CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CENSUS OF INDUSTRY

MINING, METALLURGICAL & CHEMICAL BRANCH

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# THE GYPSUM INDUSTRY IN CANADA 1935

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# THE GYPSUM INDUSTRY, 1935.

## I. PRIMARY PRODUCTION - THE GYPSUM MINING AND QUARRYING INDUSTRY -

Finally revised figures for 1935, as issued by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa, indicate a distinct improvement in the Canadian gypsum mining industry; the tonnage of crude gypsum shipped and including the mineral calcined at quarry plants totalled 541,864 tons valued at $932,203, as compared with an output of 461,237 tons worth $863,776 in 1934. Increases in the value of production were realized in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, the five gypsum-producing provinces of the Dominion. The advance attained in the industry during 1935 continued into 1936 as was evidenced by a production of 265,309 tons valued at $462,857 during the first six months of the current year against 174,970 tons at $343,120 during the corresponding period of the preceding year.

During 1935 there were six firms with thirteen plants employed in the mining or quarrying of Canadian gypsum. Some of the gypsum mining companies in Canada confine their operations to the production and shipment of crude gypsum or anhydrite, while others, in addition to marketing various grades of crude gypsum, produce a calcine for sale or consumption in their own gypsum products plants.

The industry during 1935 provided employment for 467 persons and distributed $367,007 in salaries and wages, of which 219 employees and $163,907 were credited to the gypsum mining industry in the province of Nova Scotia.

Exports of crude gypsum in 1935 totalled 439,341 tons valued at $508,338 as compared with 354,978 tons at $413,961 in 1934; of the 1935 exports 374,317 tons valued at $441,574 went to the United States while 65,024 tons at $66,764 were consigned to the United Kingdom.

Gypsum deposits have been known in Nova Scotia since the time of the earliest settlers and shipments of the crude rock were made from the Windsor district to the United States a number of years before the Revolutionary War. After the war of 1812 these shipments assumed larger proportions and have been increasing almost ever since. The first recorded production in Ontario was in 1822 when a small amount was mined and crushed for fertilizer. During the first half of the nineteenth century the industry in Canada had a varied career, Nova Scotia and Ontario being the principal producers. Of the first discovery of gypsum in New Brunswick very little is known, evidence of very early work having been carried on in the district adjacent to the town of Hillsborough. The deposits in Manitoba were first operated in 1901 and have produced extensively ever since. The first production of gypsum in British Columbia was made in 1911 but it was not until 1926 that the industry was put on a sound basis in this province. Extensive deposits of gypsum are known in Northern Ontario and these deposits form a potential reserve which in years to come may be called upon to supply material to the northern parts of Ontario and Quebec. The deposits in Northern Alberta, although situated at a distance from markets are of good grade.

