

26-D-27

28 4 36

C. 2

**CANADA**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**

**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**



---

**THE MICA INDUSTRY**

**IN**

**CANADA**

**1934**

---

Published by Authority of the HON. R. B. HANSON, K.C.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

OTTAWA  
1935



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
MINING, METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL BRANCH  
OTTAWA - CANADA

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)  
Chief - Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch: W. H. Losee, B.Sc.

MICA, 1934.

Production (sales) of primary mica in Canada during 1934 totalled 998 tons valued at \$97,071 as compared with an output of 944 tons worth \$49,284 in 1933, according to finally revised statistics issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa. The mineral in 1934 was produced in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, with the greater part of the Dominion output coming, as in former years, from the first two named provinces. The quantity and value of 1934 shipments show increases of 5.7 per cent and 97 per cent respectively over those of the preceding year and represent the second successive annual increase in Canadian mica production since 1932.

Increases in both quantity and total sales value of all grades of mica were recorded in 1934, these were especially pronounced for knife and thumb-trimmed shipments. Sales of splittings and scrap revealed relatively little change from those of the previous year; interest was added in 1934 by the revival, to some extent, in shipments of rough cobbled mineral. An improvement in the average prices of thumb-trimmed grades and splittings was realized while the average price for knife-trimmed showed a slight falling off which was more or less compensated for by a moderate increase in the price of ground mica and scrap.

A very pronounced increase in the exports of Canadian mica occurred in 1934; the total value of these amounting to \$117,802, represents an increase of 155 per cent over 1933. The increase in exports of thumb-trimmed (and rough cobbled) mica to the United Kingdom is especially worthy of note in that they show an increase from 3,900 pounds valued at \$2,027 in 1933 to 147,000 pounds worth \$60,635 in 1934. All exports of scrap mica and waste went to the United States in 1934 and were somewhat less in both quantity and value than for the preceding year. Exports of splittings to the United States and United Kingdom markets increased, with by far the greater proportion of the shipments going to the former country.

The almost general improvement in both domestic and foreign mica markets in 1934 not only stimulated greater domestic production but resulted in an increase over 1933 of 148 per cent in the number of employees and 101 per cent in salaries and wages in the Canadian mica mining industry.

The Canadian mica production is confined almost exclusively to the phlogopite variety termed in the trade amber mica. Deposits of muscovite or white mica are known, but attempts to mine this type have usually not proved profitable, and the production has been negligible. The productive mica region lies for the most part within a radius of about one hundred miles from the city of Ottawa, the northern portion of the field lying principally between or adjacent to the Gatineau and Lievre rivers, in Quebec, and the southern portion in the Perth-Kingston district in Ontario ... A further small shipment of scrap-grade, white mica, was made in 1934 from

a deposit near Enderby, British Columbia, and sent to a mill in Vancouver for grinding. The mica-grinding plant at Buckingham mine, Templeton township, Quebec, continued in intermittent operation during 1934 and reported about double the volume of sales over 1933. ... Grinding and sizing tests were run in the Mines Branch Ore Dressing Laboratories on a trial shipment of mica schist from Baker Inlet, near Prince Rupert, British Columbia; the rock is soft and easily pulverized and consists essentially of fine, white, flake mica. ... Sheet mica is marketed in various classes, depending on the amount of preparation the mine-run material receives. Formerly, much of the output was sold in the semi-rough form, termed thumb-trimmed but this practice has now been largely supplanted by knife-trimming, which provides a much higher grade of product. Scrap mica, representing the waste from mining or trimming operations, is sold to grinding mills for the production of mica powder, used extensively in the roofing and rubber trades." (excerpts from Report 760 - Mines Branch, Department of Mines, Ottawa).

PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE MICA MINING INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1932, 1933 and 1934.

	1 9 3 2	1 9 3 3	1 9 3 4
Number of firms .....	5	15	16
Capital employed .....	\$ 119,670	\$ 312,396	\$ 139,716
Number of employees - On salary ....	1	3	4
On wages .....	8	38	98
Total .....	<u>9</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>102</u>
Salaries and wages - Salaries .....	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,242	\$ 2,475
Wages .....	\$ 6,114	\$ 22,765	\$ 47,916
Total .....	<u>\$ 7,864</u>	<u>\$ 25,007</u>	<u>\$ 50,391</u>
Cost of fuel and electricity .....	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 50
Selling value of products .....	\$ 6,828	\$ 49,284	\$ 97,071

NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNERS ON PAYROLL OR TIME RECORD ON 15th OF EACH MONTH OR NEAREST REPRESENTATIVE DATE, 1934.

