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PEAT INDUSTRY, 1945

The Canadian peat industry covers the operations of firms which produce peat for use as fuel and those which produce peat moss and humus for commercial and industrial purposes. During 1945 production of peat fuel amounted to 118 tons valued at $1,062, compared with 644 tons worth $5,397 in 1944, the entire output originating in Ontario. Commercial production (shipments) of peat moss during 1945 totalled 83,963 tons valued at $2,011,139 (excluding cost of containers) compared with an output of 80,446 short tons worth $1,869,553 in 1944.

Canada has very extensive resources of peat moss and there are large deposits in every province, many of which are within easy reach of transportation facilities. Prior to World War II, however, production was insignificant. The Canadian demand alone was much too small to warrant a large-scale development of the deposits, and for years the United States had been obtaining practically all of its requirements of peat moss, surplus to its own production, from Europe. In the main, Canadian and American users received good service from these European producers from the viewpoint of quality and cost of product, adherence to specifications, and regularity and promptness of shipments. Thus, it would have been difficult under the circumstances to have undertaken the development of the Canadian deposits on a large scale. Shortly after the commencement of war, however, all imports of peat moss from Europe ceased, and this gave rise to the active development of Canadian deposits. Since then, Canada has been supplying its own needs and the greater part of the requirements of the United States that were formerly imported from Europe.

Peat occurs in nature in two distinct forms, unhumified and humified, which differ markedly in physical properties and in chemical composition. Unhumified peat is the dead moss of sphagnum mosses, only slightly humified. It is fibrous, elastic, of light greyish green, or yellowish to light brown colour, becoming somewhat darker on drying. It has an absorptive value of up to twenty-five times its own weight, is light in weight and porous. Humified peat in its natural state is dark brown to black, colloidal, plastic, homogeneous, and somewhat elastic. It dries into a hard solid mass of a specific gravity higher than water. It has almost no absorptive value. Unhumified peat left in its natural state will humify in course of time and all fibrous matter eventually disappears.

Exports from Canada of peat moss and other mosses amounted to 76,409 tons at $2,625,514 in 1945, practically all to the United States.

Note: This report was prepared by A. R. Deir, Mining Statistician.

Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1944 and 1945

		1944	1945
Number of firms		39	37
Number of plants or bogs		39	37
Number of employees - On salary		73	85
On wages		1,110	1,148
Total		1,183	1,233
Salaries and wages - Salaries	$	145,653	135,857
Wages	$	1,008,356	1,168,392
Total	$	1,154,009	1,304,249
Selling value of products (gross)	$	2,163,376	2,390,306
Cost of fuel and electricity	$	48,423	90,863
Process supplies used	$	46,527	47,136
Cost of containers or packing	$	288,426	378,105
Selling value of products (net)	$	1,780,000	1,874,202

Table 2 - NUMBER OF FIRMS, EMPLOYEES, SALARIES AND WAGES, AND PEAT (MOSS AND FUEL) SOLD OR USED, BY PROVINCES, 1944 and 1945

Province	Number of firms	Number of employees	Salaries and wages	Fuel, electricity, process supplies used and cost of containers	Production: Tons of peat sold or used		Value (gross)
					As fuel	Moss	
			$	$			$ (x)
1944							
Quebec	18	282	235,848	118,094	444	19,033	363,321
Ontario	6	173	169,017	65,769	200	12,491	146,620
Manitoba (*)	3	129	90,802	41,320	...	3,128	105,878
British Columbia	12	599	658,342	158,193	...	45,794	1,259,131
CANADA	39	1,183	1,154,009	383,376	644	80,446	1,874,950
1945							
Quebec	15	313	265,246	122,039	...	18,517	487,545
Ontario	6	161	142,176	60,706	118	11,667	278,534
Manitoba (*)	4	94	93,557	46,466	...	3,182	132,203
British Columbia	12	665	803,270	286,893	...	50,597	1,492,024
CANADA	37	1,233	1,304,249	516,104	118	83,963	2,390,306

(*) Includes 2 firms in New Brunswick.
(x) Includes cost of containers.

