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GENERAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH

REPORT
ON THE
BUTTON, BUCKLE
AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY
IN
CANADA
1944



OTTAWA
1946

Price 15 cents

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THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
OTTAWA

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

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BRANCH OF INDUSTRY

CENTRAL MANUFACTURES BRANCH



REPORT

ON THE

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AND TANNERS INDUSTRY

BY

CANADA

1924



OTTAWA

1924

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
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Dominion Statistician:
Chief, General Manufactures Branch:

Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
A. Cohen, B. Com.

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE, AND FASTENER INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944.

There were twenty establishments in Canada in 1944 engaged principally in the production of buttons, buckles, and fasteners, etc. Thirteen of these establishments were located in the province of Quebec and seven in Ontario. The industry as a whole reported a gross value of production of \$3,437,883 and furnished employment to 896 persons who received \$1,259,446 in salaries and wages.

The output of the button industry was considerably lower in 1944, the gross value of production being \$383,299 or 10 per cent lower. There was also a drop in the physical volume of production. The output of buttons of all kinds declined from 7,142,957 gross in 1943 to 6,066,072 gross in 1944. Reflected in the decreased output was a drop of 136 in the number of persons employed and \$54,453 in the amount of salaries and wages paid.

Moulded buttons to the value of \$826,378 was the most important single item of production in 1944. Plastic buttons valued at \$500,900, pearl buttons at \$306,533, and metal buttons at \$272,892 comprised the other principal items. For details of products made, see Table 3.

Referring to Table 2 it may be noted that the 7 largest establishments had an output valued at \$2,936,544 or 85 per cent of the total and employed 711 or 80 per cent of the total number of persons employed by the industry.

Employment in this industry is fairly uniform throughout the year, there being no marked seasonal variations. Of the wage-earners employed in 1944, 401 or over 53 per cent were males, as compared with a male employment of 451 or 52 per cent of the total wage-earners in 1943. The average salary in 1944 amounted to \$2,701, being \$410 more than in 1943 and the average wage paid in 1944, \$1,167, was \$85 more than the 1943 average.

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944

Table 1. - Principal Statistics of the Button, Buckle and Fasteners Industry, 1934 to 1944

| Year and Province | Estab- lish- ments Report- ing | Capital Invested | Em- plovees | Salaries and Wages | Cost of Materials Used | Gross Value of Production |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | No. | \$ | No. | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 1934 | 17 | 1,455,681 | 640 | 501,379 | 466,955 | 1,298,914 |
| 1935 | 17 | 1,429,540 | 699 | 542,015 | 477,788 | 1,370,706 |
| 1936 | 18 | 1,364,317 | 800 | 630,576 | 522,570 | 1,467,414 |
| 1937 | 21 | 1,432,343 | 839 | 670,814 | 634,647 | 1,590,442 |
| 1938 | 21 | 1,579,532 | 736 | 572,858 | 498,674 | 1,338,583 |
| 1939 | 24 | 1,850,892 | 811 | 662,403 | 598,352 | 1,697,788 |
| 1940 | 22 | 1,877,541 | 988 | 887,602 | 1,025,774 | 2,524,388 |
| 1941 | 25 | 2,312,517 | 1,144 | 1,064,805 | 1,274,223 | 3,198,915 |
| 1942 | 27 | 2,409,739 | 1,133 | 1,197,572 | 1,364,632 | 3,665,111 |
| 1943 | 25 | 2,353,642 | 1,032 | 1,313,899 | 1,428,330 | 3,821,182 |
| <u>1944</u> | | | | | | |
| Quebec | 13 | Not | 488 | 662,426 | 818,440 | 1,961,442 |
| Ontario | 7 | collected | 408 | 597,020 | 462,300 | 1,476,441 |
| CANADA | 20 | in 1944 | 896 | 1,259,446 | 1,280,740 | 3,437,883 |

Profits or losses cannot be estimated from Census figures as no data are collected for certain expense items, such as interest, rent, depreciation, taxes, insurance, advertising.

