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### THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1947

The peat industry in Canada includes the operations of those firms which produce peat for use as fuel and peat moss and humus for commercial purposes. The peat fuel production in 1947 was 95 tons valued at \$950. Production (shipments) of peat moss during 1947 amounted to 80,019 tons worth \$2,279,821 (excluding the cost of containers) compared with an output of 96,839 tons valued at \$2,395,649 in the preceding year.

Most of the Canadian production of peat moss is exported to the United States. This export market became available when the shipping facilities from Europe became limited during the war. Canadian shippers have been able to retain this market in the post-war period. Exports in 1947 amounted to 72,918 tons valued at \$2,634,003.

In 1947 peat was produced by 41 firms, of which 18 were in Quebec, 15 in British Columbia, 5 in Ontario, 2 in New Brunswick and 1 in Manitoba.

Employees in the peat industry numbered 1,224 persons. Salaries and wages totalled \$1,602,265. The cost of fuel and electricity was \$91,450, and the value of containers and packing materials amounted to \$52,826.

Peat is the material produced by the incomplete decomposition of vegetable matter either in water or in the presence of water under such conditions that atmospheric oxygen is excluded. The character of the peat depends upon conditions under which it was formed and upon the nature of the vegetation that 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 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 the sphagnum plant, 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. It is used as a bedding litter for animals, for horticultural purposes, and as a filler for fertilizers. Because of its elasticity and low heat conductivity, it is used for insulating and sound-proofing and as a packing material.

Humified or fuel 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. Peat moss left in its natural state will humify in course of time and all fibrous matter eventually disappears.

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

Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1946 and 1947

	1946	1947
Number of firms .....	41	41
Number of plants or bogs .....	41	41
Number of employees: On salary .....	64	66
On wages .....	1,327	1,158
Total .....	1,391	1,224
Salaries and wages: Salaries .....	\$ 156,693	\$ 157,340
Wages .....	\$ 1,405,996	\$ 1,444,925
Total .....	\$ 1,562,689	\$ 1,602,265
Selling value of products (gross) .....	\$ 2,920,812	\$ 2,808,639
Cost of fuel and electricity .....	\$ 102,004	\$ 91,450
Process supplies used .....	\$ 45,299	\$ 52,826
Cost of containers and packing materials .....	\$ 523,858	\$ 527,868
Selling value of products (net) .....	\$ 2,249,651	\$ 2,136,495

Table 2 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS, BY PROVINCES, 1946 and 1947

Province	Number of firms	Number of employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of fuel, electricity, process supplies and containers	Production		Gross selling value f.o.b. works(*)
					Tons of peat sold or used	As fuel	
			\$	\$			\$
<u>1946</u>							
Quebec .....	18	374	329,843	185,429	...	26,382	658,658
Ontario .....	5	166	192,398	66,351	145	17,175	290,885
Manitoba and New Brunswick	4	152	142,298	42,475	...	4,018	146,663
British Columbia .....	14	699	898,150	376,906	...	49,264	1,824,606
CANADA .....	41	1,391	1,562,689	671,161	145	96,839	2,920,812
<u>1947</u>							
Quebec .....	18	310	312,876	190,420	...	21,293	549,411
Ontario .....	5	105	133,094	55,990	95	3,250	221,850
Manitoba and New Brunswick	3	84	106,244	88,406	...	4,372	176,744
British Columbia .....	15	725	1,050,071	337,328	...	46,104	1,860,634
CANADA .....	41	1,224	1,602,265	672,144	95	80,019	2,808,639

(\*) Includes cost of containers.