The Department of Public Works and Mines, Nova Scotia, reports on the gypsum mining industry in that province for 1935 as follows: "At Cheticamp, Inverness County, Atlantic Gypsum Products Ltd. is carrying on extensive gypsum operations. No. 1 quarry was enlarged by connecting two open-faces into one long face of gypsum. The mineral is removed in 10 ton cars equipped with tractor treads and hauled by caterpillar tractors to a chute for discharge into railway cars in the valley below; drilling in this quarry has encountered a 30 foot belt of anhydrite below the floor followed by over 40 feet of good gypsum. The same company conducted gypsum mining operations at Dingwall, Victoria County, where No. I grade is worked by hand selection and the balance or No. 2 grade is handled by 1/2 cubic yard power shovel; Atlantic Gypsum Products also operated at Walton on the shore of Minas Basin; here the rock removed from the new quarry is a good grade of soft white gypsum, shipments of which are made for calcining in New York; the anhydrite from Walton is shipped to Norfolk, Va. for use as a fertilizer and moisture retainer around peanut plants. The largest gypsum operation in the province is conducted by the Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. at Wentworth, Hants County. The quarries here are overlain with about eight feet of overburden which is stripped by draglines; the face, which is approximately sixty feet high is drilled in successive rows of eight foot holes from the bottom up; the displaced gypsum is loaded by power shovel into ten ton railway cars. The new Retreat quarry at Walton was opened by driving a 700 foot tunnel through anhydrite a raise was then driven to the surface. The Connecticut Adamant Gypsum Co. Ltd. operates a quarry at Cheverie, Hants Co.; a face 18 feet high has been opened for about 500 feet and a light overburden is stripped by gasoline shovel; production was steady during the year, the gypsum being shipped to New Haven, Conn. The Victoria Gypsum Co. commenced operations during the summer at Little Narrows, Victoria County. Work consisted in the erection of a crushing plant at the base of the quarry, installation of live storage and completion of a conveyor belt system; a diesel electric power plant of 500 H. P. is to be erected to supply power for the entire operation; two diesel shovels will be used in the quarry. The following companies did not operate in Nova Scotia during the past fiscal year: the North American Gypsum Company at Baddeck, Victoria County; The Nova Scotia Coal and Gypsum Co. at Mabou, Inverness County, and The Windsor Gypsum Co. at Newport Station, Hants County."

The only gypsum mining operations in New Brunswick during 1935 were those conducted at Hillsborough by the Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd; the mill of the company was in continuous operation throughout the year, while the quarry was in steady production from April until the end of December.

In Ontario mining and milling operations were steadily maintained by both Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd., and the Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. The first-named company obtains its crude gypsum at Caledonia and manufactures an extensive range of gypsum products. The Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. conducts mining operations at Hagersville and in addition to shipping crude gypsum is also a producer of various building materials.

The mining and calcining of gypsum was conducted throughout the year in Manitoba by Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd. and Western Gypsum Products Ltd; the former company obtains its supply of crude mineral from deposits located at Gypsumville, while Western Gypsum Products conduct quarrying operations at Amaranth. Both of these companies utilize calcined gypsum in the production of building materials. In British Columbia the only company engaged in the mining of gypsum was Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd. This company's deposits are located at Falkland where continuous operations were maintained during 1935. Crude gypsum quarried at Falkland is shipped for processing to the company's plant situated at Port Mann.

Recent results in the reduction of sulphur dioxide by coke in the Pilot Plant of Imperial Chemical Industries at Billingham, England, are of interest here; an article appearing in Canadian Chemistry and Metallurgy states -- "The process has other possibilities beside the production of sulphur from metallurgical gases. In the first place,

sulphur from anhydrite becomes a practical possibility, as the I. G. and I. C. I. have both produced sulphur dioxide from anhydrite by heating with clay and carbon---" A new type of heat insulating building material was reported in the United States during 1935; this material consists of ordinary 3/8 inch gypsum board, one surface of which is covered with a thin sheet of aluminium.

Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE GYPSUM MINING INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1934 and 1935.

| | Nova Scotia | New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia | TOTAL CANADA |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of firms - 1934 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 1935 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Capital employed - 1934 | $ 2,935,703 | 4,416,859 | 7,352,562 |
| 1935 | $ 3,129,545 | 2,607,569 | 5,737,114 |
| Number of employees - On salary - | | | |
| 1934 | 16 | 23 | 39 |
| 1935 | 20 | 34 | 54 |
| - On wages - | | | |
| 1934 | 198 | 191 | 389 |
| 1935 | 199 | 214 | 413 |
| Salaries and wages- Salaries - | | | |
| 1934 | $ 28,906 | 30,628 | 59,534 |
| 1935 | $ 33,560 | 59,790 | 93,350 |
| Wages - | | | |
| 1934 | $ 136,733 | 128,464 | 265,197 |
| 1935 | $ 130,347 | 143,310 | 273,657 |
| Fuel and electricity - Cost | | | |
| 1934 | $ 44,430 | 74,130 | 118,560 |
| 1935 | $ 45,184 | 76,430 | 121,614 |
| Value of process supplies used - | | | |
| 1934 | Data not available | | |
| 1935 | $ 23,973 | 41,440 | 65,413 |
| Selling value of products - | | | |
| 1934 | $ 488,044 | 375,732 | 863,776 |
| 1935 | $ 523,216 | 408,987 | 932,203 |

