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CENSUS OF INDUSTRY
MINING, METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL BRANCH
OTTAWA - CANADA

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PEAT INDUSTRY, 1943

The Canadian peat industry comprises both firms producing peat as a fuel and peat moss and humus for various other purposes. During 1943 production of peat fuel totalled 782 short tons valued at \$7,000 compared with 172 tons worth \$1,204 in 1942. Of the 1943 output, 522 tons valued at \$4,440 originated in the province of Quebec and 260 tons worth \$2,560 in Ontario. For many years past a small tonnage of peat has been produced in the St. Hyacinthe, St. Isidore and Ste. Barbe districts of Quebec for use locally as domestic fuel. The blocks of peat, dug manually with spades, are stocked and air-dried on the ground during the warm, dry season of the year and stored under cover for winter use. They form a compact and efficient fuel, slightly higher in calorific value than wood. To encourage the establishment of a peat-fuel industry in the province, the Quebec Department of Mines has developed a machine for manufacturing peat fuel; it is a modification of the "Dolberg" machine which has been used extensively in Europe. In 1943 the marked increase in the production of machine peat fuel in Quebec was the result of the assistance given by the Provincial Department of Mines and the Emergency Coal Production Board. During the year under review machine-peat fuel was produced in Ontario at Gods Hill near Stratford and at Osgoode, near Ottawa; a small amount of hand-dug peat fuel was used locally at Morewood in Dundas county.

Commercial production of peat moss in Canada during 1943 totalled 64,360 short tons valued at \$1,461,422 (less cost of containers) compared with a corresponding output of 53,506 tons worth \$1,069,372 in 1942. Of the 1943 shipments, 990 tons were made from New Brunswick properties, 14,398 tons from Quebec, 11,120 tons from Ontario, 2,042 tons from Manitoba, 55 tons from Alberta and 35,755 tons from British Columbia. Total Canadian production of moss in 1943, according to grades, were 24,790 tons valued at \$444,488 for horticultural use; 140 tons at \$3,260 as insulation; 26,324 tons worth \$657,697 as poultry and stable litter; 12,974 tons at \$347,900 for metallurgical purposes and 132 tons valued at \$8,077 unspecified. Included in the tonnage classified under Horticulture was a considerable quantity of humus utilized in the manufacture of fertilizer. Products were marketed in the form of bales, bags, pads, fertilizer and insulation manufactures. The value of packing material or containers totalled \$224,022. Canadian moss sold for metallurgical purposes was for consumption in the United States in the manufacture of magnesium metal.

The number of firms reported as active in the production of peat moss and peat fuel or the development of peat bogs totalled 44 in 1943 compared with 35 in 1942. In 1943 capital employed totalled \$2,477,287 and \$1,000,348 were distributed as salaries and wages to 1,012 employees. The net value of production was estimated at \$1,384,770 as against \$1,031,211 in 1942.

Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1942 and 1943

	1942	1943
Number of firms	35(b)	44(a)
Number of plants or bogs	35	44
Capital employed	\$ 3,212,921	2,477,287
Number of employees--On salary	69	64
On wages	1,247	948
Total	1,316	1,012
Salaries and wages--Salaries	\$ 113,781	119,156
Wages	\$ 1,266,361	881,192
Total	\$ 1,380,142	1,000,348
Selling value of products (gross)	\$ 1,308,297	1,692,444
Cost of fuel and electricity	\$ 25,866	35,118
Process supplies used	\$ 13,499	48,534
Cost of containers or packing	\$ 237,721	224,022
Selling value of products (net)	\$ 1,031,211	1,384,770

(a) Includes 12 producing fuel.

(b) Includes one producing fuel.

Table 2 - CAPITAL EMPLOYED IN THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, 1943

Province	Capital Employed as Represented by:					TOTAL
	Present cash value of land	Present value of buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools and other equipment	Inventory value of materials on hand, fuel and miscellaneous supplies on hand	Inventory value of finished products on hand	Operating capital (cash, bills and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, etc.)	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Quebec	42,155	251,486	65,052	55,807	20,353	434,853
Ontario	22,325	185,634	65,356	19,171	29,596	322,082
Manitoba (x) ...	3,000	33,978	104,160	1,409	14,000	156,547
British Columbia	101,964	613,969	641,091	32,399	174,382	1,563,805
CANADA	169,444	1,085,067	875,659	108,786	238,331	2,477,287

(x) Includes data for 2 firms in New Brunswick and 1 in Alberta.

