaps	gt. gross	1,259	2,655
Buttons, buckles and ornaments	gross	1,250	6,875
Buttons, Erinoid and other (value only)	-	-	14,526
Boxes	C.	1,187	2,570
Tags	M	1,317	5,132
Shrinking cloth	yards	998,208	25,379
Covered buttons	gross	13,668	8,371
Moulds and dies	gross	48,000	12,601
All other products and amount received for custom work	-	-	51,071
TOTAL	-	-	955,256

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1929 rose from \$1,468,361 in 1928 to \$1,517,123 in 1929, an increase of \$48,762 during the two year period. Of this total, fixed capital which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools amounted to \$777,060, whilst working capital, which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable, was reported at \$740,063.

EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES

The number of persons employed in the industry during the calendar year 1929 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 501 in 1928 to 484 in 1929, a decrease of 17. The total payroll which in 1928 was \$403,977 amounted to \$388,441 in 1929, being a decrease of \$15,536.

Table III. - Employees, salaries and wages, 1929.

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	41	15	131,422
Employees on wages (average number)	211	191	255,034
Outside piece workers	-	26	1,985
TOTAL	252	232	388,441

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1929.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

The number of days the establishments were in operation during the calendar year 1929, 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 421 in the month of March, whilst the minimum number reported was 278 in December.

Table IV(a). - Days in operation and Hours worked, 1929.

Number of Establishments in operation	13	
	Total	Average per establishment
Days in operation on full time	3,466	266.62
Days in operation on part time	149	11.46
Days idle	337	25.92
Hours worked by wage earners per day or shift	115	8.85
Hours worked by wage earners per week	636	48.92

Table IV(b). - Wage earners by Months, 1929.

Months	Male No.	Female No.	Months	Male No.	Female No.
January	204	193	July	182	168
February	222	195	August	191	174
March	221	200	September	181	172
April	216	195	October	195	174
May	178	173	November	168	166
June	182	179	December	145	133
Total				2,285	2,122
Average number employed during year				211	191

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, 1929.

	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	56	196	204	1	12.25	42.89	44.64	.22

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1929.

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 9.32, whilst the average standard weekly hours worked out at 48.92 per plant.

Table VI. - Hours of Labour per day and per week, 1929.

	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	4,263	457	9.32	636	48.92

MATERIALS USED

The total cost of all materials used in the industry during the calendar year 1929 was \$278,825, whilst the amount reported for the previous year was \$263,480, an increase of \$15,345. The principal items of material used are given in Table VII.

Table VII. - Materials Used, 1929.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value at the factory.
			\$
Pearl shell	lb.	75,000	35,182
Vegetable ivory nuts	lb.	1,914,373	79,361
Galalith and artificial horn	lb.	15,499	4,590
Celluloid	lb.	42,153	17,803
Celluloid (value only)	-	-	6,820
Steel and brass	lb.	127,689	10,726
Blanks	gross	412,033	61,024
Lacaloid	-	36,381	13,453
All other materials	-	-	49,866
TOTAL	-	-	278,825

FUEL STATISTICS

The quantity and cost value of the various kinds of fuel used in the industry during the calendar year 1929 will be found in Table VIII. The total expenditure for all fuel during 1928 was \$11,428 which in 1929 fell to \$10,278. Bituminous coal was again the principal fuel used with 953 tons valued at \$6,244, whilst anthracite coal takes second place in importance with \$2,902. The cost of electricity purchased was \$7,649 as compared with \$8,240 in 1928.

Table VIII. - Fuel Consumption, 1929.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value \$
Bituminous coal	Ton	953	6,244
Anthracite coal	"	432	2,902
Oil (fuel)	gallon	4,908	406
Gas	W. C. ft.	742	714
Other fuel	-	-	12
Electricity	-	-	7,649
TOTAL	-	-	17,927

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1929.

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 manufacturers' rating. Boiler installation totalled 6 units of 415 horse power.

Table IX. - Power Installation, 1929.

Classes of power	Number of Units	Horse-power capacity
Steam engines and turbines	2	86
Electric motors operated by purchased power	55	457
TOTAL	57	543

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 1929 will be found in Table X by principal countries.

Table X. - (a) Imports by principal countries, 1929.

Materials and articles imported	United Kingdom	United States	China	Japan	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials:-						
Ivory nuts, vegetable	-	55,734	-	-	7,086	62,820
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough	-	15,966	41,081	3,745	-	60,792
Pearl, mother of - unmanufactured	-	16,567	-	-	-	16,567
Celluloid, xylonite, etc. in sheets	66,701	1,608,228	-	-	305,760	1,980,689
Manufactured articles:-						
Buttons, shoe papier mache	-	9,614	-	-	-	9,614
" " n.o.p.	392	697	-	-	1,213	2,302
" vegetable ivory	873	889	-	-	20,271	22,033
" cuff and collar	638	25,226	-	-	2,171	28,035
" recognition and lapel	112	3,994	-	-	90	4,196
" all kinds covered or not, n.o.p.	33,814	175,028	-	175,607	83,273	467,722
TOTAL	102,530	1,911,943	41,081	179,352	419,864	2,654,770

Table X(b). - Exports by principal countries, 1929.

Articles Exported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buttons	3,927	818	-	5,494

A P P E N D I X

FIRMS MANUFACTURING BUTTONS IN CANADA, 1929.

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.	501 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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