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THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1945

Producers' shipments of crude and milled talc and soapstone totalled 27,088 tons valued at \$294,888 in 1945 compared with 32,597 tons at \$357,249 in 1944. Operators in Quebec shipped 14,225 tons of talc and soapstone worth \$153,694 and mines in Ontario sold 12,863 tons, mostly high grade talc, valued at \$141,194.

Imports of talc and soapstone in 1945 amounted to 6,389 tons at \$131,863, and exports of talc totalled 7,363 tons valued at \$100,114.

The 5 active firms in the industry in 1945 employed 103 workers to whom \$134,782 were paid in salaries and wages. Fuel and electricity cost \$27,978 and process supplies for the mines cost \$49,266.

The Bureau of Mines, Ottawa, has given the following information with regard to the talc industry:

"Canada is self-sufficient in respect to most of the grades of ground talc needed for its industrial requirements, and there is a considerable surplus for export. It also produces most of the sawn dimension soapstone and talc crayons used, but is dependent on imports, obtained mainly from the United States, for certain special qualities of ground talc demanded by the ceramic, paint and cosmetic trades.

"Ground talc has a wide variety of uses, but much the greater part of the output is employed in the paint, roofing, paper, rubber and ceramic industries. It is used, also, in foundry facings, bleaching fillers for textiles, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, soaps and cleansers, insecticides, polishes, plastics, and for rice polishing.

"Soapstone, a soft greenish rock containing a high percentage of talc, is used extensively in the form of sawn blocks and bricks for lining the alkali recovery of furnaces and kilns of kraft pulp and paper mills. It is also used for brick and slab liners for fireboxes, stoves and ovens, and for switch board panels, laboratory benches, etc. Considerable quantities of soapstone quarry and sawing waste are ground and marketed as low-grade talc to the rubber, roofing, foundry and other trades."

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

Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY IN CANADA,
1943-1945

	1943	1944	1945
Number of firms	8	6	5
Capital employed \$	576,691	(*)	(*)
Number of employees - On salary	10	14	11
On wages	80	99	92
Total	90	113	103
Salaries and wages - Salaries	\$ 23,794	29,532	28,714
Wages	\$ 77,925	104,351	106,068
Total	\$ 101,719	133,883	134,782
Selling value of products (Gross)	\$ 266,685	357,249	294,838
Cost of fuel and purchased electricity ..	\$ 24,104	27,642	27,978
Cost of explosives and other process supplies	\$ 33,927	40,523	49,266
Selling value of products (net)	\$ 208,654	289,084	217,644

(*) Data not collected in 1944 and 1945.

Table 2 - WAGE-EARNERS(*), BY MONTHS, 1944 and 1945

Month	1944			1945		
	Surface	Underground	Mill	Surface	Underground	Mill
January	47	22	21	39	20	51
February	41	25	21	44	21	47
March	46	20	24	39	21	44
April	66	19	21	31	25	32
May	47	18	25	26	25	30
June	74	18	26	46	19	28
July	60	16	26	44	19	28
August	59	18	25	40	21	28
September	49	15	34	42	21	26
October	52	15	31	45	20	28
November	55	17	33	33	21	26
December	35	14	36	22	14	19
AVERAGE	52	19	28	38	21	33

(*) All male.

Table 3 - HOURS WORKED PER WEEK BY WAGE-EARNERS, 1945 (During One Week in Month of
Highest Employment)

Number of Hours Worked	Number of wage-earners	Number of Hours Worked	Number of wage-earners
30 hours or less	7	49-50 hours	7
31-43 hours	7	51-54 hours	12
44 hours	2	55 hours	4
45-47 hours	4	56-64 hours	26
48 hours	6	65 hours and over	24
		TOTAL	99
		Total wages in week specified	\$ 2,328

Talc and Soapstone

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Table 4 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1944 and 1945