Table 3 - NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNERS WHO WORKED THE NUMBER OF HOURS SPECIFIED, DURING ONE WEEK IN MONTH OF HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT (INCLUDING OVERTIME) 1945

Hours	Male	Female	Hours	Male	Female
30 hours or less	370	162	51-54 hours	199	...
31-43 hours	621	257	55 hours	75	3
44 hours	182	91	56-64 hours	97	...
45-47 hours	74	28	65 hours and over	6	...
48 hours	228	68	Total	1,898	610
49-50 hours	46	1	Total wages paid in selected week $	39,086	9,863

Table 4 - WAGE-EARNERS, BY MONTHS, 1943-1945

Month	1943 Total	1944 Total	1945 Bog Male	1945 Bog Female	1945 Dressing Plant Male	1945 Dressing Plant Female
January	737	556	206	1	290	34
February	733	567	214	1	258	33
March	696	592	226	1	280	22
April	582	595	295	16	295	13
May	842	1,092	702	55	268	8
June	1,275	2,019	1,497	455	293	54
July	1,349	2,575	1,563	876	317	62
August	1,570	1,906	1,301	374	318	50
September	1,212	1,241	614	35	309	20
October	838	864	537	22	309	27
November	801	708	470	1	342	27
December	557	578	259	1	339	28

Table 5 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1944 and 1945

Kind	Unit of measure	1944 Quantity	1944 Cost at works	1945 Quantity	1945 Cost at works
			$		$
Bituminous coal--Canadian ...	ton	...	...	3,313	33,454
Imported ...	ton	714	6,580	...	...
Anthracite coal	ton	18	163	...	...
Gasoline	Imp.gal.	94,863	24,647	83,944	24,283
Kerosene or coal oil	Imp.gal.	4	1	135	32
Fuel oil	Imp.gal.	8,059	1,246	12,219	1,828
Wood	cord	68	646	108	793
Other fuel	...	...	...	37	27
Electricity purchased	K.W.H.	868,315	15,140	2,346,504	30,446
TOTAL	...	...	48,423	...	90,863
Electricity generated for own use	K.W.H.	880	...	780	...

Table 6 - POWER EQUIPMENT, 1945

	Ordinarily in Use: Number of units	Ordinarily in Use: Total horse power	In Reserve or Idle: Number of units	In Reserve or Idle: Total horse power
Steam engines	1	30	...	...
Steam turbines	2	50	...	...
Diesel engines	5	265	2	140
Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than Diesel engines	100	2,979	8	282
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels ...	...	...	...	...
Electric motors run by purchased power	92	1,293	2	25
TOTAL	200	4,617	12	447
Electric motors run by own generated power	1	2	...	...
Stationary boilers	...	...	...	...
Motor-generator sets	2	9	...	...

Table 7 - PRODUCTION (SHIPMENTS) OF PEAT FUEL AND PEAT MOSS IN CANADA, BY USES AND PROVINCES, 1944 and 1945

Province	Fuel		Moss											
			Horticulture		Insulation		Poultry and stable litter		Metallurgy		Other uses		TOTAL MOSS	
	Tons	$	Tons	$	Tons	$	Tons	$	Tons	$	Tons	$	Tons	$(*)
1944														
Quebec ..	444	3,597	6,318	118,128	204	5,164	12,457	231,081	...	...	54	5,351	19,033	359,724
Ontario..	200	1,800	7,432	64,847	...	...	2,399	57,338	...	...	2,660	22,635	12,491	144,820
Manitoba and New Brunswick	...	...	978	35,359	...	...	2,112	69,688	...	...	38	831	3,128	105,878
British Columbia	...	...	12,830	340,666	...	...	23,771	646,938	8,972	250,480	221	21,047	45,794	1,259,131
TOTAL..	644	5,397	27,558	559,000	204	5,164	40,739	1,005,045	8,972	250,480	2,973	49,864	80,446	1,869,553
1945														
Quebec ..	...	...	6,367	128,189	163	4,239	11,906	249,650	...	...	81	5,421	18,517	387,499
Ontario..	118	1,062	8,505	148,930	...	...	3,162	75,170	...	...	...	...	11,667	224,100
Manitoba and New Brunswick	...	...	1,032	35,292	834	30,051	1,283	41,000	...	...	32	900	3,182	107,243
British Columbia	...	...	17,088	423,227	55	1,300	33,390	859,102	...	...	112	8,668	50,597	1,292,297
TOTAl..	118	1,062	32,993	735,638	1,002	35,590	49,742	1,224,922	...	...	225	14,989	83,963	2,011,139

(*) Less cost of containers which were valued at $288,426 in 1944 and $378,105 in 1945.