Month	Mine No.	Shop No.
January .....	19	39
February .....	25	36
March .....	20	32
April .....	29	30
May .....	49	51
June .....	51	61
July .....	52	50
August .....	55	52
September .....	63	64
October .....	57	70
November .....	49	72
December .....	46	85

PRODUCTION OF MICA IN CANADA, BY GRADES, 1933 and 1934.

	1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4		
	Quantity	Value, f.o.b. shipping point	Price per lb.	Quantity	Value, f.o.b. shipping point	Price per lb.
	Lb.	\$	\$	Lb.	\$	\$
Rough cobbled ...	...	...	...	2,459	514	0.21
Knife-trimmed ..	8,591	3,923	0.46	61,003	25,628	0.42
Thumb-trimmed ..	51,881	8,397	0.16	90,726	27,360	0.30
Splittings .....	74,550	27,446	0.37	75,050	33,120	0.44
Scrap .....	1,753,375	9,518	0.005	1,766,031	10,449	0.006
TOTAL .....	1,888,397	49,284	...	1,995,269	97,071	...

PRODUCTION OF MICA IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1933 and 1934.

	1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
		\$		\$
<b>PRODUCTION (SALES) -</b>				
Quebec .....	511,467	39,060	643,967	85,967
Ontario .....	1,331,430	9,371	1,236,302	9,059
British Columbia .....	45,500	853	115,000	2,045
TOTAL .....	1,888,397	49,284	1,995,269	97,071

**IMPORTS -**

Mica and manufactures of, n.o.p. -

From - United Kingdom .....	...	2,070	...	4,872
United States .....	...	29,059	...	40,242
British India .....	...	1,648	...	17,268
Germany .....	...	714	...	128
Other countries .....	...	15	...	170
TOTAL .....	...	33,506	...	62,680

Chalk, China, Cornwall or cliff stone and mica schist .....

...	17,283	...	21,371
-----	--------	-----	--------

**EXPORTS -**

Mica, rough cobbled and thumb-trimmed -

To - United Kingdom .....	3,900	2,027	147,000	60,635
United States .....	48,900	4,418	43,000	8,939

Mica, scrap and waste -

To - United States .....	2,138,400	9,476	1,680,400	7,736
Other countries .....	14,000	84	...	...

Mica splittings -

To - United Kingdom .....	18,700	6,278	19,200	6,635
United States .....	57,000	23,201	69,400	31,967

Mica plate and manufactures of (micanite)

...	729	...	1,890
-----	-----	-----	-------

TOTAL .....	...	46,213	...	117,802
-------------	-----	--------	-----	---------

PRODUCTION (SALES) OF MICA IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, JANUARY 1 to JUNE 30, 1934 and 1935.

Province	1 9 3 4		1 9 3 5	
	Pounds	\$	Pounds	\$
Quebec .....	344,801	39,281	355,868	40,399
Ontario .....	463,417	9,889	740,807	5,330
British Columbia .....	28,000	525	...	...
TOTAL .....	836,218	49,695	1,096,675	45,729

PRODUCTION(x) OF MICA IN CANADA, 1935 - 1934.

Year	Short tons	Value \$	Year	Short tons	Value \$
1925 .....	4,020	261,463	1930 .....	1,170	96,004
1926 .....	2,545	229,204	1931 .....	1,339	54,066
1927 .....	2,738	174,377	1932 .....	309	6,828
1928 .....	3,660	87,168	1933 .....	944	49,284
1929 .....	4,053	118,549	1934 .....	998	97,071

(x) Sales.

CONSUMPTION OF MICA IN THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES INDUSTRY, 1931-1934.

Year	Pounds	\$
1931 .....	150,561	101,531
1932 .....	102,410	68,747
1933 .....	35,098	27,129
1934 .....	93,297	60,520

CONSUMPTION OF GROUND MICA IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CANADIAN COMPOSITION ROOFING, 1931-1934.

