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

REPORT
ON THE
BUTTON INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1931

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THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

A report on the manufacture of buttons of all kinds in Canada during the year 1931 is herewith presented.

There were eleven factories in active operation during the period covered by this report, which was a decrease of one over the number reported in 1930, and were located by provinces as follows: - Ontario nine, Quebec two.

The eleven plants had a total capitalization of \$1,177,573, the payroll comprised 413 persons whose salaries and wages amounted to \$353,105. The cost of materials was \$217,510, with a total output valued at \$773,710, leaving the value added by manufacture at \$556,200.

The principal items of production in order of importance were: - vegetable ivory buttons 425,882 gross valued at \$245,475, followed by pearl buttons with 128,100 gross worth \$93,081, whilst fresh water pearl buttons take third place with 197,381 gross valued at \$58,679.

Notwithstanding the decrease of one in the number of establishments and \$230,758 in the amount of capital employed, all other items show quite a favourable expansion over the previous year. There was a net increase in the total number of employees of sixteen with a corresponding inflation in the annual payroll of \$13,514. The cost of materials showed an additional \$17,744—the gross value of production rose to the extent of \$71,240—whilst the value added by manufacture was greater by \$53,496.

Detailed statistics of production, capital, employment, materials used, power and fuel consumption, imports and exports are shown in the following tables.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics Compared for 1927, 1928 and 1929.

Principal Statistics	1927	1928	1929
Establishments	No. 13	13	13
Capital investment	\$ 1,393,132	1,468,361	1,517,123
Employees on salaries -			
Male	No. 49	48	41
Female	No. 16	17	15
Salaries	\$ 147,762	141,940	131,422
Employees on wages - (Average Number) -			
Male	No. 226	225	211
Female	No. 193	182	191
Wages	\$ 264,908	259,828	255,034
Outside piece-workers -			
Male	No. -	-	-
Female	No. 32	29	26
Amount paid	\$ 3,793	2,209	1,985
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$ 20,561	19,668	17,927

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

Table 1. - Principal Statistics Compared for 1927, 1928 and 1929. -- Concl'd.

Principal Statistics	1927	1928	1929
Power Installation --			
Units No.	57	55	57
Horse-power capacity H.P.	525	537	543
Cost of materials \$	306,498	263,480	278,825
Gross value of products \$	955,397	937,326	955,256
Net value of products \$	648,899	673,846	676,431

Table 1. - Principal Statistics Compared for the Years 1930 and 1931.

Principal Statistics	1930	1931
Establishments No.	12	11
Capital investment \$	1,408,331	1,177,573
Employees on salaries -		
Male No.	39	53
Female No.	17	11
Salaries \$	125,767	131,572
Employees on wages - (Average Number) -		
Male No.	183	188
Female No.	158	161
Wages \$	213,824	221,533
Outside piece-workers -		
Male No.	-	-
Female No.	20	-
Amount paid \$	1,799	-
Cost of fuel and electricity \$	15,727	16,495
Power Installation -		
Units No.	64	67
Horse-power capacity H.P.	585	564
Cost of materials \$	199,766	217,510
Gross value of products \$	702,470	773,710
Net value of products \$	502,704	556,200

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

Table 2. - Production, 1931.

Principal Products	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Value
			\$
Fresh water pearl buttons	Gross	197,381	58,679
Vegetable ivory buttons	"	425,882	245,475
Pearl buttons	"	128,100	93,081
Galalith buttons	"	19,300	54,711
Covered buttons	"	8,750	8,477
Celluloid buttons	"	25,506	51,971
All other buttons (artificial horn, metal, leather, fibre, etc.)	"	198,779	67,539
All other products	-	-	193,777
Total	-	-	773,710

Table 3. - Materials Used, 1931.

Principal Materials	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Selling Value at the Factory
			\$
Pearl shell	Lb.	61,630	18,934
Vegetable ivory nuts	"	1,142,871	37,182
Galalith	"	62,030	24,598
Celluloid	"	96,692	44,256
Steel and brass	"	60,010	6,110
Blanks	Gross	284,858	43,407
Wire	Lb.	60,808	2,436
All other materials	-	-	38,288
Containers	-	-	2,299
Total	-	-	217,510

Size of Establishments.

In view of the tendency towards concentration in industrial enterprise, a series of tables have been prepared presenting in a three fold 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. The tables compared for a number of years indicate the movement of capital, production and employment within the industry.

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

Size of Establishments - Cont'd.

In 1931 the number of establishments reporting was eleven with a total capital investment of \$1,177,573, a gross value of production of \$773,710 and a total employment of 413. Five establishments had a total capital investment of \$967,471, or 82 per cent of the total capitalization with an average investment of \$193,494 per establishment. In gross value of production seven establishments had a total production of \$698,239, or 90 per cent of the total output with an average production of \$99,748 per establishment. In employment seven establishments had 382 persons on the payroll, or 92 per cent of the total employment and an average of 55 persons per establishment.