Table 3 - NUMBER OF FIRMS, EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES, AND PEAT (MOSS AND FUEL) SOLD OR USED, BY PROVINCES, 1943

Province	Number of firms	Number of employees	Salaries and wages	Fuel, electricity, process supplies used and cost of containers	Production		Value (gross)
					Tons of peat sold or used	As Moss	
			\$	\$	fuel		\$ (xx)
Quebec	18	264	179,230	102,314	522	14,398	391,953
Ontario	10	116	110,438	48,020	260	11,120	179,893
Manitoba (x) ...	5	120	87,074	59,270	...	3,087	121,256
British Columbia	11	512	623,606	98,070	...	35,755	999,342
CANADA	44	1,012	1,000,348	307,674	782(✓)	64,360	1,692,444

(x) Contains data for 2 firms in New Brunswick and 1 in Alberta.

(✓) Includes 112 tons used by producer. (xx) Includes cost of containers.

Table 4 - NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNERS WHO WORKED THE NUMBER OF HOURS SPECIFIED, DURING ONE WEEK IN MONTH OF HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING OVERTIME, 1943

Hours	Male	Female	Hours	Male	Female
30 hours or less ...	264	48	51-54 hours	379	14
31-43 hours	321	67	55 hours	25	5
44 hours	116	48	56-64 hours	112	16
45-47 hours	111	49	65 hours and over ..	51	...
48 hours	333	46	Grand Total	1,611	308
49-50 hours	99	15	Total wages paid in that week \$	34,114	5,028

Table 5 - WAGE-EARNERS, BY MONTHS, 1942 and 1943

Month	1942 Total	1 9 4 3			
		Bog		Dressing Plant	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
January	761	463	5	249	20
February	862	464	4	240	25
March	850	497	5	172	22
April	881	419	5	156	2
May	1,038	624	6	210	2
June	1,405	901	162	205	7
July	2,775	981	171	191	6
August	2,297	1,144	231	191	4
September	1,212	861	79	246	26
October	1,110	530	28	260	20
November	950	454	25	306	16
December	784	242	19	267	29

Table 6 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1943

Kind	Unit of measure	Quantity	Cost at works \$
Bituminous coal--Canadian	ton	...	...
Imported	ton	16	134
Anthracite coal	ton	...	...
Coke (for fuel only)	ton	...	...
Gasoline	Imp.gal.	75,889	19,138
Kerosene or coal oil	Imp.gal.	4,759	941
Fuel oil	Imp.gal.	8,733	1,611
Wood	cord	586	2,060
Gas--Manufactured	M cu.ft.	...	...
Natural	M cu.ft.	...	...
Other fuel .....	...	...	...
Electricity purchased	K.W.H.	578,605	11,234
TOTAL .....	...	...	35,118
Electricity generated for own use	K.W.H.	100	...

Table 7 - POWER EQUIPMENT (Including stand-by or emergency equipment) 1943

Description	Ordinarily in Use		In Reserve or Idle	
	Number of units	Total horse power	Number of units	Total horse power
Steam engines	2	50	...	...
Steam turbines .....	...	...	...	...
Diesel engines	4	240	1	115
Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than Diesel engines	81	2,452	14	504
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels ...	...	...	2	50
Electric motors run by purchased power:				
(a) Operated by purchased power	54	667	...	...
TOTAL	141	3,409	17	669
(b) Operated by by power generated by above primary units .....	...	...	...	...
Stationary boilers	1	15	...	...
Motor generator sets	2	4	...	...

Peat is a combustible substance produced by the incomplete decomposition of vegetable matter either in water or in the presence of water, under such conditions that the atmospheric oxygen is excluded. The character of the peat depends upon the conditions under which it was formed, and on the nature of the vegetation which contributed to its formation. Many species of plants are found in peat bogs, the most abundant being mosses, such as sphagnum and hypnum; marsh and heath plants; grasses, rushes, etc.; marine plants; and sometimes trunks, roots and leaves of trees. Peat is found in every province of the Dominion.

