

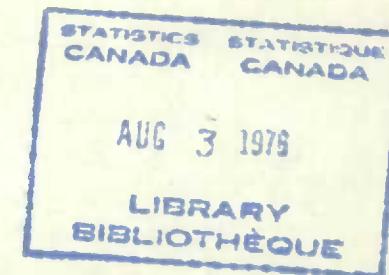
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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
CANADA

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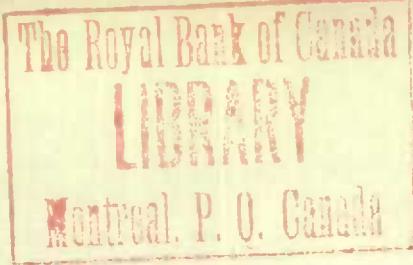
THE PEAT INDUSTRY
1950



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Minister of Trade and Commerce

Prepared by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Section
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NOTICE

It has been the practice of the Bureau of Statistics, since 1920, to issue an annual printed report on the Mineral Production of Canada. This report was comprised to a large extent of the data which had already been issued in bulletin form as statistics for each industry were completed. The final report was necessarily late in being issued, and its main use was for library purposes and for historical research. It also had the advantage of having complete statistics of the Canadian Mining Industry for a year in one volume.

Such a procedure necessitated the preparation of new manuscript, duplication of proof-reading, and extra costs in type-setting and printing. In order to avoid this extra cost, a system has been devised whereby libraries and other similar organizations may file the separate reports in a ring binder as issued, and if they so desire, may have them bound in a volume when the series for the year is complete.

The reports have been paged in such a manner that when bound they will correspond to the chapters of the annual printed report hitherto issued, but which has been discontinued.

The following reports will constitute the complete volume on Mineral Statistics of Canada:

- A General Review of the Mining Industry, 25¢.
- B The Gold Mining Industry, 50¢.
- C The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 30¢.
- D The Nickel-Copper Mining, Smelting and Refining Industry, 25¢.
- E The Miscellaneous Metal Mining Industry, 30¢.
- F The Non-ferrous Smelting and Refining Industry, 25¢.
- G The Coal Mining Industry, 75¢.
- H The Natural Gas and Crude Petroleum Industry, 25¢.
- I The Asbestos Mining Industry, 25¢.
- J The Feldspar and Quartz Mining Industry, 25¢.
- K The Gypsum Industry, 15¢.
- L The Peat Industry, 25¢.
- M The Salt Industry, 25¢.
- N The Talc and Soapstone Industry, 25¢.
- O The Miscellaneous Non-Metal Mining Industry, 30¢.
- P The Cement Manufacturing Industry, 25¢.
- Q The Clay and Clay Products Industry, 25¢.
- R The Lime Industry, 25¢.
- S The Sand and Gravel Industry, 25¢.
- T The Stone Industry, 35¢.
- U Contract Diamond Drilling in the Mining Industry, 25¢.

(6 Sept '51)

THE PEAT INDUSTRY

1950

Producers' shipments of peat moss during 1950 amounted to 75,195 tons valued at \$2,256,870 (excluding the value of containers) compared with shipments of 80,249 tons valued at \$2,376,849 in the preceding year. In addition to the above, the production of peat fuel was 58 tons valued at \$580 in 1950. Exports of peat moss during 1950 totalled 65,962 tons valued at \$2,718,257.

The industry employed 1,118 persons and distributed \$1,530,866 in salaries and wages in 1950. Fuel cost \$79,573 and 2,060,203 k.w.h. of electricity were purchased for \$33,983. Process supplies and containers cost \$653,552.