(30 Aug. '48)

Table 3 - PRODUCTION (Shipments) OF PEAT FUEL AND PEAT MOSS IN CANADA, BY USES AND PROVINCES, 1946 and 1947

Province	F u e l		M o s s									
	Tons	\$	Horticulture		Insulation		Poultry and stable litter		Other uses		TOTAL MOSS	
			Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$ (%)
1 9 4 6												
Quebec .....	...	...	12,320	220,719	90	2,082	13,789	266,042	183	12,230	26,382	501,073
Ontario .....	145	1,305	10,261	151,390	...	...	6,914	77,106	...	...	17,175	228,496
Manitoba and New Brunswick	...	...	1,388	43,359	...	...	2,579	75,797	51	775	4,018	119,931
British Columbia ....	...	...	19,117	609,102	17	800	30,108	933,832	22	2,415	49,264	1,546,149
TOTAL .....	145	1,305	43,086	1,024,570	107	2,882	53,390	1,352,777	256	15,420	96,839	2,395,649
1 9 4 7												
Quebec .....	...	...	11,884	205,676	393	9,263	8,959	163,526	57	5,330	21,293	383,795
Ontario .....	95	950	6,206	114,488	...	...	2,044	55,955	...	...	8,250	170,443
Manitoba and New Brunswick	...	...	1,293	33,095	2	59	3,039	103,405	38	675	4,372	137,234
British Columbia ....	...	...	21,613	781,632	...	...	24,491	806,717	...	...	46,104	1,588,349
TOTAL .....	95	950	40,996	1,134,891	395	9,322	38,533	1,129,603	95	6,005	80,019	2,279,821

(\*) Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$523,858 in 1946 and \$527,868 in 1947.

Table 4 - WORKMEN, BY MONTHS, 1946 and 1947

Month	1946 Total	1947				Total
		Bog		Dressing Plant		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
January .....	529	312	1	388	28	729
February .....	543	490	2	382	26	900
March .....	600	438	4	380	20	842
April .....	871	481	7	333	8	829
May .....	1,692	572	42	338	11	963
June .....	2,202	1,225	265	353	53	1,896
July .....	2,371	1,385	272	374	46	2,077
August .....	2,569	1,388	115	315	43	1,861
September .....	1,540	786	30	324	11	1,151
October .....	1,095	673	16	339	16	1,044
November .....	1,019	422	1	361	21	805
December .....	785	302	1	337	30	670
AVERAGE .....	1,391	708	70	351	29	1,158

Table 5 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1946 and 1947

Kind	Unit of measure	1946		1947	
		Quantity	Cost at works	Quantity	Cost at works
Bituminous coal--Canadian	ton	3,435	\$ 31,891	3,696	\$ 33,264
Imported	ton	...	...	8	124
Anthracite coal .....	ton	5	77	...	...
Gasoline .....	Imp.gal.	109,459	31,718	81,853	24,720
Kerosene or coal oil ....	Imp.gal.	...	...	1,594	319
Fuel oil .....	Imp.gal.	12,566	2,519	8,105	1,377
Wood .....	cord	84	755	114	1,129
Other fuel .....	...	...	31	...	...
Electricity purchased ...	k.w.h.	2,584,741	35,013	2,790,165	30,517
TOTAL .....	...	...	102,004	...	91,450
Electricity generated for own use .....	k.w.h.	780	...	17,050	...

Table 6 - POWER EQUIPMENT, 1947

	Ordinarily in Use		In Reserve or Idle	
	Number of units	Total horse power	Number of units	Total horse power
Steam engines .....	...	...	...	...
Steam turbines .....	...	...	...	...
Diesel engines .....	2	141	2	140
Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than Diesel engines .....	112	3,987	12	424
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels ...	2	55	...	...
Electric motors run by purchased power	128	1,670	1	3
TOTAL .....	244	5,853	15	567
Electric motors run by own generated power .....	3	7	2	1
Stationary boilers .....	3	322	...	...
Motor-generator sets .....	3	28	1	5

Table 7 - PEAT FUEL PRODUCED IN CANADA, 1941-1947

Year	Short tons	\$
1941 .....	355	2,155
1942 .....	172	1,204
1943 .....	782	7,000
1944 .....	644	5,397
1945 .....	118	1,062
1946 .....	145	1,305
1947 .....	95	950

