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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
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ASBESTOS, 1932.

The quantity and value of asbestos produced in Canada during 1932 showed decided declines from those for the output of this mineral in 1931, according to finally revised statistics issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa. Shipments fell to 122,977 tons valued at \$3,039,721 as compared with 164,296 tons worth \$4,812,886 in 1931, a decrease of 37 per cent in value and 25 per cent in volume. Compared with the figures for 1930 the decrease is still sharper, being 49 per cent in tonnage and 64 per cent in value. The average price of the asbestos shipped by the Quebec producers in 1932 was \$24.72 per ton whereas it was \$29.29 in 1931, \$34.65 in 1930 and \$43.04 in 1929. The tonnage of the shipments of asbestos in 1932 was the lowest recorded since 1921 and represents the lowest annual value since 1914. The average price for the year was the lowest in the history of the Quebec asbestos industry. The quantity of rock mined in 1932 totalled 1,145,340 short tons and the tonnage milled amounted to 1,029,709; 709,094 tons of tailings were retreated.

The National Research Laboratories, Ottawa, have, as the results of experimental work, prepared specifications for a standard testing machine for use in grading of milled asbestos fibre. These have now been unanimously approved by the industry. The National Research Laboratories are also, with the co-operation of the asbestos manufacturing firms, making a study of Canadian asbestos in comparison with asbestos from other countries, especially in regard to its suitability for certain manufacturing operations. Patents are reported to have been applied for for making new moulded asbestos compositions and investigations commenced as to an increase in the use of asbestos in asphalt pavements.

Sales and Shipments of Canadian asbestos, 1931 and 1932.

	SALES		OR SHIPMENTS	
	1 9 3 1		1 9 3 2	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
Crude No. 1	206	88,880	144	57,159
Crude No. 2	543	117,478	313	60,230
Other crudes .....	...	...	14	1,832
Spinning fibre	8,560	917,776	6,004	548,510
Shingle fibre	15,988	938,857	6,625	328,895
Paper fibre	39,867	1,381,888	32,694	1,008,436
Waste stucco or plaster	6,309	159,043	3,984	92,800
Refuse or shorts	92,823	1,208,964	73,199	941,859
TOTAL	164,296	4,812,886	122,977	3,039,721
Sand, gravel and stone (1) ..	7,209	5,952	3,473	3,369

(x) This production is included under the Sand and Gravel Industry.

Quantity of rock mined	1931 ...	2,274,048 tons ...	1932 ...	1,145,340 tons
Quantity of rock milled	1931 ...	2,164,060 tons ...	1932 ...	1,029,709 tons

Imports into Canada and Exports of Asbestos, 1931 and 1932.

		1	9	3	1	1	9	3	2
		Quantity		\$		Quantity		\$	
<u>IMPORTS -</u>									
Asbestos brake and clutch lining	...	...	...	241,880	...	...	...	194,745	...
Asbestos packing	lb.	138,252	...	63,455	110,384	...	...	52,733	...
Asbestos in any form other than crude, and all manufactures of, n.o.p.	...	...	...	312,484	...	...	...	266,619	...
TOTAL IMPORTS	...	...	...	617,819	...	...	...	474,097	...
<u>EXPORTS -</u>									
Asbestos -									
To United Kingdom	ton	1,801	...	140,024	1,420	...	...	82,567	...
United States	ton	46,002	...	2,171,000	27,392	...	...	1,274,646	...
Australia	ton	304	...	20,010	451	...	...	24,800	...
Belgium	ton	7,831	...	533,737	1,080	...	...	49,707	...
France	ton	3,327	...	244,380	2,360	...	...	150,911	...
Germany	ton	4,714	...	399,584	1,969	...	...	117,148	...
Italy	ton	1,264	...	116,359	666	...	...	48,162	...
Japan	ton	4,539	...	227,803	6,683	...	...	338,576	...
Netherlands	ton	977	...	67,840	421	...	...	17,300	...
Spain	ton	94	...	5,080	219	...	...	11,323	...
Other countries	ton	50	...	4,000	...	...	...	...	...
Total	ton	70,903	...	3,929,317	42,661	...	...	2,115,140	...
Asbestos sand and waste	ton	88,535	...	1,245,326	69,769	...	...	986,095	...
Asbestos manufactures including roofing	xxx	...	...	111,241	...	...	...	75,517	...
GRAND TOTAL EXPORTS	xxx	...	...	5,285,884	...	...	...	3,176,752	...

Principal Statistics of the Asbestos Mining Industry in Canada, 1931 and 1932.

