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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
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MICA, 1932.

Mica production in Canada during 1932 amounted to 309 tons valued at \$6,828 as compared with 1,339 tons worth \$54,066 in 1931 and 1,170 tons at \$96,004 in 1930, according to finally revised statistics issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa. The total Canadian production in 1932 came from deposits in Quebec and Ontario. Adverse conditions in general industry and more especially in the field for the manufacture of electrical equipment are responsible for the almost continuous decline in Canadian mica production during recent years. It is, however, encouraging to note that there was an increase of 32.9 per cent in the tonnage and 149.5 per cent in the value of mica produced in Canada during the first six months of 1933 as compared with the corresponding period of 1932.

Muscovite and phlogopite are two commercially important varieties of mica found in Canada. Muscovite occupies a minor position of economic importance as compared with the latter variety. Important deposits of phlogopite mica occur in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Quebec deposits are principally in Hull and Papineau counties, adjacent to the Lievre and Gatineau rivers. In Ontario the more important occurrences are in Frontenac, Lanark and Leeds counties. Plants for the sorting and grading of the mineral are operated in both provinces. Various grades of ground mica are now produced in the province of Quebec. Mica has been known for many years to occur in considerable quantity in the granite near Neil's Harbour, Victoria county, Nova Scotia; several test pits were sunk here but no commercial production reported. Lepidolite, or lithia mica, in deposits of possible economic value, occur in the Pointe du Bois district, northeast of Winnipeg, in Manitoba. The lepidolite of the Manitoba deposits has no value as sheet mica. Fuchsite (chrome mica) schist has been shipped from this same district. It was crushed and used in Winnipeg for stucco purposes. This is believed to be the only case on record of fuchsite being mined and utilized commercially. Some interesting occurrences of mica have been discovered recently in the neighbourhood of Okanagan Lake in British Columbia and similar deposits have been known for several years near Armstrong and also near Cherryville. The Department of Mines, British Columbia, reports that the Armstrong deposit is quite extensive and warrants exploration to prove its economic importance.

The Mines Branch, Ottawa, states that almost the entire recorded world's production of sheet mica is utilized in the electrical industries; a certain amount of clear sheet muscovite finds employment in stove doors, shields and shades, gas masks, etc. Ground mica finds various uses - the roofing industry probably absorbs the greater part of the ground mica produced. Coarsely ground mica, chiefly muscovite, is used for Christmas tree "snow." The finest grade of ground mica is taken up by the wall paper trade where it is used to impart lustre to the paper. Ground mica is also used, for its decorative effect, to surface stucco and plaster, and in concrete. The rubber trade uses a considerable amount of ground mica in the manufacture of tires, the mica serving as a lubricating or dusting medium during stages of manufacture.

Much of the mica of commerce is handled through small dealers who buy up parcels of mine-run or rough-cobbed mica and trim and grade the mineral according to individual customers orders or to recognized trade standards, selling it in the thumb-trimmed or knife-trimmed state, or as thin splittings. Some of the large producer-dealers are also manufacturers in a small way in that their shops are equipped with power presses on which they punch out finished segments, disks, and washers for sale to the electrical trade direct.

According to the U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce, rich mica deposits, exceeding those of the Trans-Baikal, have been discovered in the Kola Peninsula, Russia.

It is reported that in June, 1933, the mica processors in the spruce pine district of North Carolina were all working overtime, orders were largely for immediate shipment with inquiries for advance deliveries increasing. Prices were firm with prospects of increases. During the early part of 1933 inquiry for Madagascar mica in the United States had increased; in certain grades of phlogopite the demand exceeded offers.

The United States Bureau of Mines state that the domestic unmanufactured sheet mica industry in the United States, which has steadily declined since 1929, reached a point in 1932 which was lower than for any year since 1919. The total quantity of domestic sheet mica marketed in the United States in 1932 was 338,997 pounds (169 tons) valued at \$45,882. Compared with 1931 decreases of 65 per cent in quantity and 59 per cent in value were recorded. In 1932 domestic commercial production of ground mica was 15,409,846 pounds valued at \$310,840 compared with 15,613,052 pounds worth \$436,436 in 1931. Imports of ground mica in 1932 were 111,771 pounds valued at \$383. There was little demand in 1932 for any class of domestic mica. Total imports of unmanufactured mica for consumption in the United States in 1932 were 2,970,742 pounds valued at \$78,496; corresponding figures for 1931 were 4,549,122 pounds valued at \$132,865.

Consumption of Indian, Canadian and Madagascar mica splittings in the United States during 1931 and 1932 was as follows:-

	I N D I A N		C A N A D I A N		M A D A G A S C A R	
	Pounds	\$	Pounds	\$	Pounds	\$
1931 .....	1,713,954	648,169	163,091	52,258	162,545	63,443
1932 .....	671,647	193,854	73,810	13,655	157,528	61,321

Production of mica in Southern Rhodesia in 1932 amounted to 14 tons valued at 18,562 pounds (with adjustments) as compared with 74 tons worth 8,256 pounds during 1931.