Peat moss is the dead moss of the sphagnum plant. It is of importance because of its ability to absorb and hold from 10 to 25 times its own weight of liquids and gases. It is also elastic and has a low heat conductivity, which makes it a good insulating material.

Prior to the war peat moss was obtained from bogs at Isle Verte, Rivière Ouelle, and Waterville in Quebec; at Grand Valley and Clinton in Ontario; at Edmonton West in Alberta; and at New Westminster, in British Columbia. It was used as a bedding litter for animals, as a filler for fertilizers, for insulating and sound proofing material and as a packing material. Most of the operations were on a relatively small scale and the annual production amounted to only a few thousand tons.

When supplies from Europe to this country and the United States were cut off as a result of the war, active attention was given to the development of deposits in Canada, with the result that many plants have since been brought into production in scattered areas throughout the Dominion. The present output is mostly exported to the United States.

Possibly the demand in the United States will decline in the post-war years and if so, the decline could be largely offset by a marked increase in the present use of peat moss in Canada. To acquaint Canadians with the many uses of peat moss in agriculture, industry, and the home, the Mines and Geology Branch, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, issued a booklet "Peat Moss or Sphagnum Moss" in 1943, copies of which can be obtained from the Secretary, Bureau of Mines, Ottawa.

Table 8 - PRODUCTION (SHIPMENTS) OF PEAT FUEL AND PEAT MOSS IN CANADA, BY USES AND PROVINCES, 1942 and 1943

Province	Fuel		M o s s										TOTAL MOSS	
	Tons	\$	Horticulture		Insulation		Poultry and stable litter		Metallurgy		Other uses			
			Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$ (x)
<u>1942</u>														
Quebec ....	...	...	4,410	74,332	81	2,104	8,491	121,124	...	...	...	...	12,982	197,560
Ontario ...	172	1,204	5,832	89,058	1	46	3,594	58,625	...	...	...	...	9,427	147,729
Manitoba, New Bruns- wick and Alberta ..	...	...	541	8,358	31	542	2,005	56,412	...	...	...	...	2,577	65,312
British Columbia..	...	...	1,288	28,318	...	...	3,254	77,302	23,927	549,774	51	3,377	28,520	658,771
TOTAL ...	172	1,204	12,071	200,066	113	2,692	17,344	313,463	23,927	549,774	51	3,377	53,506	1,069,372
<u>1943</u>														
Quebec	522	4,440	5,898	126,558	125	2,860	8,375	168,889	...	...	...	...	14,398	298,307
Ontario ...	260	2,560	9,234	85,479	...	...	1,886	51,116	...	...	...	...	11,120	136,595
Manitoba, New Bruns- wick and Alberta ..	...	...	808	22,574	15	400	2,264	78,138	...	...	...	...	3,087	101,112
British Columbia..	...	...	8,850	209,877	...	..	13,799	359,554	12,974	347,900	132	8,077	35,755	925,408
TOTAL ...	782	7,000	24,790	444,488	140	3,260	26,324	657,697	12,974	347,900	132	8,077	64,360	1,461,422

(x) Less cost of containers which were valued at \$224,022 in 1943.

NOTE: Data relating to exports of peat moss from Canada are not shown separately in Canadian trade reports for 1943.

Table 9 - PEAT FUEL PRODUCED IN CANADA, 1928-1943 (Tons of 2,000 pounds)

Year	Tons	\$
1928	1,497	5,845
1929	2,607	13,339
1930	2,847	10,932
1931	1,674	7,033
1932	3,248	7,593
1933	1,131	3,449
1934	1,878	7,343
1935	1,340	5,761
1936	1,341	7,376
1937	478	2,676
1938	620	3,500
1939	445	2,445
1940	30	75
1941	355	2,155
1942	172	1,204
1943	782	7,000

NOTE: For information of a technical nature, please refer to report No. 614 "Facts About Peat" issued by the Bureau of Mines, Ottawa.

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN CANADIAN PEAT INDUSTRY, 1943

- (x) Active but no shipments made.
- (a) Produces moss.
- (b) Produces peat fuel.
- (c) Produces humus.