	1	9	3	1	1	9	3	2
Number of firms	7	...	...	...	7
Capital employed	\$ 40,164,005	...	...	...	\$ 30,081,362
Number of employees - On salary	172	...	...	...	136
On wages	1,503	...	...	...	1,273
Total	1,675	...	...	...	1,409
Salaries and wages - Salaries	\$ 405,060	...	...	...	\$ 279,950
Wages	\$ 1,431,055	...	...	...	\$ 876,365
Total	\$ 1,836,115	...	...	...	\$ 1,156,315
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$ 849,047	...	...	...	\$ 827,303
Selling value of products	\$ 4,818,838	...	...	...	\$ 3,043,090

Fuel and Electricity Used in the Asbestos Mining Industry in Canada, 1931 and 1932.

		1	9	3	1	1	9	3	2
		Quantity		Value(\$)		Quantity		Value(\$)	
Bituminous coal - Canadian	short ton	23,644	...	152,012	...	19,763	...	125,443	...
- Foreign	short ton	337	...	2,341	...	1,709	...	12,915	...
Lignite coal - Canadian	short ton	1,412	...	9,672	...	...	...	...	...
Anthracite coal	short ton	5,477	...	39,638	...	5,086	...	35,179	...
Coke	short ton	583	...	5,385	...	630	...	7,500	...
Gasoline (exclusive of motor vehicles)	imp. gal.	53,329	...	8,942	...	17,500	...	2,877	...
Kerosene	imp. gal.	774	...	164	...	2,701	...	525	...
Fuel oil	imp. gal.	3,787	...	432	...	78,719	...	5,651	...
Electricity purchased	K.W.H.	47,821,190	...	630,461	...	44,519,239	...	637,213	...
TOTAL	xxx	...	...	849,047	...	...	...	827,303	...

Directory of Firms in Canadian Asbestos Mining Industry, 1932.

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Head Office Address</u>	<u>Location of Plant</u>
Asbestos Corporation Ltd.	Canada Cement Bldg., Montreal, P.Q.	Thetford Mines, P.Q. East Broughton, P.Q. Black Lake, P.Q. Coleraine, P.Q.
Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd. Johnson's Company	Montreal, P.Q. Thetford Mines West, P.Q.	Asbestos, P.Q. Thetford Mines, P.Q. Black Lake, P.Q.
Keasbey & Mattison Co. Nicolet Asbestos Mines Ltd.	Ambler, Pa., U.S.A. c-o Greenshields & Greenshields, Transportation Bldg., Montreal, P.Q.	Thetford Mines, P.Q. Tingwick Tp., P.Q. Wotton Tp., P.Q.
Northern Asbestos Co. Ltd. Quebec Asbestos Corp. Ltd.	Thetford Mines, P.Q. East Broughton Station, P.Q.	Thetford Mines, P.Q. East Broughton, P.Q.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

The Department of Mines for Southern Rhodesia states that the Rhodesian asbestos industry was severely handicapped in 1932 owing to other countries landing asbestos at European ports at very low prices. The following figures will illustrate the pronounced drop in Rhodesian asbestos production since 1930:- 1930 - 37,766 tons; 1931 - 24,042 tons; and 1932 - 15,766 tons. The 1932 production of 15,766 tons produced in Victoria and Bulawayo was valued at 197,091 pounds, 15 shillings.

Crude asbestos exported from Southern Rhodesia during 1932 totalled 13,871 tons valued at 248,513 pounds.

Exports of Crude Asbestos from the Union of South Africa during 1931 and 1932 were as follows:-

	1	9	3	2	1	9	3	1
	Quantity		Value		Quantity		Value	
	Pounds		£		Pounds		£	
To United Kingdom	13,013,790		80,918		10,658,358		81,737	
Australia	10,150		59		790,450		4,301	
Belgium	1,068,300		7,735		3,378,610		25,858	
Belgian Congo .....	...		...		30,041		271	
Denmark .....	...		...		9,251		78	
France	2,012,624		12,786		2,325,952		20,554	
Germany	1,633,400		13,247		2,330,715		23,027	
Holland	733,150		5,346		468,535		4,344	
Italy	1,199,604		11,359		3,659,223		34,618	
Portuguese East Africa ....	...		...		359,820		5,392	
Spain	1,898,946		9,409		3,353,200		23,603	
Japan	1,137,724		4,376		1,275,285		7,017	
United States	286,208		3,057		1,657,810		21,003	
TOTAL	23,043,896		148,292		30,297,250		251,803	

Exports of asbestos from Cyprus in 1932 totalled 1,600 tons valued at 27,214 pounds; these were made as follows: United Kingdom, 1,519 tons valued at 26,204 pounds; Egypt, 12 tons at 62 pounds; Germany, 56 tons at 814 pounds; and Italy, 13 tons at 134 pounds.

Asbestos exported from Russia during 1932 amounted to 15,915 metric tons with a value of 2,299,000 rubles as against 13,239 tons worth 2,485,000 rubles in 1931.