Year	Tons	\$
1931 .....	(not available)	
1932 .....	21	683
1933 .....	48	1,849
1934 .....	71	2,086

CONSUMPTION OF GROUND MICA IN THE CANADIAN RUBBER INDUSTRY, 1931 - 1934.

Year	Pounds	\$
1931 .....	103,177	6,265
1932 .....	73,600	4,111
1933 .....	89,165	4,769
1934 .....	135,424	6,792

CONSUMPTION OF MICA IN THE CANADIAN MICA PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, 1931 - 1934.

Year	Pounds	\$
1931 .....	(not available)	10,099
1932 .....	10,100	4,290
1933 .....	16,025	6,553
1934 .....	16,553	7,040

IMPORTS INTO AND CONSUMPTION OF MICA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1931 - 1934.

Year	Tons	Value £
1931 .....	1,984	244,994
1932 .....	1,634	172,926
1933 .....	1,879	218,247
1934 .....	2,420	301,298

The total quantity of unmanufactured sheet and scrap mica sold by producers in the United States in 1934 was 8,011 short tons valued at \$190,059 compared with 8,933 short tons valued at \$151,338 in 1933. The total consisted of 583,528 pounds of unmanufactured sheet valued at \$90,268 and 7,719 short tons of scrap valued at \$99,791. Of this amount North Carolina produced 293,381 pounds of sheet valued at \$38,674, and 4,757 tons of scrap valued at \$59,496; and New Hampshire 161,430 pounds of sheet valued at \$14,423, and 537 tons of scrap valued at \$9,529. Compared with 1933, total sales of unmanufactured domestic mica in 1934 showed a decrease of 10.3 per cent in quantity and an increase of 25.6 per cent in value.

SCRAP MICA IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES, 1933 and 1934.

Country	1 9 3 3			1 9 3 4		
	short tons	V A L U E Total	Average	short tons	V A L U E Total	Average
Canada .....	988	8,682	8.79	860	7,803	9.07
India (British) .....	236	2,659	11.27	1,613	14,138	8.77
Union of South Africa .	229	1,710	7.47	225	1,620	7.20
U.S.S.R. (Russia) .....	166	841	5.07	807	4,313	5.34
TOTAL .....	1,619	13,892	8.58	3,505	27,874	7.95

GENERAL IMPORTS OF MICA INTO THE UNITED STATES, 1933 and 1934 (x)

	1 9 3 3		1 9 3 4	
	Pounds	Value \$	Pounds	Value \$
Unmanufactured (dutiable) .....	3,842,673	176,773	7,688,458	247,408
Cut or split (dutiable) .....	1,040,046	202,215	2,214,569	507,447
Manufactures (dutiable) .....	556,461	13,794	327,999	7,767

(x) Subject to revision.

EXPORTS OF MICA FROM INDIA, 1932 - 1934.

	1 9 3 2	1 9 3 3	1 9 3 4
In blocks .....	Cwt. 6,693	15,702	20,525
	Rupees 1,382,135	2,429,357	3,509,204
Splittings .....	Cwt. 40,328	40,945	72,301
	Rupees 1,966,808	1,662,676	2,496,375
TOTAL OF MICA -			
To United Kingdom .....	Cwt. 22,389	22,505	29,606
	Rupees 1,860,262	2,268,698	3,106,625
Germany .....	Cwt. 5,013	6,161	10,013
	Rupees 239,505	320,961	565,451
France .....	Cwt. 788	1,067	1,763
	Rupees 87,719	79,831	147,282

EXPORTS OF MICA FROM INDIA, 1932 - 1934 (concluded)

		1932	1933	1934
To - United States .....	Cwt.	11,264	19,812	39,517
	Rupees	544,569	894,321	1,293,077
Other countries .....	Cwt.	7,567	7,102	11,927
	Rupees	616,888	528,222	893,144
TOTAL .....	Cwt.	47,021	56,647	92,826
	Rupees	3,348,943	4,092,033	6,005,579
Value of rupee in Canadian funds .....		30.29 cents	34.768 cents	37.66 cents

EXPORTS OF PHLOGOPITE AND OTHER MICAS FROM MADAGASCAR, 1934.