Exports of mica (splittings and blocks) from India during 1930, 1931 and 1932, were as follows:-

	1 9 3 0		1 9 3 1		1 9 3 2	
	Cwt.	\$	Cwt.	\$	Cwt.	\$
To United Kingdom .....	38,478	728,943	22,891	488,008	22,389	377,447
Germany .....	7,788	98,723	3,831	40,769	5,013	48,596
France .....	5,050	61,515	4,810	19,883	788	17,798
United States .....	23,982	512,559	12,378	145,794	11,264	110,493
Other countries .....	7,611	137,810	9,056	147,331	7,567	125,166
TOTAL .....	82,909	1,539,550	52,966	841,785	47,021	679,500

Exports of mica from the Union of South Africa during 1931 and 1932 were:-

	1931	1932
	Tons(2,000 lb.)	Pound
To United Kingdom .....	1	69
Germany .....	16	36
Portuguese East Africa .	57	171
United States .....	505	1,361
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>1,637</b>

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

	1931	1932
Number of firms .....	11	5
Capital employed .....	276,356	119,670
Number of employees -- On salaries .....	3	1
On wages .....	25	8
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>
Salaries and wages -- Salaries .....	5,770	1,750
Wages .....	16,786	6,114
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>22,556</b>	<b>7,864</b>
Cost of fuel and electricity .....	444	50
Selling value of products .....	54,066	6,828

Production of Mica in Canada, by Grades, 1931 and 1932.

	1931			1932		
	Quantity	Value f.o.b.	Price per	Quantity	Value f.o.b.	Price per
	shipping point	shipping point	lb.	shipping point	shipping point	lb.
	lb.	\$	\$	lb.	\$	\$
Rough cobbed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thumb-trimmed ..	49,835	5,717	0.11	2,019	1,254	0.62
Splittings .....	37,475	14,398	0.38	3,350	2,014	0.60
Scrap .....	2,589,918	33,951	0.01	612,980	3,560	0.06
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>2,677,228</b>	<b>54,066</b>		<b>618,349</b>	<b>6,828</b>	

Production of Mica in Canada, by Provinces, Imports and Exports, 1931 and 1932.

	1931		1932	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
		\$		\$
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Quebec .....	580,000	30,601	81,137	4,076
Ontario .....	2,098,000	23,465	537,212	2,752
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>2,678,000</b>	<b>54,066</b>	<b>618,349</b>	<b>6,828</b>
<b>IMPORTS</b>				
Mica and manufactures of, n.o.p. --				
From United Kingdom .....	...	7,607	...	4,337
United States .....	...	48,268	...	27,383
British India .....	...	32,257	...	37,360
Germany .....	...	4,054	...	2,669
Other countries .....	...	108	...	...
<b>Total .....</b>	...	<b>92,294</b>	...	<b>71,749</b>
Chalk, China, Cornwall or cliff stone and mica schist .....	...	25,551	...	18,875

Production of Mica in Canada, by Provinces, Imports and Exports, 1931 and 1932. concluded.

	1	9	3	1	1	9	3	2
	Cwt.		- Value		Cwt.		Value	
			\$				\$	
<u>EXPORTS -</u>								
Mica, rough cobbled and thumb-trimmed -								
To United States .....	476		3,423		17		177	
Mica, scrap and waste -								
To United States .....	24,637		32,600		6,004		2,343	
Mica splittings -								
To United Kingdom .....	30		1,650		22		737	
United States .....	355		13,022		972		26,096	
Mica plate and manufactures of (micanite) .....	...		797		...		1,260	
TOTAL .....	...		51,497		...		31,113	

List of Operators in the Canadian Mica Mining Industry, 1932.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Head Office Address</u>	<u>Location of plant or mine</u>
<u>QUEBEC -</u>		
Blackburn Bros. Ltd.	710 Blackburn Bldg., Ottawa, Ont.	Templeton Tp.
Cross, W. C.	Cascades	Cascades
Martin, A. G.	236 Besserer St., Ottawa, Ont.	Wakefield Tp. and Hull Tp.
<u>ONTARIO -</u>		
Austin, Louis	Perth Road	Frontenac County
Kent Bros.	Cole St., Kingston	Kingston
Lee, W. W.	Bedford Mills	Bob's Lake
Loughborough Mining Co. Ltd.	Sydenham	Sydenham
Martin, A. G.	236 Besserer St., Ottawa, Ont.	Ottawa
Tory Hill Marble & Mica Co. Ltd.	Tory Hill	Haliburton County