It was reported that one of the largest rubber factories in the world was being constructed in 1932 at Yaroslavl, in the Ivanovo-Voznesensk industrial region, Russia. This factory will be part of a rubber-asbestos combine which is planned to have an annual output of 1,000 million rubles. It is said that the asbestos mill will produce 35 different parts for tractors and motor cars.

The British Standards Institution has issued a British standard specification (No. 486-1933) for asbestos cement pressure pipes. The specification covers four classes of pipes, but without defining the use to which each class should be put. Pipes are provided for in diameters ranging from 2 inches to 40 inches. Copies of this specification are obtainable from the British Standards Institution, 28 Victoria St., London, S.W. 1. 2s. 2d. post free.

An interesting application of asbestos was announced in 1932 by the Lead Industries Association. Lead and asbestos manufactured in the form of pads are used to check vibration in rubber mills; the pads can sustain high unit loads and are practically imperishable.

The "India Rubber Journal" states that the treatment of asbestos fibres with acid gases has become more popular. Bleaching by means of the gaseous process requires the laying down of acid distillation retorts, gas chambers for performing the actual bleaching operation and a condensation system for recovery of spent acid gas ... the process generally furnishes a very pure white product and it is an unusual experience to find any tint of colour remaining. During 1932 arrangements were made for the manufacture of resin-asbestos equipment in the United States. The resin material is available in several varieties to meet the specific requirements of the application; in some instances the filler is varied, either asbestos or graphite. The material has been used for handling sulphuric acid up to a strength of 50 per cent, concentrated hydrochloric, phosphoric, acetic, lactic, oxalic, citric, and tartaric acids; the material may be used up to 130 degrees C. and is easily machined and may be cut, drilled, planed or turned.

It is stated in "Asbestos" that the Tasmanian Asbestos Company of Beaconfield, Tasmania, is reported to have commenced crushing and screening asbestos rock and is finding a ready market for the fibre in Melbourne and Sydney.

At the United States tariff commission hearings in connection with its investigation into alleged unfair methods of competition in the sale of Russian asbestos, it was testified that there exists (estimated) in Arizona millions of tons of asbestos ore ranging from 5 per cent to 25 per cent asbestos content and opinion was expressed that these deposits together with deposits in Vermont would be sufficient to supply domestic requirements.

During 1932 a new asbestos cloth in a complete line of plain colours and stripes was introduced to the awning makers of the United States. Another new application of asbestos is in the construction of steel factory built houses and it is reported that some of the largest producing companies are devoting a part of their energies to this industry.

Imports of Unmanufactured Asbestos into the United States, 1932.

	<u>C R U D E</u>		<u>MILL FIBRE</u>		<u>STUCCO AND OTHER</u>	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
From --						
Germany.....	...	30	...	...	...	...
Italy.....	18	8,365	60	1,262	562	7,719
United Kingdom.....	1	399	...	...	38	1,108
Canada.....	272	60,298	27,463	1,225,501	56,791	827,744
Union of South Africa ..	189	23,890	...	...	...	...
Other British South Africa.....	995	93,884	...	...	...	...

WORLD PRODUCTION OF ASBESTOS, 1929, 1930 and 1931.
(By Imperial Institute)
(Long tons)

Producing Country	1929	1930	1931
<u>BRITISH EMPIRE</u>			
Southern Rhodesia	38,066	33,720	21,466
Union of South Africa (b)	28,717	23,083	11,480
Canada --			
Chrysotile	294,804	251,019	141,470
Crude	4,286	3,546	2,202
Spinning stocks	17,514	12,886	10,115
Shingle stocks	30,391	20,170	9,782
Millboard and paper stocks	82,046	71,544	33,260
Fillers, floats and other short fibres	143,624	106,508	79,674
Sand, gravel and crushed rock	16,943	36,365	6,437
Actinolite	27	30	31
Cyprus	14,110	7,256	1,138
India	318	33	6
Australia	256	82	128
Total	376,000	315,000	176,000
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>			
Finland (Amphibole)	1,600	1,061	(a)
France	740	(a)	(a)
Greece .....	...	...	2
Italy	2,586	710	(a)
Russia	38,425	53,228	66,000
Mozambique .....	...	16	(a)
United States (sales) --			
Amphibole	1,046	526	331
Chrysotile	1,771	3,262	2,551
China	273	310	260
Japan (estimated)	1,000	1,000	1,000
Turkey .....	...	...	4
Total	47,000	61,000	72,000
WORLD'S TOTAL	423,000	376,000	248,000

(a) Information not available.

(b) Production is not available by kinds, but sales were as follows:-

	1929	1930	1931
Amosite	8,268 long tons	2,930 long tons	1,863 long tons
Blue	5,384 long tons	4,894 long tons	3,253 long tons
Chrysotile	15,845 long tons	9,392 long tons	8,373 long tons

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