Capital

Groups of Values	1 9 3 0			1 9 3 1		
	Estab-lish-ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab-lishment	Estab-lish-ments	Total Capital	Average Capital per Estab-lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	4	90,138	22,535	4	94,401	23,600
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	2	115,017	57,509	2	115,701	57,851
\$100,000 to under \$200,000	3	349,712	116,571	3	348,909	116,303
\$200,000 to under \$500,000	3	853,464	284,488	2	618,562	309,281
\$500,000 to under \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total and Average	12	1,408,331	117,361	11	1,177,573	107,052

Production

Groups of Value	1 9 3 0			1 9 3 1		
	Estab-lish-ments	Total Value of Production	Average Value per Estab-lishment	Estab-lish-ments	Total Value of Production	Average Value per Estab-lishment
	No.	\$	\$	No.	\$	\$
Under \$50,000	6	114,568	19,095	4	75,471	18,868
\$50,000 to under \$100,000	4	284,058	71,015	4	268,138	67,033
\$100,000 to under \$200,000	2	303,844	151,922	3	430,106	143,369
\$200,000 to under \$500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$500,000 to under \$1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$1,000,000 and over ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total and Average	12	702,470	58,539	11	773,710	70,337

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

Size of Establishments -- Concl'd.

Groups of Employees	Employees					
	1930			1931		
	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 employees ...	5	35	7	4	31	8
20 but under 50	4	117	29	4	121	30
50 but under 100	2	131	66	2	152	76
100 but under 200	1	114	114	1	109	109
200 but under 500	-	-	-	-	-	-
500 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total and Average	12	397	33	11	413	38

Capital Investment.

The capital employed in the industry during the calendar year 1931 fell from \$1,408,331 in 1930 to \$1,177,573 in 1931, a decrease of \$230,758 during the two year period. Of this total, fixed capital, which comprises land, buildings, fixtures, machinery and tools amounted to \$721,885, whilst working capital, which consists of materials on hand, stocks in process, cash, trading and operating accounts and bills receivable, was reported at \$455,688.

Table 4. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1931.

	Male	Female	Salaries and Wages
	No.	No.	\$
Employees on salaries	53	11	131,572
Employees on wages (average number)	188	161	221,533
Total	241	172	553,105

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

Table 5. - Wage-earners by Months, 1931.

Months	Male	Female	Months	Male	Female
	No.	No.		No.	No.
January	171	132	July	183	178
February	175	144	August	206	176
March	175	153	September	210	171
April	184	171	October	209	156
May	175	142	November	199	164
June	184	174	December	190	161
Total				2,261	1,922
Average number employed during year				188	161

Table 6. - Number of Wage-earners in Month of Highest Employment whose Regular Hours per Week were: -

Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees	Hours Worked per Week	Number of Employees
40 hours or less	27	51-53 hours	-
41-43 hours	-	54 hours	97
44 hours	-	55 hours	93
45-47 hours	40	56-59 hours	4
48 hours	31	60 hours	-
49-50 hours	145	Over 60 hours	-

The above table does not include overtime.

Table 7. - Fuel Consumption, 1931.

Kinds of Fuel	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Cost Value
			\$
Bituminous coal	Ton	707	4,547
Anthracite coal	"	321	2,594
Gas	M cu.ft.	989	949
Electricity	-	-	8,405
Total	-	-	16,495

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

Table 8. - Power Installation, 1931.

Classes of Power	Number of Units	Horse-power Capacity
Steam engines and turbines	2	86
Electric motors operated by purchased power	65	478
Total	67	564

Imports and Exports.

Table 9 (a). - Imports by Principal Countries, 1931.

Materials and Articles Imported	United Kingdom	United States	China	Japan	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Raw and partly manufactured materials -						
Ivory nuts, vegetable ...	-	24,326	-	-	315	24,641
Button blanks of animal shell in the rough ...	-	1,133	884	23,647	328	25,992
Pearl, mother of - un-manufactured	-	21,185	-	-	-	21,185
Celluloid, xylonite, etc., in sheets	32,769	1,268,400	-	-	175,188	1,476,357
Manufactured articles -						
Buttons, shoe papier maché	-	3,520	-	-	-	3,520
Buttons, shoe n.o.p.	-	96	-	-	16	112
Buttons, vegetable ivory.	43	501	-	-	6,823	7,367
Buttons, cuff and collar.	726	17,420	-	-	1,047	19,193
Buttons, recognition and lapel	122	1,550	-	-	-	1,672
Buttons, all kinds covered or not, n.o.p.	14,902	103,444	-	125,834	30,441	274,621
Total	48,562	1,441,575	884	149,481	214,158	1,854,660

Table 9 (b). - Exports by Principal Countries, 1931.

Articles Exported	United Kingdom	United States	Other Countries	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buttons	7,382	7	-	7,389

THE BUTTON INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1931.

A P P E N D I X.

Firms Manufacturing Buttons in Canada, 1931.

QUEBEC

Canadian Buttons, Limited,
Stein Button Company,

2091 Beaudry Street, Montreal.
40 Dufferin Square, Montreal.

ONTARIO

Dominion Button Manufacturers, Limited,
Kitchener Buttons, Limited,
Mitchell Button Company, Limited,
The Canada Button & Buckle Company,
Toronto Button Company, Limited,
Richard Roschman & Bros. Limited,
The Pearl Button Manufacturing Company
of Canada, Limited,
Pilcher Manufacturing Company, Limited,
Universal Button Fastening & Button
Company of Canada, Limited,

57 Water Street, Kitchener.
Cor. Edwards & Victoria Streets, Kitchener.
97 Victoria Street, Kitchener.
260 Spadina Avenue, Toronto,
356 Clinton Street, Toronto.
27 Queen Street South, Waterloo.
521 Glengarry Avenue, Windsor.
310 Albert Street, Windsor.
240 Walker Road, Windsor.

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