Table 8 - PRODUCTION OF PEAT MOSS IN CANADA, 1941-1947

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
1946 .....	96,839	2,395,649
1947 .....	80,019	2,279,821

Table 9 - EXPORTS OF PEAT MOSS FROM CANADA, 1944-1947

Year	Quantity tons	Value \$
1944 .....	63,944	2,105,370
1945 .....	76,409	2,625,514
1946 .....	81,940	2,892,563
1947 .....	72,918	2,634,003

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, 1947

(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>		
Atlantic Peat Moss Co. Ltd. (a)	513 Rachel St. E., Montreal, Quebec	Gloucester
Fafard Peat Moss Co. (a)	Shippegan	Shippegan
Western Peat Co. Ltd. (x)	Box 699, New Westminster, British Columbia	Shippegan
<u>Quebec -</u>		
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
Dubois, Oscar (x)	Les Escoumains	Saguenay
Maple Leaf Peat Ltd. (a)	303A Lafontaine St., Riviere-du-Loup	St. Antonin
R. & B. Moss & Peat Products (a)	Waterville	Waterville
Michaud, J. F. A. (a)	Isle Verte	Isle Verte
Premier Peat Moss Ltd. (a)	Isle Verte	Isle Verte
Perfect Peat Products (a)	303 Lafontaine St., Riviere-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 Riviere-Ouelle (a)	2 Cote d'Abraham, Quebec	Riviere Ouelle
Tourbiere de Pointe-au-Pere (a)	Mont Joli	Pointe au Pere
Trump Peat Products Ltd. (a)	Riviere du Loup	Riviere du Loup
Tourbiere de St. Fabien	St. Fabien	St. Fabien
<u>Ontario -</u>		
Arctic Peat Moss Corp. Ltd. (a)	200 Sterling Securities Bldg., Winnipeg, Manitoba	Crozier
Humar Corporation Ltd. (c)	Suite 1010, 100 Adelaide St. W., Toronto	Beverley Tp.
Atkins & Dubrow (Erie) Ltd. (a)	Box 500, Port Colborne	Wainfleet Tp.
Leasa Peat Works (a)(b)	106 Britannia St., Stratford	Ellice Tp.
Pinewood Peat Inc. (a)	Barwich	Pinewood
Pringle, J. A. (x)(a)	Arden	Arden

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN CANADIAN PEAT INDUSTRY, 1947  
(Concluded)

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Bog or Plant
<u>Manitoba -</u>		
Winnipeg Supply & Fuel Co. Ltd. (a)	312 Boyd Bldg., Winnipeg	Shelley
McCabe Bros. Grain Co. Ltd.	980 Grain Exchange Bldg., Winnipeg	Shelley
<u>British Columbia -</u>		
Acme Peat Products Ltd. (a)	789 W. Pender St., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Alouette Peat Products Ltd. (a)	Pitt Meadows	McTavish Road
B.C. Peat Company Ltd. (a)	302 Royal Bank Bldg., Vancouver	Delta
Byrnerood Peat Farm (a)	2707 McKay Ave., New Westminster	Burnaby
Blundell Peat Co. Ltd.	806 No. 6 Road, Vancouver	No. 6 Road
Coast Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	736 Granville St., Vancouver	Burnaby
Columbia Products Ltd. (a)	Box 699, New Westminster	Lulu Island
Excelsior Peat Ltd. (a)	7675 Olser Ave., Vancouver	Burnaby
Industrial Peat Co. (a)	Box 329, New Westminster	Delta Municipality
Lulu Island Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	R.R. 2, Vancouver	Lulu Island
Nielsen, E., and M. F. (a)	R.R. 2, Vancouver	Westminster
Northern Peat Moss Co. Ltd. (a)	R.R. 2, Vancouver	Richmond Tp.
Pacific Peat Products Ltd. (a)	1137 W. Hastings St., Vancouver	R.R. 2, Vancouver
Richmond Peat Products Limited (a)	814 Hall Bldg., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Western Peat Co. Ltd. (a)	Box 699, New Westminster	Lulu Island

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