

26-218  
1938  
c.2

18

29-25-1-40

Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
MINING, METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL BRANCH  
OTTAWA - CANADA

---

Dominion Statistician:	R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief - Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch:	W. H. Losee, B.Sc.
Mining Statistician:	R. J. McDowall, B.Sc.

---

THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY, 1938.

The value of crude and refined talc and soapstone sold by Canadian producers of these minerals in 1938 totalled \$144,848 compared with a corresponding value of \$163,814 in 1937 and \$177,270 in 1936. Production of soapstone during 1938 came entirely from the Eastern Townships of the province of Quebec while the output of higher grade talc represented shipments of the mineral made from deposits (Conley and Henderson mine) occurring near Madoc, Hastings county, Ontario. During recent years a relatively small tonnage of talc was shipped from a property operated at Anderson Lake in the Lillooet mining district of British Columbia, however, no talc mining operations were reported in this province during either 1937 or 1938.

The talc of the Madoc area is of foliated type, has a good white colour, and occurs as a series of vertical veins or bands in white crystalline dolomite. Near Broughton, in Quebec, crude lump talc, from a band cutting the soapstone body, and soapstone waste are shipped to a Montreal grinding plant. In addition to its use as a furnace material, Quebec soapstone is utilized in the manufacture of stoves, mantels, interior trim, ornaments, crayons, etc.

In 1938, both surface and underground work was conducted on a talc deposit located in range II of Potton township, Brome county, Quebec. The company developing this property reported that a mill was constructed and a railroad siding completed at Highwater, Quebec, during the year under review.

According to the Bureau of Mines, Ottawa, pyrophyllite, a hydrous silicate of alumina closely resembling talc in appearance and certain physical properties, but of less common occurrence, is becoming industrially important for many of the same uses as talc: it does not flux when fired, however, as does talc, and has been shown to have value for the manufacture of high-grade, refractory ceramic products and cements. The only recorded occurrence of the mineral in Canada appears to be at Kyuquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island; some work was done on the deposit around 1910.

In November, 1938, a shipment of 1,000 tons of pyrophyllite was made from a deposit occurring near Manuels, Conception Bay, Newfoundland. The mineral went to Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A. for grinding; it is reported that the ground product will be disposed of to the cosmetic trade and possibly will also be used in paints, textiles, enamels, and as a paper and rubber filler.

According to the United States Bureau of Mines, the United States market for talc, pyrophyllite, and ground soapstone is the largest in the world. It not only consumes most of the large domestic production of the crude material but also absorbs the hundreds of tons of foreign talc imported each year. Imports into the United States in 1938 were - crude and unground steatite and French chalk, 337 short tons valued at \$5,956 and manufactures (except toilet preparations) wholly or partially

finished, 21,790 short tons valued at \$385,242. The market takes most of these materials in the ground state, 98 per cent of the sales of talc in the United States being ground material. Less than 1 per cent is in the form of sawed and manufactured material and the rest is crude. Markets exist in many industries, principally, however, in the paint, ceramics, roofing, paper and rubber industries, which in 1938 bought 77 per cent of the total sales of domestic material; paint manufacture is still the principal consumer.

Trade agreements between Canada and the United States and between the United Kingdom and the United States were signed at Washington on Thursday, November 17, 1938. The following statement, prepared by the United States Tariff Commission, shows the former and new rates of duty on talc in schedule II (United States concessions to Canada), and the total imports of talc into the United States and the imports from Canada, according to preliminary United States statistics for the year 1937.: Talc, steatite, or soapstone, ground, etc., (except toilet preparations), valued at not more than \$14 per ton (1936 agreement covered talc valued at not more than \$12.50 per ton): rate of duty under Tariff Act of 1930, 35 per cent, under 1935 agreement, 25 per cent, under new agreement, 17½ per cent. Total value of all 1937 talc imports, \$102,015 (a); value of 1937 talc imported from Canada, only, \$52,484 (a). ( a - includes only talc, etc., valued at not more than \$12.50 per ton.)