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.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Peat Industry, 1941-1950

Year	Number of		Number of employees	Salaries and wages for year	Cost of fuel and electricity at works	Cost of process supplies and containers at works	Selling value of products, f.o.b. shipping points ¹
	Firms	Plants or bogs					
1941	22	22	667	486,116	17,327	145	646,408
1942	35	35	1,316	1,380,142	25,866	251,220	1,308,297
1943	44	44	1,012	1,000,348	35,118	272,556	1,692,444
1944	39	39	1,183	1,154,009	48,423	334,953	2,163,376
1945	37	37	1,233	1,304,249	80,863	425,241	2,390,306
1946	41	41	1,391	1,562,689	102,004	569,157	2,920,812
1947	41	41	1,224	1,602,265	91,450	580,694	2,808,639
1948	41	41	1,032	1,532,977	111,677	698,394	3,407,825
1949	42	43	1,129	1,510,105	51,804	648,456	2,987,332
1950	37	39	1,118	1,530,866	113,558	653,552	2,868,202

1. Includes packing materials and containers.

MINERAL STATISTICS OF CANADA

TABLE 2. Principal Statistics, by Provinces, 1949 and 1950

Province	Number of Plants	Number of employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of fuel, electricity, process sup- plies and containers	Production		
					Tons of peat sold or used		Selling value f.o.b. works
					As fuel	Moss	
1949			\$	\$	tons	tons	\$
Quebec	18	311	315,385	238,321	—	21,168	657,951
Ontario	5	162	224,580	71,044	56	7,381	269,739
Manitoba, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick ..	5	158	204,448	80,697	—	7,119	268,967
British Columbia	14	498	765,692	310,198	—	44,581	1,790,675
Canada	42	1,129	1,510,105	700,260	56	80,249	2,987,332
1950							
New Brunswick	3	88	117,398	58,900	—	5,535	212,991
Quebec	16	198	152,260	191,867	—	17,873	534,797
Ontario	5	105	142,308	63,174	58	5,613	262,405
Manitoba and Nova Scotia	2	32	56,607	10,816	—	609	28,457
British Columbia	13	695	1,062,293	440,343	—	45,565	1,829,552
Canada	39	1,118	1,530,866	765,100	58	75,195	2,868,202

TABLE 3. Production (Shipments) of Peat Fuel and Peat Moss, by Uses and Provinces, 1949 and 1950

Province	Peat fuel		Peat moss									
			Horticulture		Insulation		Poultry and stable litter		Other uses		Total moss	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
1949												
Quebec	—	—	14,912	310,254	65	3,974	6,185	130,625	6	783	21,168	445,636
Ontario	56	560	5,569	148,154	—	—	1,612	61,854	—	—	7,381	210,008
Manitoba and New Brunswick	—	—	3,307	68,740	—	—	3,812	124,372	—	—	7,119	213,112
British Columbia	—	—	24,930	870,244	11	707	18,785	620,042	855	17,100	44,581	1,508,093
Total	56	560	48,718	1,417,392	76	4,681	30,594	936,893	861	17,883	80,249	2,376,849
1950												
New Brunswick	—	—	3,414	107,696	—	—	2,121	60,625	—	—	5,535	168,321
Quebec	—	—	12,906	257,584	—	—	4,950	101,369	17	1,506	17,673	360,459
Ontario	58	580	3,933	141,047	—	—	1,680	65,578	—	—	5,613	206,625
Manitoba and Nova Scotia	—	—	21	875	—	—	588	22,371	—	—	609	23,246
British Columbia	—	—	30,719	1,014,146	—	—	14,846	484,073	—	—	45,565	1,498,219
Total	58	580	50,993	1,521,348	—	—	24,185	734,016	17	1,506	75,195	2,256,870

1. Does not include cost of containers which were valued at \$609,923 in 1949 and \$610,752 in 1950

TABLE 4. Production of Peat Fuel, 1941-1950

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1941	355	2,155	1946	145	1,305
1942	172	1,204	1947	95	950
1943	782	7,000	1948	85	850
1944	644	5,397	1949	56	560
1945	118	1,062	1950	58	580

TABLE 5. Production of Peat Moss, 1941-1950

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1941.....	14,345	390,509	1946	96,839	2,395,649
1942.....	28,520	658,771	1947	80,019	2,279,821
1943.....	64,360	1,461,422	1948	89,800	2,767,878
1944.....	80,446	1,869,553	1949	80,249	2,376,849
1945.....	83,963	2,011,139	1950	75,195	2,256,870

TABLE 6. Exports of Peat Moss, 1946-1950

Year	Quantity	Value		
			tons	\$
1946.....	81,940	2,892,563		
1947.....	72,918	2,634,003		
1948.....	77,924	2,946,923		
1949.....	68,390	2,554,388		
1950.....	65,962	2,718,257		

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.