	Kg.	Franc
To - France .....	153,837	1,550,000
England .....	119,707	1,003,000
Germany .....	16,578	194,000
United States .....	89,300	613,000
Other countries .....	126	3,000
TOTAL .....	379,548	3,363,000

Mica is found in payable quality and quantity at Miami and Rusambo, Southern Rhodesia. The Rhodesian mica industry reached its zenith in 1929 when the output realized £80,272, since then it has fallen to practically nothing, due not to shortage of supply but to lack of market. Production in 1934 totalled only 3,867 pounds valued at £272 as compared with 8,841 pounds worth £389 in 1933.

Mica mining in the Union of South Africa is conducted in the Letaba district of the Transvaal; actual production in 1934 totalled 694.924 short tons while sales amounted to 306.114 tons valued at £481 as compared with 604.815 tons at £723 in 1933.

WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF MICA

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

Producing Country	1931	1932	1933
<b>BRITISH EMPIRE</b>			
Nigeria .....	(17 cwt.)	(17 cwt.)	...
Northern Rhodesia .....	1	...	1
Southern Rhodesia .....	66	13	4
Tanganyika Territory .....	9	12	11
Union of South Africa (b) .....	843	242	391
Canada - Knife trimmed .....	...	...	4
Thumb trimmed .....	22	1	23
Splittings .....	17	2	33
Scrap .....	1,156	274	783
Ceylon (exports) .....	2	2	...
India (exports) - Sheet .....	414	335	839
Splittings .....	2,235	2,016	2,047
Australia .....	29	30	42



(7)  
 WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF MICA (concluded)  
 (Long tons)

Producing Country	1 9 3 1	1 9 3 2	1 9 3 3
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>			
Italy .....	12	9	(a)
Norway .....	15	31	5
Sweden .....	64	60	67
Madagascar - Muscovite .....	14	(88 lb.)	(692 lb.)
Phlogopite, etc. ...	217	136	170
United States (sales) -			
Sheets (uncut) .....	430	151	163
Scrap .....	5,912	6,286	7,813
Argentina .....	50	54	74
Bolivia (exports) .....	1	8	(a)
Brazil (exports) .....	54	41	(a)
Korea .....	17	20	23

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

- (a) Information not available.  
 (b) Nearly all scrap.

The following amounts of lithia mica were produced:-

	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>	
South West Africa .....	100	...	...	long tons
Czechoslovakia .....	7	...	(a)	" "
Germany .....	404	156	(a)	" "
Portugal .....	564	2,014	870	" "
France .....	900	(a)	(a)	" "

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN THE CANADIAN MICA MINING INDUSTRY, 1934.

<u>Name of Firm</u>	<u>Head Office Address</u>	<u>Location of Plant or Mine</u>
<u>QUEBEC -</u>		
Ahearn, W. (x)	538 McLaren St., Ottawa, Ont.	Hull Tp.
Blackburn Bros. Ltd. (a)	Blackburn Bldg., Ottawa, Ont.	Templeton Tp.
Brown Bros.	Cantley, P.Q.	Hull, Tp.
Cleary, G.	Wilson's Corners, P.Q.	Gatineau Tp.
Cross, W. C.	209 Bridge St., Hull, P.Q.	Hull Tp.
Flynn, B. J.	33 Montcalm St., Hull, P.Q.	Hull Dist.
Martin, A. G.	236 Besserer St., Ottawa, Ont.	Hull Tp, and Wakefield Tp.
McGlashan, Wm. (x)	Wilson's Corners, P.Q.	Wakefield Tp.
Wallingford Bros. Ltd.	Perkins, P.Q.	Hull Tp.

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN THE CANADIAN MICA MINING INDUSTRY, 1934. (concluded)

<u>Name of Firm</u>	<u>Head Office Address</u>	<u>Location of Plant or Mine</u>
<u>ONTARIO -</u>		
Kent Bros.	Kingston, Ont.	Kingston
Lee, W. W. & Son	Bedford Mills, Ont.	Bedford Tp.
Loughborough Mining Co. Ltd.	Sydenham, Ont.	Sydenham
Martin, A. G.	236 Besserer St., Ottawa, Ont.	Ottawa
Thirty Island Lake Mica Co.	Verona, Ont.	30 Island Lake
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</u>		
B. C. Refractories, Ltd.(a)	660 Taylor St., Vancouver, B.C.	Armstrong
Roy, P. M. (b)	Prince Rupert, B.C.	Baker Inlet

- (x) Active but not shipping.  
(a) Operates a grinding plant.  
(b) Mines sericite.



STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010631275