"Canadian Chemistry and Process Industries", Toronto, September, 1939 quotations for talc were - all grades f.o.b. Madoc, Ontario - per ton - fine blown - Red label \$30; No. 2 Green label \$18; 1 SS white label \$12; 0 Blue label \$10; 3A Blue label \$8.00. Imported Italian talc \$80 - \$100.

"Metal and Mineral Markets", New York, October, 1939 - Quotations for talc were: Per ton, carload lots, f.o.b. works, containers included unless otherwise specified: Georgia: 98 per cent through 200 mesh, gray, \$6; white, \$8. In bags \$1.00 per ton extra. New Jersey: mineral pulp, ground, \$8.50 to \$10.50, bags extra. New York: Double air floated; short fibre, 325 mesh \$12 to \$15. Vermont: 99½ per cent through 200 mesh, extra white, bulk basis, \$9.50; 97 per cent through 200 mesh, medium white, \$9; packed in paper bags, \$1.00 per ton extra. Virginia: 200 mesh, \$4.75 to \$5.50; 325 mesh \$6.20 to \$7; crude \$4.

Imports into Canada of talc or soapstone, ground or unground, totalled 2,647 short tons valued at \$40,386 in 1938 compared with 3,183 short tons at \$48,079 in 1937; of the 1938 imports 2,301 short tons worth \$31,214 came from the United States. Exports of talc from Canada in 1938 totalled 6,951 short tons valued at \$70,742 as against 8,698 short tons at \$85,953 in 1937; of the 1938 exports 6,228 short tons worth \$64,629 went to the United States.

During the year under review there were six firms reported as active in the industry, 5 in Quebec and one in Ontario; 5 of these made commercial shipments. Capital employed by active operators totalled \$212,491; employees numbered 75 and salaries and wages distributed amounted to \$59,426. Fuel and purchased electricity used were appraised at \$15,993 and the cost of explosives and other process supplies was reported at \$9,000. The net value of sales was estimated at \$120,941 in 1938 compared with \$138,420 in 1937 and \$143,878 in 1936.



Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY IN CANADA,  
1936, 1937 and 1938

	1936	1937	1938
Number of firms .....	7	7	6(a)
Capital employed .....	\$ 647,929	625,497	212,491
Number of employees - On salary .....	15	11	5
On wages .....	70	72	70
Total .....	85	83	75
Salaries and Wages - Salaries .....	\$ 26,526	20,474	9,660
Wages .....	\$ 44,409	51,546	49,766
Total .....	\$ 70,935	72,020	59,426
Selling value of products (Gross) .....	\$ 177,270	163,814	144,848
Cost of fuel and purchased electricity ...	\$ 21,669	19,318	15,993
Cost of explosives and other process supplies .....	\$ 11,723	6,076	7,914
Selling value of products (net) .....	\$ 143,878	138,420	120,941

(a) 5 firms in Quebec and 1 in Ontario.

Table 2 - CAPITAL EMPLOYED, BY CLASSES, <sup>(x)</sup>1936, 1937 and 1938.

	1936	1937	1938
	\$	\$	\$
Present value of lands, buildings, fixtures, machinery, tools and other equipment ....	561,643	510,896	178,754
Inventory value of materials on hand, stocks in process, fuel and miscellaneous supplies on hand .....	7,042	3,514	2,724
Inventory value of finished products on hand .....	7,741	12,737	11,115
Operating capital .....	71,503	98,350	19,898
TOTAL .....	647,929	625,497	212,491

(x) By active firms.

Table 3 - WAGE-EARNERS, BY MONTHS, 1936 - 1938.