TABLE 7. World Production of Peat, by Countries¹, in Metric Tons (Taken from the United States Bureau of Mines Yearbook)

Country	1946	1947	1948	1949
Canada:				
Fuel peat	132	186	77	51
Peat moss	87,850	72,592	81,465	56,074
Denmark	3,705,180	5,168,139	3,616,860	1,416,000
Finland	6,846	12,192	8,277	2
France	84,621	57,995	2	2
Germany	500,000 ^{3,5}	1,800,000 ⁵	2,038,000 ⁵	1,155,000 ⁴
Hungary	3,720	8,550	2	2
Iceland	10,500 ³	3,200	2	2
Ireland	4,826,238	4,850,512	3,846,800 ³	2
Italy	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	571,940	2	2	2
Norway	2	378,600	343,130	2
Portugal	2,456	2,715	1,502	268
Sweden:				
Fuel	770,230	436,249		
Litter, baled	68,513	72,473		
Litter and "Mull" unbaled	964	3,246	375,000	2
"Mull" baled	9,862	12,486		
Switzerland	100,000	40,000	—	2
United States	127,647	123,587	117,553	117,509
Total (Estimate)	11,327,000	13,693,000	11,180,000	9,000,000

1. In addition to countries listed, Argentina, Australia, Poland and U.S.S.R. produce peat, but data of production are not available; estimates for these are not included in total.

2. Data not available; estimate included in total.

3. Estimate.

4. American zone only.

5. Bizonal area.

MINERAL STATISTICS OF CANADA

TABLE 8. Employees and Their Earnings in the Peat Industry, 1949 and 1950

	Number of employees						Earnings		
	Administrative and office		Workmen		Total	Administr- ative and office	Workmen	Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female					
1949									
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba	10	2	146	—	158	20,370	184,078	204,448	
Quebec	21	10	279	1	311	29,401	285,984	315,385	
Ontario	16	4	111	31	162	31,461	193,119	224,580	
British Columbia	23	9	430	36	498	98,160	667,532	765,692	
Canada	70	25	966	68	1,129	179,392	1,330,713	4,510,105	
1950									
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba	11	4	105	—	120	24,573	149,432	174,005	
Quebec	4	2	191	1	198	6,525	145,735	152,260	
Ontario	4	—	76	25	105	9,353	132,955	142,308	
British Columbia	25	6	599	65	695	113,884	948,409	1,062,293	
Canada	44	12	971	91	1,118	154,335	1,376,531	1,530,866	

TABLE 9. Workmen in the Peat Industry, by Months, 1949 and 1950

Month	1949				1950			
	At bogs		At dressing plants		At bogs		At dressing plants	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
January	80	2	292	13	120	3	349	22
February	80	—	310	20	164	3	455	30
March	142	2	348	19	443	7	428	22
April	204	2	280	12	536	7	361	10
May	880	108	323	17	635	53	320	9
June	1,088	107	396	25	1,226	267	379	29
July	1,251	109	302	15	1,387	206	405	47
August	1,651	171	391	29	1,157	118	373	32
September	859	60	291	10	869	67	302	22
October	722	32	286	14	557	46	258	23
November	521	1	271	21	341	5	188	—
December	331	3	260	24	255	1	219	22
Average	653	50	313	18	629	67	342	24