Table 2 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED IN THE GYPSUM MINING INDUSTRY, 1934 and 1935.

| | Unit of measure | 1934 Quantity | 1934 Cost at works $ | 1935 Quantity | 1935 Cost at works $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Coal, bituminous - Imported | short ton | 878 | 5,486 | 900 | 5,799 |
| Canadian | short ton | 4,223 | 23,801 | 4,182 | 24,566 |
| Coal, lignite - Canadian | short ton | 687 | 2,404 | 44 | 407 |
| Coke | short ton | 180 | 1,863 | 289 | 2,564 |
| Gasoline | Imp. gal. | 59,979 | 19,822 | 57,985 | 15,140 |
| Kerosene | Imp. gal. | 400 | 95 | 470 | 104 |
| Fuel oil and diesel oil | Imp. gal. | 76,252 | 5,471 | 103,913 | 6,017 |
| Wood | cord | 537 | 2,148 | 2,118 | 8,137 |
| Gas - Manufactured | M cu. ft. | 192 | 1,098 | ... | ... |
| Natural | M cu. ft. | 17,197 | 6,883 | 20,748 | 8,302 |
| Other fuel | xx | ... | 59 | ... | ... |
| Electricity purchased | K. W. H. | 2,912,953 | 49,430 | 2,656,014 | 50,578 |
| TOTAL | xxx | ... | 118,560 | ... | 121,614 |
| Electricity generated for own use. | K. W. H. | 907,492 | ... | 494,657 | ... |

Table 3 - NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNERS ON PAYROLL OR TIME RECORD ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH OR NEAREST REPRESENTATIVE DATE, 1933, 1934 and 1935.

| Month | 1933 | | 1934 | | 1935 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MINE | MILL | MINE | MILL | MINE | MILL |
| January | 89 | 101 | 110 | 92 | 51 | 125 |
| February | 86 | 92 | 78 | 124 | 37 | 145 |
| March | 81 | 86 | 110 | 154 | 56 | 159 |
| April | 164 | 116 | 116 | 134 | 140 | 225 |
| May | 224 | 120 | 270 | 153 | 267 | 205 |
| June | 279 | 171 | 318 | 180 | 262 | 201 |
| July | 393 | 204 | 353 | 150 | 324 | 237 |
| August | 495 | 180 | 358 | 181 | 343 | 218 |
| September | 345 | 150 | 388 | 184 | 369 | 201 |
| October | 367 | 173 | 326 | 147 | 382 | 199 |
| November | 333 | 119 | 245 | 149 | 275 | 191 |
| December | 209 | 112 | 213 | 112 | 185 | 155 |

Table 4 - NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNERS IN MONTH OF HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT DURING 1935 WITH REGULAR HOURS WORKED PER WEEK

| Hours per week | Number | Hours per week | Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 40 or less | 81 | 51 - 53 | 24 |
| 41 - 43 | 10 | 54 | 33 |
| 44 | 35 | 55 | 35 |
| 45 - 47 | 12 | 56 - 59 | 19 |
| 48 | 257 | 60 | 82 |
| 49 - 50 | 19 | 60+ | 12 |

Table 5 - POWER EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION, 1935.