Month	1936	1937	1938		
			Surface	Underground	Mill
January .....	53	58	27	30	14
February .....	61	57	27	24	13
March .....	54	56	14	18	13
April .....	72	73	41	13	11
May .....	77	58	50	16	13
June .....	63	60	40	14	13
July .....	79	78	51	15	14
August .....	83	77	51	15	14
September .....	84	94	45	20	14
October .....	79	92	43	20	12
November .....	70	78	40	20	13
December .....	61	66	33	18	11

Table 4 - WAGE-EARNERS WORKING NUMBER OF HOURS SPECIFIED DURING ONE WEEK IN MONTH OF NORMAL EMPLOYMENT, 1938

Number of hours worked	Number of Wage-earners	Number of hours worked	Number of Wage-earners
30 hours or less .....	4	49 - 50 hours .....	-
31 - 43 hours .....	-	51 - 54 hours .....	-
44 hours .....	7	55 hours .....	-
45 - 47 hours .....	12	56 - 64 hours .....	49
48 hours .....	2	65 hours and over .....	-
Grand total number of employees in week specified .....			74
Total wages paid in week specified .....			\$ 876

Table 5 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1937 and 1938.

Item	Unit of Measure	1937		1938	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Bituminous coal - Canadian ...	tons	145	1,016	1	9
Foreign ...	tons	...	...	...	...
Anthracite coal .....	tons	...	...	...	...
Gasoline .....	Imp.gal.	2,387	481	4,280	933
Kerosene .....	Imp.gal.	25	6	25	6
Fuel oil and diesel oil ....	Imp.gal.	3,774	470	5,243	569
Wood .....	cord	22	44	26	52
Electricity purchased .....	K.W.H.	1,594,310	17,301	1,121,875	14,424
TOTAL .....	\$	...	19,318	...	15,993

Table 6 - POWER EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION, 1938.

	Number of units	Horse power - manufacturers' rating
Diesel engines .....	3	267
Other gas engines .....	5	92
Electric motors operated by purchased power ...	27(+)	634
Electric motors operated by own power .....	12	118

(+) 5 at 190 H.P, in reserve or idle.

Table 7 - PRODUCTION OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE IN CANADA, 1929 - 1938.

Year	Value	Year	Value
	\$		\$
1929 .....	229,198	1934 .....	180,777
1930 .....	186,216	1935 .....	171,532
1931 .....	157,083	1936 .....	177,270
1932 .....	159,038	1937 .....	163,814
1933 .....	190,836	1938 .....	144,848

Production of talc and soapstone in Canada from 1886 to the end of 1938 totalled 445,137 short tons valued at \$4,056,767. The largest annual tonnage produced during these years was 27,247 in 1930 and the greatest annual value was \$286,105 in 1927.

Table 8 - PRODUCTION<sup>(x)</sup> OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE IN CANADA, 1913 - 1922.

Year	Short tons	\$	Year	Short tons	\$
1913	12,250	45,980	1918	18,169	119,197
1914	10,808	40,418	1919	18,642	116,295
1915	11,885	40,554	1920	21,671	166,934
1916	13,104	49,423	1921	10,124	144,565
1917	15,803	76,539	1922	13,195	188,458

(x) Mine operators returns.

Table 9 - EXPORTS OF TALC FROM CANADA, 1917 - 1920.

Year	Value	Year	Value
	\$		\$
1917	131,637 (+)	1919	210,150
1918	208,301	1920	263,708

(+) Last nine months - exports not recorded prior to April, 1917.

Imports of talc were not shown separately 1916 - 1920; imports in 1915 were 154 tons valued at \$1,866, imports in 1914 were 584 tons at \$8,983, and in 1913, 402 tons worth \$10,706.

In 1916, 1,755 tons of crude talc was shipped to the United States and the balance of production to Canadian grinding mills; other annual shipments of crude talc to the United States were: 1913, 2,750 tons; 1914, 1,269 tons, and 1915, 1,720 tons. In 1916 crude talc was valued at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per ton at the mine, and ground or refined talc at an average of about \$14.00 per ton. In 1918 the total shipments of ground talc were 15,903 tons of varying grades having an average value of about \$14.00 per ton as compared with 13,703 tons averaging \$12.50 in 1917; in 1918 crude talc sold at from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per ton.