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Bog or Plant
<u>New Brunswick -</u>		
Fofard Peat Moss Co. (a)	Shippegan	Shippegan
Western Peat Co. Ltd. (x)	Box 699, New Westminster, B.C.	Shippegan
<u>Quebec -</u>		
Belleau, Eugene (b)	103 Catherine St. S., Hamilton, Ont.	Bellechasse Tp.
Bourque, Clovis (a)(b)	St. Marc des Carrières	St. Marc des Carrières, St. Alban
Canada Peat Ltd. (a)	Rivière du Loup	Withworth Tp.
Excel Peat Ltd. (a)(b)	Rivière du Loup	Isle-aux-Coudres
Faucher, Arthur (b)	Grondines	Grondines
Maple Leaf Peat Co. (a)	Rivière du Loup	Withworth Tp.
Murphy, Patrick (a)(b)	St. Romual	St. Lambert
Produits de Tourbe Beaucejour (b)	St. Romual	Beaucejour Tp.
Perfect Peat Products Co. (a)	Rivière du Loup	Withworth Tp.
Premier Peat Moss Ltd. (a)	Isle Verte	Isle Verte
Proulx, Georges (b)(x)	187 Cartier St., Chicoutimi	Bagot Tp.

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN CANADIAN PEAT INDUSTRY, 1943 (Concluded)

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Bog or Plant
<u>Quebec (Con.) -</u>		
Produits Tourbe de Garthby (b)	Garthby	Garthby
Quebec Peat Moss Co. (a)(b)	St. Guillaume d'Upton	St. Bonaventure
Roy, Louis (a)	Rivière Blanche	Rivière Blanche
Roy, Romeo (a)	St. Ulric	St. Ulric
Tourbière de Pointe-au-Père (a)(b)	Mont Joli	Pointe-au-Père
Tourbière Rivière Ouelle (a)	c/o F. X. Lambert, 2 Cote d'Abraham	Rivière Ouelle
Waterville Moss & Peat Mine (a)	Waterville	Waterville
<u>Ontario -</u>		
Arctic Peat Moss Corp. Ltd. (a)	200 Sterling Securities Bldg., Winnipeg, Man.	Crozier
Canadian Industries Limited (c)	1135 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal, Que.	Harwick Tp.
Canadian Humus Products Reg. (c)	Suite 1010, 100 Adelaide St. W., Toronto	Beverly Tp.
Erie Peat Ltd. (a)	105 E. Main St., Welland	Welland
Leasa Peat Works (b)	R.R. 2, Gads Hill	Ellice Tp.
Pringle, J. A. (a)	Arden	Arden
Polar Bear Peat Moss Products Reg. (a)	Fort Frances	Pinewood
Stuart, Walter J. (b)	Morewood	Morewood
Wallace, D. A. (b)	Osgoode	Osgoode Tp.
<u>Manitoba -</u>		
McMillan, N. (a)	Lac du Bonnet	Lac du Bonnet
Winnipeg Supply & Fuel Co. Ltd. (a)	812 Boyd Bldg., Winnipeg	Moss Spur
<u>Alberta -</u>		
Moss Tex Ltd. (a)	10250 .. 107th St., Edmonton	Winterburn
<u>British Columbia -</u>		
Alouette Peat Products Ltd. (a)	Pitt Meadows	McTavish Road
Byrnerood Peat Farm (a)	2707 McKay Ave., New Westminster	Byrne Road
B.C. Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	304 Royal Bank Bldg., Vancouver	New Westminster
Coast Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	736 Granville St., Vancouver	Burnaby
Columbia Products Ltd. (a)	Box 699, New Westminster	Richmond Tp. Lulu Island
Excelsior Peat Ltd. (a)	6633 Yew St., Vancouver	Burnaby
Industrial Peat Co. (a)	Box 329, New Westminster	Delta Municipality
Lulu Island Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	R.R. 2, Eburne	Richmond Tp.
Northern Peat Moss Co. Ltd. (a)	R.R. 2, Eburne	Richmond Tp.
Pacific Peat Products Ltd. (a)	814 Hall Bldg., Vancouver	New Westminster
Western Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	Box 699, New Westminster	Westminster Highway



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