| Description | Ordinarily in use | | In reserve or idle | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of units | Total h. p. (manufacturers' rating) | No. of units | Total h. p. (manufacturers' rating) |
| 1. Steam engines and steam turbines | 5 | 778 | 5 | 298 |
| 2. Diesel engines | 3 | 525 | ... | ... |
| 3. Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than diesel engines | 39 | 2,002 | 5 | 148 |
| 4. Hydraulic turbines or water wheels | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5. Electric motors:--(a) Operated by purchased power | 227 | 6,229 | 25 | 535 |
| TOTAL (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5a) | 274 | 9,534 | 35 | 981 |
| (b) Operated by power generated by the establishment | 22 | 660 | 9 | 187 |
| Boilers | 7 | 810 | 4 | 455 |

Table 6 - PRODUCTION IN CANADA, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GYPSUM, 1934 and 1935.

| | 1934 Quantity Tons | 1934 Value $ | 1935 Quantity Tons | 1935 Value $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SHIPMENTS BY GRADES | | | | |
| Crude (1) - Lump or mine run | 33,165 | 41,475 | 38,403 | 54,122 |
| Crushed | 369,696 | 473,558 | 437,699 | 488,186 |
| Fine ground | 652 | 3,494 | 369 | 2,893 |
| Calcined gypsum (2) | 57,724 | 345,249 | 65,393 | 387,002 |
| TOTAL | 461,237 | 863,776 | 541,864 | 932,203 |
| SHIPMENTS BY PROVINCES | | | | |
| Nova Scotia | 378,287 | 488,044 | 454,705 | 523,216 |
| New Brunswick | 30,898 | 104,709 | 30,796 | 105,960 |
| Ontario | 33,254 | 141,389 | 38,247 | 164,807 |
| Manitoba | 9,657 | 81,553 | 10,500 | 85,885 |
| British Columbia | 9,661 | 48,081 | 7,618 | 52,335 |
| TOTAL | 461,237 | 863,776 | 541,864 | 932,203 |
| Total gypsum mined and quarried (1) | 493,295 | ... | 562,471 | ... |
| Total gypsum calcined (2) | 74,356 | ... | 82,569 | ... |
| IMPORTS | | | | |
| Gypsum, crude (sulphate of lime) | 18 | 320 | 17 | 196 |
| Gypsum ground, not calcined | 173 | 4,958 | 262 | 7,846 |
| Plaster of Paris or gypsum, calcined and prepared wall plaster | 551 | 15,890 | 1,727 | 27,676 |
| TOTAL | 742 | 21,148 | 2,006 | 35,718 |
| EXPORTS | | | | |
| Gypsum or plaster, crude | 354,978 | 413,961 | 439,341 | 508,338 |
| Plaster of Paris, ground, and prepared wall plaster | 712 | 16,078 | 717 | 38,074 |
| TOTAL | 355,690 | 430,039 | 440,058 | 546,412 |

Table 7 - PRODUCTION IN CANADA, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GYPSUM, JANUARY 1 to JUNE 30, 1935 and 1936.

| | 1935 Tons | 1935 $ | 1936 Tons | 1936 $ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRODUCTION | | | | |
| Crude (1) Lump or mine run | 31,396 | 35,715 | 26,798 | 30,075 |
| Crushed | 113,123 | 131,011 | 204,069 | 221,247 |
| Fine ground | 174 | 1,078 | 385 | 2,595 |
| Calcined (2) | 30,277 | 175,316 | 34,057 | 208,942 |
| TOTAL | 174,970 | 343,120 | 265,309 | 462,857 |
| Crude gypsum mined (1) | 179,153 | ... | 302,514(x) | ... |
| IMPORTS | | | | |
| Gypsum, crude (sulphate of lime) | 13 | 27 | 4 | 135 |
| Ground gypsum, not calcined | 80 | 1,976 | 169 | 5,336 |
| Plaster of Paris, or gypsum calcined and prepared wall plaster | 639 | 11,652 | 339 | 8,737 |
| TOTAL | ... | 13,755 | ... | 14,208 |
| EXPORTS | | | | |
| Gypsum or plaster, crude | 91,357 | 104,294 | 108,618 | 122,829 |
| Plaster of Paris, ground, and prepared wall plaster | 339 | 13,468 | 286 | 7,080 |
| TOTAL | ... | 117,762 | ... | 129,909 |

(x) Partly estimated.
(1) Includes some anhydrite quarried in Nova Scotia.
(2) Does not include gypsum calcined in manufacturers' plants at Montreal and Calgary.