During the period 1913 - 1918, talc was produced in Canada chiefly at Madoc and Eldorado, Hastings County, Ontario. Small shipments of ground talc were also reported from British Columbia in 1916 and 1917.

Table 10 - PRODUCTION (SALES) IN CANADA, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE, 1936, 1937 and 1938.

	1936		1937		1938	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
PRODUCTION -						
Soapstone (Quebec) (a)	...	32,770	...	40,513	...	35,038
Talc - Ontario	14,461	143,701	12,457	123,301	10,853	109,810
British Columbia	47	799	...	...	...	...
TOTAL CANADA	...	177,270	...	163,814	...	144,848



Table 10 - PRODUCTION (SALES) IN CANADA, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE, 1936, 1937 and 1938 - (Concl'd.)

	1 9 3 6		1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
<b>IMPORTS -</b>						
Talc or soapstone, ground or unground -						
From - United Kingdom ....	0.50	40	...	...	...	...
United States ....	2,548	32,063	2,812	38,660	2,301	31,214
Italy and Other Countries .....	387	11,082	371	9,419	346	9,172
<b>TOTAL IMPORTS ....</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>43,185</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>48,079</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>40,386</b>
<b>EXPORTS -</b>						
Talc -						
To - United Kingdom ....	1,368	12,957	1,200	10,858	675	5,654
United States .....	8,742	87,907	7,453	74,686	6,228	64,629
Other Countries ...	112	1,207	45	409	48	459
<b>TOTAL EXPORTS ....</b>	<b>10,222</b>	<b>102,071</b>	<b>8,698</b>	<b>85,953</b>	<b>6,951</b>	<b>70,742</b>

(a) Shipments usually include relatively small quantities of material classified as low grade talc.

Table 11 - PRODUCTION OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE, JANUARY 1 to JUNE 30, 1938 and 1939.

	1 9 3 8		1 9 3 9	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
Soapstone (Quebec) .....	...	7,835	...	11,822
Talc - Ontario .....	4,687	46,711	5,355	54,893
British Columbia .....	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>54,546</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>66,715</b>

Imports of talc or soapstone during the first six months of 1939 totalled 1,520 short tons valued at \$24,086; exports of talc in the same period amounted to 3,327 short tons worth \$34,705.

Table 12 - CONSUMPTION OF TALC IN CANADA, BY INDUSTRIES, AS REPORTED IN THE ANNUAL CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES, 1937 and 1938

Industry	1 9 3 7		1 9 3 8	
	Short	Cost at	Short	Cost at
	tons	works	tons	works
Rubber Industry .....	607	11,449	(a)	(a)
Electrical Apparatus .....	209	5,256	149	3,853
Paints .....	2,063	50,394	2,330	63,788
Soaps and Cleansing Preparations ..	151	3,123	241	4,437
Toilet Preparations .....	401	18,976	435	(a)
Polishes .....	16	330	17	559
Products from Imported Clays .....	110	1,460	160	2,119
Prepared Roofing .....	2,696	25,194	2,414	24,374
Pulp and Paper .....	865	16,385	1,051	17,552

(a) Not yet complete.

Table 13 - WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF TALC, 1936 - 1938. (Taken from the Imperial Institute's Publication - The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries).  
( Long tons )

Producing Country	1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7	1 9 3 8
<u>BRITISH EMPIRE</u>			
Tanganyika Territory .....	...	...	37
Union of South Africa .....	406	370	1,529
Canada (sales) (b) .....	12,954	11,122	9,690
India .....	9,968	13,040	17,990
Australia .....	1,502	1,494	958
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>			
Austria (estimated) .....	30,000	25,000	(a)
Finland .....	1,656	867	(a)
France .....	50,700	55,400	(a)
Germany (Bavaria) .....	5,009	7,667	(a)
Greece .....	850	1,809	(a)
Italy .....	43,226	44,987	52,662
Norway .....	25,827	28,998	(a)
Roumania .....	2,489	1,945	1,883
Sweden .....	7,033	7,812	6,690
Egypt .....	345	2,230	1,231
Morocco (French) (exports) .....	1,346	828	(a)
United States (sales) .....	193,028	205,356	189,978
Argentina .....	174	205	(a)
Uruguay (exports) .....	704	430	937
French Indo-China .....	670	421	...
Manchuria (exports) .....	81,785	109,384	79,932

Talc is also produced in U.S.S.R., Spain, and China.