Table 2. - Principal Statistics of the Button, Buckle and Fasteners Industry in Canada Grouped According to the Size of Establishment, 1944.

| Establishments having a pro- duction of | Estab- lish- ments | Capital Invested | Em- plovees | Salaries and Wages | Cost of Materials Used | Gross Value of Production |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | No. | \$ | No. | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| <u>1944</u> | | | | | | |
| Under \$5,000 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| \$5,000 to \$25,000 | 5 | Not | 49 | 48,336 | 40,232 | 105,179 |
| \$25,000 to \$50,000 | 4 | Collected | 28 | 33,432 | 38,595 | 97,205 |
| \$50,000 to \$100,000 | 4 | in | 108 | 117,866 | 118,237 | 300,955 |
| \$100,000 to \$500,000 | 4 | 1944 | 288 | 403,259 | 323,668 | 956,440 |
| \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 | 5 | - | 423 | 656,573 | 760,008 | 1,980,104 |
| TOTAL | 20 | - | 896 | 1,259,446 | 1,280,740 | 3,437,883 |

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944

Table 3. -- Production, 1943 and 1944

| Principal Products | Unit of Measure | 1943 | | 1944 | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | | Quantity | Selling Value | Quantity | Selling Value |
| | | | \$ | | \$ |
| Buttons, moulded | Gross | 3,209,439 | 817,172 | 3,179,836 | 826,378 |
| " pearl and fresh) | " | 646,749 | 368,127 | 460,230 | 306,533 |
| " water pearl) | " | | | | |
| " of plastic materials.. | " | 945,215 | 530,922 | 757,087 | 500,900 |
| " metal | " | 1,752,664 | 358,694 | 1,142,376 | 272,892 |
| " covered | " | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) |
| " celluloid x | " | 59,531 | 120,178 | 43,170 | 198,839 |
| " all other, fibre, moulded, leather, vegetable ivory, etc. | " | 529,359 | 356,412 | 483,373 | 345,136 |
| Buckles, of all kinds x | " | - | 59,428 | - | 36,338 |
| Fasteners, zipper x | " | - | 164,058 | - | 120,617 |
| Fasteners, all other x | " | - | 60,482 | - | 126,694 |
| Clips and other ornaments. x .. | " | - | 100,864 | - | (2) |
| Pins | " | - | 16,650 | - | (2) |
| All other products | " | - | 865,745 | - | 702,606 |
| Amount received for custom work | " | - | 2,450 | - | 950 |
| TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION | - | - | 3,821,182 | - | 3,437,883 |

x The figures in the above table do not represent the total production in Canada, as this product is also manufactured in other industries. For total production figures, see "Alphabetical List of Products Manufactured in Canada" published annually by the Bureau.

- (1) Less than 3 establishments reporting, included in "All other buttons".
 (2) " " " " " " " " "All other products".

Table 4. - Materials Used, 1943 and 1944

| Principal Materials | Unit of Measure | 1943 | | 1944 | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | | Quantity | Cost Value | Quantity | Cost Value |
| | | | \$ | | \$ |
| Pearl, shell | lb. | 4,980 | 3,029 | (x) | (x) |
| Vegetable ivory nuts | " | (x) | (x) | (x) | (x) |
| Plastic materials (artificial horn, galalith, lactoid, mould- ing powder, casein, bakelite, catalin) | " | 2,061,520 | 656,362 | 2,018,546 | 639,021 |
| Celluloid | " | 54,254 | 39,530 | 48,833 | 44,305 |
| Iron and metal | " | - | 99,634 | - | 73,690 |
| Blanks | gross | 573,448 | 168,358 | 388,852 | 160,824 |
| All other materials | " | - | 433,216 | - | 330,669 |
| Containers and shipping materials | " | - | 28,201 | - | 32,231 |
| TOTAL COST OF MATERIALS USED . | - | - | 1,428,330 | - | 1,280,740 |

(x) Less than 3 establishments reporting -- included under "All other Materials".