September, 1933, quotations in the United States for mica were: per ton, f.o.b. New Mexico scrap, white, \$16; off color, \$14 to \$15. Punch, white, for disks, per pound, 10 cents; for washers, 8 cents. Per ton, f.o.b. New Hampshire, roofing mica, \$23; snow, \$34; 40 mesh white, \$40; 60 mesh, \$48; 100 mesh, \$60; 200 mesh, \$75. Clean dry mixed bench and mine scrap, \$13. Per pound, f.o.b. North Carolina: Punch, 2 to 4 pound, 1½ x 2 in., 10 to 20 cents; 2 x 2, 25 to 35 cents; 2 x 3, 40 to 50 cents; 3 x 3, 50 to 65 cents; 3 x 4, 70 to 80 cents; 3 x 5, 90 cents to \$1.00; 4 x 6, \$1.25 to \$1.50; 6 x 8, \$1.60 to \$2.20; 8 x 10, \$3 to \$5. The above prices apply to No. 1 and No. 2 quality stock. Stained qualities take from 10 to 25 per cent discount. White North Carolina mica, 70 mesh, \$60 to \$80 a ton. Biotite, or black mica, \$15 a ton, unground. White, Georgia, 300 mesh, \$19.50; sericite, 300 mesh, \$15; vermiculite, \$7, f.o.b. mines, North Carolina, Amblygonite, per ton, f.o.b. mines, 8 to 9 per cent Li O, \$34 to \$35.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF MICA, 1930 and 1931.

This statement taken from the Imperial Institute's publication "The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries."  
(Long tons)

Producing country	1930	1931
<u>BRITISH EMPIRE</u>		
Kenya .....	...	...
Nigeria .....	(8 cwt.)	(17 cwt.)
Northern Rhodesia .....	4	1
Southern Rhodesia .....	162	66
South West Africa (waste) .....	...	...
Tanganyika Territory .....	21	9
Union of South Africa (b) .....	878	843
Canada - Rough cobbled .....	20	...
Thumb trimmed .....	4	22
Splittings .....	34	17
Scrap .....	987	1,156
Ceylon (exports) .....	...	2
India (exports) - Sheet .....	741	414
Splittings .....	3,404	2,235
Australia .....	26	29
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>		
France .....	(a)	(a)
Norway (exports) - Sheet .....	1	(a)
Scrap .....	51	(a)
Sweden .....	72	(a)
Madagascar - Muscovite .....	21	14
Phlogopite, etc. ....	322	217
United States (sales) - Sheets (uncut) .....	654	430
Scrap .....	6,011	5,912
Argentina .....	98	(a)
Brazil .....	51	(a)
Korea .....	28	(a)
Guatemala .....	(a)	(a)

NOTE 1,469 long tons of mica were recorded as produced in Russia during year ended September, 1928 - later figures are not available.

(a) Information not available.

(b) Nearly all scrap.

The following amounts of lithium mica were produced:-

	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	
South West Africa .....	250	100	long tons
Czechoslovakia .....	30	7	" "
France .....	(a)	(a)	" "
Germany .....	773	(a)	" "
Portugal .....	269	564	" "

Data for 1932 not yet available.



WORLD IMPORTS OF MICA, 1930 and 1931.

(Less Re-Exports)

This statement taken from the Imperial Institute's Publication "The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries"  
(Long tons)

Importing Country and Description	1930	1931
<u>BRITISH EMPIRE</u>		
United Kingdom -		
Sheet and splittings .....	998	704
Ground .....	963	625
Union of South Africa -		
Micanite sheets .....	(£ 1,038)	(£ 1,103)
Newfoundland (years ended June 30) .....	(£ 28)	(£ 32)
British India (total imports) -		
Sheet .....	31	21
Splittings .....	19	13
Australia .....	...	(8 cwt.)
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>		
Austria -		
Unmanufactured .....	65	11
Sheet .....	26	15
Belgium-Luxemburg E.U. -		
Crude sheet and plate .....	144	145
Cut sheet and plate .....	31	16
Denmark .....	130	107
France -		
Unmanufactured .....	1,127	466
Sheet, plate and manufactures .....	51	51
Germany -		
Unmanufactured .....	610	341
Italy -		
Unmanufactured and sheet .....	268	236
Netherlands .....	39	33
Poland .....	27	29
Russia .....	32	20
Spain (total imports) -		
Sheet .....	9	21
Sweden -		
Mica and manufactured .....	(a)	(a)
Switzerland (including asbestos) .....	800	1,135
United States (total imports) -		
Unmanufactured .....	2,034	2,040
Cut, splittings and manufactures .....	1,246	545
Chile .....	3	1

(a) Information not available.

NOTE - Data for 1932 not yet available.