(a) Information not available.

(b) Excluding soapstone, which is only recorded by value and was as follows:  
1936 .... £6,600, 1937 .... £8,200, 1938 .... £7,100.

Table 14 - WORLD'S IMPORTS OF TALC, 1936 - 1938. (Less Re-exports). (Taken from the Imperial Institute's Publication - The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries).  
( Long tons )

Importing Country	1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7	1 9 3 8
<u>BRITISH EMPIRE</u>			
United Kingdom .....	24,542	29,750	23,476
Seychelles .....	12	14	6
Canada .....	2,622	2,842	2,364
British India .....	42	40	24
Cyprus .....	31	72	47
Australia .....	557	684	684

Table 14 - WORLD'S IMPORTS OF TALC, 1936 - 1938. (Less Re-exports). (Taken from the Imperial Institute's Publication - The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries). - (Concl'd.)  
( Long tons )

Importing Country	1 9 3 6	1 9 3 7	1 9 3 8
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>			
Albania .....	46	51	19
Austria .....	830	457	190
Belgium-Luxemburg E.U. ....	4,275	5,163	3,700
Czecho-Slovakia .....	4,354	5,238	3,652
Denmark .....	2,162	2,047	(a)
Estonia .....	58	108	79
Finland (total imports) .....	693	987	1,384
France .....	2,597	2,682	2,048
Germany .....	24,144	15,834	12,294
Latvia .....	84	151	195
Lithuania .....	32	32	72
Poland .....	3,403	3,720	5,013
Roumania .....	143	140	(a)
Yugoslavia .....	263	439	534
Algeria .....	586	486	449
Belgian Congo .....	(a)	43	33
Egypt .....	989	1,210	1,084
Morocco (French) .....	33	42	(a)
Tunis .....	638	376	470
Guatemala .....	3	(a)	(a)
Mexico .....	266	464	225
United States .....	21,893	23,997	19,756
Argentina .....	1,229	623	663
Chile .....	26	54	(a)
Colombia .....	132	204	133
Peru .....	81	131	109
Uruguay .....	36	2	...
Venezuela .....	61	70	(a)
Fernosa .....	36	26	(a)
French Indo-China .....	123	165	102
Japan (total imports) .....	64,674	86,742	65,560
Philippine Islands .....	(a)	(b) 159	134
Syria and Lebanon .....	60	103	84
Turkey .....	2	5	11

(a) Information not available.

(b) March-December only.



LIST OF FIRMS IN THE CANADIAN TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY, 1938.

<u>Name of Firm</u>	<u>Head Office Address</u>	<u>Location of Plant</u>
<u>QUEBEC</u>		
Baker Mining and Milling Co. Ltd., (x)	4010 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal	Highwater (Brome Co.)
Broughton Soapstone and Quarry Co. Ltd.	Broughton Station	Broughton Tp.
Cyr, L. R.	West Broughton	Leeds Tp.
Fortin, Charles	Robertsonville	Thetford Tp.
Pharo, L. C.	Thetford Mines	Thetford Tp.
<u>ONTARIO</u>		
Canada Talc Ltd.	Madoc	Hastings Co. Huntingdon Tp.
Madoc Talc & Mining Co. Ltd., (x)	Trenton Box 613	Cashel Tp.
Moirs Talc & Silica Mining Syndicate Ltd. (x)	c/o Wm. Bonter, Trenton	Huntingdon Tp.
<u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u>		
Fairey and Co. (x)	661 Taylor St., Vancouver	Anderson Lake

(x) No production reported in 1938.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010657399