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944

Table 5. - Capital Invested, 1934 to 1944

| Year and Provinces | Fixed Capital | | Working Capital | | Total Capital |
|--------------------|---|--|---|----|---------------|
| | Land, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools, etc. | Stocks of raw materials and finished products on hand, goods in process, fuel and miscellaneous supplies, etc. | Cash, bills and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, etc. | | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | |
| 1934 | 784,533 | 410,060 | 261,088 | | 1,455,681 |
| 1935 | 874,811 | 361,031 | 193,498 | | 1,429,340 |
| 1936 | 738,344 | 384,404 | 236,569 | | 1,364,317 |
| 1937 | 757,389 | 501,720 | 173,234 | | 1,432,343 |
| 1938 | 752,041 | 492,614 | 334,877 | | 1,579,532 |
| 1939 | 760,579 | 588,614 | 501,699 | | 1,850,892 |
| 1940 | 808,351 | 646,340 | 422,850 | | 1,877,541 |
| 1941 | 1,077,038 | 742,480 | 492,999 | | 2,312,517 |
| 1942 | 1,123,114 | 750,217 | 536,408 | | 2,409,739 |
| <u>1943</u> | | | | | |
| CANADA | 1,059,391 | 748,929 | 545,322 | | 2,353,642 |
| Quebec | 325,084 | 422,342 | 168,416 | | 915,842 |
| Ontario | 734,307 | 326,587 | 376,906 | | 1,437,800 |
| <u>1944</u> | | | | | |
| CANADA | | | | | |
| Quebec | | | | | |
| Ontario | | | | | |

Not collected in 1944

Employment

Table 6. - Employees, Salaries and Wages, 1943 and 1944

| | 1943 | | | 1944 | | |
|---|------|--------|--------------------|------|--------|--------------------|
| | Male | Female | Salaries and Wages | Male | Female | Salaries and Wages |
| | No. | No. | \$ | No. | No. | \$ |
| Employees on salaries . | 117 | 46 | 373,464 | 101 | 38 | 375,487 |
| Employees on wages (average number) | 451 | 418 | 940,435 | 401 | 356 | 883,959 |
| TOTAL | 568 | 464 | 1,313,899 | 502 | 394 | 1,259,446 |

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944

Table 7. - Wage-earners by Months, 1943 and 1944

| | 1 9 4 3 | | | 1 9 4 4 | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| January | 474 | 406 | 880 | 398 | 356 | 754 |
| February | 480 | 416 | 896 | 410 | 369 | 779 |
| March | 475 | 420 | 895 | 413 | 360 | 773 |
| April | 461 | 428 | 889 | 405 | 358 | 763 |
| May | 444 | 415 | 859 | 400 | 356 | 756 |
| June | 432 | 418 | 850 | 396 | 353 | 749 |
| July | 441 | 407 | 848 | 402 | 364 | 766 |
| August | 444 | 404 | 848 | 390 | 356 | 746 |
| September | 422 | 403 | 825 | 388 | 363 | 751 |
| October | 439 | 418 | 857 | 386 | 354 | 740 |
| November | 445 | 437 | 882 | 398 | 354 | 752 |
| December | 437 | 425 | 862 | 407 | 350 | 757 |
| Total | 5,394 | 4,997 | 10,391 | 4,793 | 4,293 | 9,086 |
| Average number employed during the year | 451 | 418 | 869 | 401 | 356 | 757 |

Table 8. - Average Weekly Earnings and Number of Wage-earners in the month of Highest Employment, and their Regular Hours of Work, 1943 and 1944.

| Number of Hours Worked per Week | 1 9 4 3 | | 1 9 4 4 | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| 30 hours or less | 25 | 30 | 16 | 24 |
| 31-43 hours | 35 | 72 | 20 | 58 |
| 44 hours | 13 | 37 | 6 | 20 |
| 45-47 hours | 57 | 91 | 12 | 56 |
| 48 hours | 98 | 110 | 117 | 97 |
| 49-50 hours | 47 | 39 | 64 | 25 |
| 51-54 hours | 28 | 11 | 19 | 2 |
| 55 hours | 140 | 85 | 137 | 110 |
| 56-64 hours | 52 | 1 | 28 | 1 |
| 65 hours and over | 13 | - | 8 | - |
| Average hours per week ... | 50.0 | 45.7 | 50.3 | 47.5 |
| Average weekly earnings .. | \$25.90 | \$14.93 | \$28.22 | \$16.66 |