Directory of Firms in the Peat Industry, 1950

Name of firm	Head Office address	Location of bog or plant
Nova Scotia:		
Annapolis Valley Peat Moss Co. Ltd.	Berwick	Berwick
New Brunswick:		
Atlantic Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	513 Rachel St. E., Montreal, Quebec.....	Gloucester
Fafard Peat Moss Co. ¹	Shippegan.....	Shippegan
Western Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	Box 699, New Westminster, British Columbia.....	Shippegan
Quebec:		
Beausejour Peat Moss ¹	St. Romuald	St. Lambert
Bourque & Fils ²	St. Marc des Carrières.....	St. Marc des Carrières
Excel Peat Ltd. ¹	116 Côte de la Montagne, Quebec.....	Isle aux Coudres
Maple Leaf Peat Ltd. ¹	Rivière-du-Loup, Station	St. Antonin
R. & B. Moss & Peat Products ¹	Waterville	Waterville
Michaud, J.F.A. ¹	Isle Verte	Isle Verte
Premier Peat Moss Producers Ltd. ¹	Rivière-du-Loup	Cacouna, Isle Verte, Rivière-du-Loup
Quebec Peat Moss Co. ¹	St. Guillaume d'Upton.....	St. Bonaventure
Roy, Romeo ¹	St. Ulric	St. Ulric
Saguenay Peat Moss Co. Ltd. ¹	365 Rue Racine Est, Chicoutimi	Bagot tp.
Senneterre Peat & Moss Mines Ltd. ²	Senneterre	Senneterre
Tourbières Rivière-Ouelle, Les ¹	14 rue d'Aiguillon, Quebec	Rivière Ouelle
Tourbière de Pointe-au-Père ¹	Mont Joli	Pointe-au-Père
Tourbière de St. Fabien ¹	St. Fabien	St. Fabien
Tourbière de Rivière Blanche ¹	Rivière Blanche	Matane Co.
Tourbière du Nord, La, Enrg	Les Escoumins	Saguenay
Ontario:		
Arctic Peat Moss Corp. Ltd. ¹	200 Scientific Bldg. Winnipeg, Manitoba	Crozier
Humar Corporation Ltd. ³	Suite 1010, 100 Adelaide St. W., Toronto	Beverley Tp.
Atkins & Durbrow (Erie) Ltd. ¹	Box 89, Port Colborne	Wainfleet Tp.
Leasa Peat Works ^{1,4}	12 Rankin St., Stratford	Ellice Tp.
Pinewood Peat Inc. ^{1,2}	Barwich	Pinewood
Pringle, J.A. ^{1,2}	Arden	Arden
Manitoba:		
Western Peat Co. Ltd.	New Westminster, B.C.	Moss Spur
British Columbia:		
Acme Peat Products Ltd. ¹	789 W. Pender St., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Atkins & Durbrow Ltd.	111-602 West Hastings St., Vancouver	Ladner
Bymerood Peat Farm ¹	2707 McKay Ave., New Westminster	Burnaby South
Blundell Peat Co. Ltd.	806 No. 6 Road, Vancouver	No. 6 Road
Coast Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	736 Granville St., Vancouver	Pitt Meadows
Columbia Products Ltd. ¹	Box 699, New Westminster	Lulu Island
Excelsior Peat Ltd. ¹	7675 Olser Ave., Vancouver	Burnaby
Industrial Peat Co. ¹	Box 329, New Westminster	Delta Municipality
Lulu Island Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	R.R. 2, Vancouver	Lulu Island
Northern Peat Moss Co. Ltd.	R.R. 2, Vancouver	Lulu Island
North American Peat	10th & Alma, Vancouver	Burnaby
Pacific Peat Products Ltd. ¹	1137 W. Hastings St., Vancouver	R.R. 2, Vancouver
Richmond Peat Products Limited ¹	814 Hall Bldg., Vancouver	Lulu Island
Western Peat Co. Ltd. ¹	Box 699, New Westminster	Lulu Island

- ¹. Produces moss.
². Active but no shipments made.
³. Produces humus.
⁴. Produces peat fuel.