Table 8 - PEAT FUEL PRODUCED IN CANADA, 1928-1945

Year	Short 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
1944	644	5,397
1945	118	1,062

Table 9 - PRODUCTION OF PEAT MOSS IN CANADA, 1941-1945

Year	Short tons	$
1941	14,345	390,509
1942	28,520	658,771
1943	64,360	1,461,422
1944	80,446	1,869,553
1945	83,963	2,011,139

Prior to 1941 data relating to production of peat moss were included with those of manufactures.

NOTE: The weight of peat moss shipped varies greatly depending on the moisture content. Weight is used as a unit of measure of production (shipments) owing to the fact that Canadian moss is shipped in various forms, including bales, bags, pads, etc., and at present there is no general standardization in Canada as to size of these products.

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN CANADIAN PEAT INDUSTRY, 1945

(x) Active but no shipments made.
(a) Produces moss.
(b) Produces peat fuel.
(c) Produces humus.
(d) Inactive in 1945.

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Bog or Plant
New Brunswick -		
Atlantic Peat Moss Co. Ltd. (x)	513 Rachel St. E., Montreal, Que.	Gloucester
Fillard Peat Moss Co. (a)	Shippegan	Shippegan
Western Peat Co. Ltd. (x)	Box 699, New Westminster, B.C.	Shippegan
Quebec -		
Allied Peat Moss Corp. (a)	Cacouna	Cacouna
Beausejour Peat Moss (a)	St. Romald	St. Lambert
Bourque & Fils (a)	St. Marc des Carrieres	St. Marc des Carrieres
Excel Peat Ltd. (a)	319 rue Lafontaine, Riviere-du Loup	Isle aux Coudres
Maple Leaf Peat Ltd. (a)	303A rue Lafontaine, Rivière-du Loup	St. Antonin
Premier Peat Moss Ltd. (a)	Isle Verte	Isle Verte
Perfect Peat Products (a)	303A rue Lafontaine, Rivière-du Loup	St. Antonin
Quebec Peat Moss Co. (a)	St. Guillaume d'Upton	St. Bonaventure
Roy, Romeo (a)	St. Ulric	St. Ulric
Roy, Louis (a)	Riviere Blanche	Riviere Blanche
Saguenay Peat Moss Co. Ltd. (a)	187 Jacques Cartier, Chicoutimi	Bagot Tp.
Senneterre Peat & Moss Mines Ltd. (a)	Senneterre	Senneterre
Tourbieres Rivière-Ouelle (a)	2 Cote d'Abraham, Quebec	Riviere Ouelle
Tourbiere de Pointe-au-Père (a)	Mont Joli	Pointe au Pere
Trump Peat Products Ltd. (a)	Riviere du Loup	Riviere du Loup
Ontario -		
Arctic Peat Moss Corp. Ltd. (a)	200 Sterling Securities Bldg., Winnipeg, Man.	Crozier
Canadian Humus Products (c)	Suite 1010 .. 100 Adelaide St. W., Toronto	Beverley Tp.
Erie Peat Ltd. (a)	Box 500, Port Colborne	Wainfleet Tp.
Leasa Peat Works (a)(b)	106 Britannia St., Stratford	Ellice Tp.
Polar Bear Peat Moss Products (a)	Fort Frances	Pinewood
Pringle, J. A. (x)(a)	Arden	Arden

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN CANADIAN PEAT INDUSTRY, 1945
(Concluded)

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Bog or Plant
Manitoba -		
Winnipeg Supply & Fuel Co. Ltd. (a)	812 Boyd Bldg., Winnipeg	Shelley
McCabe Bros. Grain Co. Ltd. (a)	980 Grain Exchange Bldg., Winnipeg	Shelley
British Columbia -		
Alouette Peat Products Ltd. (a)	Pitt Meadows	Pitt Meadows
B.C. Peat Company Ltd. (a)	302 Royal Bank Bldg., Vancouver	Ladner
Byrnerood Peat Farm (a)	2707 McKay Ave., New Westminster	Burnaby
Coast Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	736 Granville St., Vancouver	Burnaby
Columbia Products Ltd. (a)	Box 699, New Westminster	Lulu Island
Commercial Peat Co. Ltd.(d)	R.R. 2, Eburne	-
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.
Nielsen, E. and M. F. (a)	R.R. 2, Eburne	Westminster
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	Lulu Island