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944

Fuel Consumption

Table 9. - Fuel Consumption, 1943 and 1944

| Kinds of Fuel | Unit of Measure | 1 9 4 3 | | 1 9 4 4 | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | Quantity | Cost Value | Quantity | Cost Value |
| | | | \$ | | \$ |
| Bituminous coal | Ton | 2,715 | 26,267 | 2,894 | 29,598 |
| Anthracite coal | " | 40 | 346 | 33 | 293 |
| Gasoline | Imp. Gal. | 580 | 196 | 840 | 303 |
| Fuel oil | " " | 55 | 12 | - | - |
| Kerosene or coal oil | " " | - | - | 40 | 8 |
| Gas | M. cu. ft. | 1,013 | 1,063 | 1,979 | 1,577 |
| Wood | Cords | - | - | 1 | 15 |
| Electricity | - | 1,532,596 | 27,279 | 1,662,754 | 28,604 |
| TOTAL COST OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY | | | 55,163 | | 60,398 |

Table 10. - Power Equipment, 1943 and 1944

| Classes of Power | Ordinarily in Use | | In Reserve or Idle | |
|--|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| | Number of Units | Manufacturer's Rating of Horse-power Capacity | Number of Units | Manufacturer's Rating of Horse-power Capacity |
| <u>1 9 4 3</u> | | | | |
| Steam engines and steam turbines . | 1 | 6 | - | - |
| Electric motors operated by purchased power | 317 | 1,251 | 13 | 68 |
| TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING | 318 | 1,257 | 13 | 68 |
| Boiler installation | 6 | 320 | 2 | 110 |
| <u>1 9 4 4</u> | | | | |
| Steam engines and steam turbines . | 1 | 6 | - | - |
| Electric motors operated by purchased power | 342 | 1,276 | 12 | 64 |
| TOTAL POWER USED IN MANUFACTURING | 343 | 1,282 | 12 | 64 |
| Boiler installation | 6 | 320 | 2 | 110 |

THE BUTTON, BUCKLE AND FASTENERS INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944

A P P E N D I X

Firms Manufacturing Buttons, Buckles and Fasteners in Canada, 1944

QUEBEC

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Canadian Buttons Limited | 1850 St. Antoine Street, Montreal | B. |
| Corona Slide Fasteners Inc. | 4510 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal | F. |
| Fashler Fashions | 1495 Bleury St., Montreal | F. |
| Ginn Brothers, Reg'd. | 686 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal | B. & F. & O.P. |
| Jiffy Join Inc. | 762 St. Paul St. West, Montreal | F. |
| Mack Molding, Limited | 33 Taylor Street, Waterloo | B. & O.P. |
| Montreal Ornament & Button Mfg. Co. | 2025 St. Lawrence Blvd., Montreal | B. & O.P. |
| New Ornament and Jewellery Co. | 58 Mount Royal East, Montreal | B. & O.P. |
| Patent Button Company Limited | 2210 Parthenais Street, Montreal | B. |
| Pearl Button Manufacturing Company of Canada Limited | Ste. Therese | B. |
| Premier Button & Buckle Co. | 1485 Bleury Street, Montreal | B. & F. |
| Rapid Button Service Co. | 1408 Bleury Street, Montreal | B. & F. |
| Stein Button Company | 745 St. Maurice Street, Montreal | B. |

ONTARIO

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Button Sales Limited | 125-33 Niagara Street, Toronto | B. |
| Capital Ornament Co. | 116 Spadina Avenue, Toronto | B. & O.P. |
| Dominion Button Manufacturers Ltd. | 57 Water St. North, Kitchener | B. |
| Kitchener Button Industries Ltd. | 70 Victoria St., N., Kitchener | B. & O.P. |
| Metro Mfg. Co. | 160 Bathurst St., Toronto | F. |
| Mitchell Button Company Limited | 97 Victoria Street, Kitchener | B. |
| Universal Button Fastening & Button Company of Canada Limited | 1076 Walker Road, Walkerville | B. & F. |

Code for Products Made

B - Buttons

F - Fasteners and Buckles

O.P. - Other Products

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