Table 8 - PRODUCTION (SALES) OF GYPSUM IN CANADA, 1926 - 1935.

| Year | Tons | Value $ |
|---|---|---|
| 1926 | 883,728 | 2,770,813 |
| 1927 | 1,063,117 | 3,251,015 |
| 1928 | 1,246,368 | 3,743,648 |
| 1929 | 1,211,689 | 3,345,696 |
| 1930 | 1,070,968 | 2,818,788 |
| 1931 | 863,752 | 2,111,517 |
| 1932 | 438,629 | 1,080,379 |
| 1933 | 382,736 | 675,822 |
| 1934 | 461,237 | 863,776 |
| 1935 | 541,864 | 932,203 |

Table 9 - CONSUMPTION OF GYPSUM IN CANADIAN CEMENT INDUSTRY, 1930 - 1935.

| Year | Tons |
|---|---|
| 1930 | 74,227 |
| 1931 | 56,677 |
| 1932 | 27,537 |
| 1933 | 13,319 |
| 1934 | 19,172 |
| 1935 | 21,611 |

Table 10 - WORLD PRODUCTION OF GYPSUM, 1933 - 1935.
(Taken from the Imperial Institute's publication "The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries.") (Long tons)

| Producing country | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|---|---|---|---|
| BRITISH EMPIRE - | | | |
| United Kingdom | 985,055 | 961,581 | 981,913 |
| Union of South Africa | 11,622 | 22,929 | 21,249 |
| Canada | 330,974 | 440,442 | 483,807 |
| Cyprus (estimated) | 14,000 | 14,000 | 16,000 |
| Palestine | 2,561 | 3,377 | 4,471 |
| India | 33,142 | 46,757 | 45,318 |
| Australia | 60,572 | 89,654 | 118,136 |
| TOTAL | 1,438,000 | 1,572,000 | 1,671,000 |
| FOREIGN COUNTRIES - | | | |
| Austria | 44,000 | 33,000 | 38,000 |
| Estonia | 5,580 | 4,828 | 6,139 |
| France | 1,626,253 | 1,404,413 | (a) |
| Germany | 555,000 | 851,000 | (a) |
| Greece (b) | 7,070 | 9,050 | (a) |
| Italy (including alabaster) | 525,395 | 451,729 | 463,706 |

(a) Information not available.
(b) Converted from cubic metres at the rate of 1 cubic metre = 2 long tons.

Table 10 - WORLD PRODUCTION OF GYPSUM, 1933 - 1935. (concluded)
(Taken from the Imperial Institute's publication "The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries") (Long tons)

| Producing country | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|---|---|---|---|
| FOREIGN COUNTRIES - concluded | | | |
| Latvia (exports) | 48,209 | 80,524 | 97,372 |
| Luxemburg | 12,643 | 10,520 | 29,008 |
| Roumania (b) | 56,192 | 46,430 | (a) |
| Spain (c) | 1,070,509 | 1,042,135 | (a) |
| Sweden | 48 | 119 | (a) |
| Yugoslavia | 927 | (a) | (a) |
| Algeria | 82,083 | 80,026 | 54,476 |
| Egypt (estimated) | 130,000 | 130,000 | 130,000 |
| Tunis (estimated) | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Mexico | (a) | (a) | 59,944 |
| United States | 1,192,136 | 1,371,580 | 1,729,900 |
| Argentina | 34,255 | 43,445 | (a) |
| Brazil (estimated) | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Chile | 14,964 | 10,729 | (a) |
| Peru | 6,889 | 8,018 | (a) |
| China | 63,009 | 66,650 | (a) |
| New Caledonia | 11,380 | 13,400 | (a) |
| TOTAL / | 5,570,000 | 5,740,000 | (a) |
| WORLD'S TOTAL / | 7,010,000 | 7,320,000 | (a) |

/ Gypsum is also produced in Poland, Switzerland, U. S. S. R. (Russia), French Morocco, Cuba and Japan.

(a) Information not available.
(b) Converted from cubic metres at the rate of 1 cubic metre = 2 long tons.
(c) Including 364,768 cu. metres of gypsum converted as per (b) for 1934.

LIST OF OPERATORS IN CANADIAN GYPSUM MINING INDUSTRY, 1935.

| Name of Firm | Head Office Address | Quarry Location |
|---|---|---|
| NOVA SCOTIA - | | |
| Atlantic Gypsum Products Company | 40 Central St., Boston, Mass., U. S. A. | Aspy Bay, Cheticamp and Walton |
| Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. | 1221 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. | Wentworth |
| The Connecticut Adamant Plaster Co. | 10 River St., New Haven, Conn., U. S. A. | Cheverie |
| The Nova Scotia Coal & Gypsum Co. Ltd. | Box 13, Mabou | Mabou Harbour |
| North American Gypsum Co. | 96 Curtis Ave., Rutland, Vt., U. S. A. | Baddeck Bay |
| Windsor Gypsum Co. (x) | Box 727, Newburgh, N. Y., U. S. A. | Newport Station. |
| Windsor Plaster Co. Ltd. | Windsor | Brooklyn, Hants C |
| Victoria Gypsum Co. Ltd. (x) | Little Narrows | Cape Breton |
| NEW BRUNSWICK - | | |
| Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. | 1221 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. | Hillsborough |
| Thompson, F. M. (x) | Hillsborough | Peticodiac Co. |
| Fraser, Donald (x) | Plaster Rock | Plaster Rock |
| ONTARIO - | | |
| Canadian Gypsum Co. Ltd. | 1221 Bay St., Toronto | Hagersville |
| Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd. | Paris | Caledonia |
| MANITOBA - | | |
| Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd. | Paris, Ontario | Gypsumville |
| Western Gypsum Products Ltd. | 503 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg | Amaranth |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA - | | |
| Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd. | Paris, Ontario | Falkland |

(x) Active, but not producing.

## II - SECONDARY PRODUCTION - THE GYPSUM PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Only 3 companies manufactured gypsum products in 1935 but 8 separate factories were in operation. Production was valued at $1,418,793 in 1935 compared with $1,477,646 in 1934 and included wallboard, tile, hardwall plaster, roofing slabs, etc. Detailed statistics of production are not published because of the small number of companies in this line of business.

The average number of employees in 1935 was 173, to whom $136,297 were paid in salaries and wages. Capital employed was reported at $2,685,222. Fuel and power cost $60,968.

Table 11 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE GYPSUM PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, 1934 and 1935.

| | 1934 | 1935 |
|---|---|---|
| Number of establishments | 8 | 8 |
| Capital employed | $ 2,549,037 | 2,685,222 |
| Number of employees | 173 | 173 |
| Salaries and wages | $ 144,923 | 136,297 |
| Cost of fuel and electricity | $ 60,826 | 60,968 |
| Cost of materials at works | $ 668,222 | 581,945 |
| Selling value of products at works | $ 1,477,646 | 1,418,793 |

MANUFACTURERS OF GYPSUM PRODUCTS, 1935.

Canadian Gypsum Company Limited - Head Office - 1221 Bay St., Toronto, Ont.
Plants - Hillsborough, N. B., and Hagersville, Ont.

Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine, Canada, Ltd. - Head Office - Paris, Ont.
Plants - Montreal, P. Q.; Caledonia, Ont
Winnipeg, Man East Calgary, Alta.;
and New Westminster, B. C.

Western Gypsum Products Ltd. - Head Office - 503 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg, Man.
Plant at Winnipeg, Man.