Item	Unit of measure	1944		1945	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Bituminous coal--Canadian	ton	...	...	...	...
Foreign.	ton	...	...	...	...
Lignite	ton	...	...	...	...
Gasoline	Imp.gal.	8,434	2,762	13,670	3,961
Kerosene	Imp.gal.	140	27	75	15
Fuel oil and diesel oil..	Imp.gal.	19,445	2,985	20,255	3,327
Wood	cord	75	510	15	75
Electricity purchased ...	K.W.H.	1,841,340	21,358	1,784,770	20,600
TOTAL .....	...	...	27,642	...	27,978
Electricity generated for own use	K.W.H.	167,850	...	164,850	...

Table 5 - POWER EQUIPMENT, 1945

	Ordinarily in Use		In Reserve or Idle	
	Number of units	Horse power	Number of units	Horse power
Diesel engines	4	343	...	...
Other gas engines	12	325	...	...
Electric motors operated by purchased power	49	795	4	320
Electric motors operated by own power	12	121	...	...
Motor-generator sets	1	1	...	...

Table 6 - PRODUCERS' SHIPMENTS OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE(*), 1943-1945

	1943		1944		1945	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$	tons	\$	tons	\$
Soapstone (Quebec)(x)	14,204	135,469	19,013	204,127	14,225	153,694
Talc (Ontario)	11,959	131,216	13,584	153,122	12,863	141,194
TOTAL CANADA	26,163	266,685	32,597	357,249	27,088	294,888

(*) Includes both crude and milled grades.

(x) Shipments by some firms usually include a considerable quantity of material classified as talc.

Table 7 - PRODUCTION(*) OF TALC AND SOAPSTONE IN CANADA, 1930-1945

Year	Tons	Value	Year	Tons	Value
		\$			\$
1930	27,247	186,216	1938	13,814	144,848
1931	21,916	157,083	1939	18,241	170,066
1932	13,275	159,038	1940	23,791	229,639
1933	16,829	190,836	1941	34,632	360,809
1934	15,532	180,777	1942	29,868	310,824
1935	15,301	171,532	1943	26,163	266,685
1936	16,587	177,270	1944	32,597	357,249
1937	15,939	163,814	1945	27,088	294,888

(*) Producers' shipments.

Table 8 - IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TALC, 1944 and 1945

	1944		1945	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
<u>Imports</u> - Talc or soapstone	6,094	130,603	6,389	131,863
<u>Exports</u> - Talc	11,920	157,178	7,363	100,114

Table 9 - AVAILABLE STATISTICS ON THE CONSUMPTION OF GROUND TALC AND SOAPSTONE IN CANADA, 1945

	Tons
(a) <u>By Uses</u>	
Paints	5,885
Roofing	6,168
Pulp and paper	2,454
Rubber	2,656
Toilet preparations	638
Medicinal and pharmaceutical	735
Electrical apparatus	199
Imported clay products	713
Soaps and cleaning preparations	735
Textiles	267
Insecticides	943
Polishes	23
Prepared foundry facings	10
Iron foundries	106
Plastics	10
Adhesives	45
TOTAL	21,587
(b) <u>By Provinces</u>	
Nova Scotia	59
New Brunswick	475
Quebec	8,133
Ontario	10,731
Manitoba	1,439
Saskatchewan	42
Alberta	67
British Columbia	641
TOTAL	21,587

DIRECTORYFIRMS IN THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY, 1945

<u>Name of Firm</u>	<u>Head Office Address</u>	<u>Location of Plant or Mine</u>
<u>Quebec -</u>		
Baker Mining & Milling Co. Ltd.	4010 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal	Highwater
Broughton Soapstone & Quarry Co. Ltd.	Broughton Station Robertsonville	Broughton Thetford Tp.
Fortin, Charles		Leeds Tp.
Pharo, L. C. Co. Ltd.	187 St. Maurice St., Thetford Mines	
<u>Ontario -</u>		
Canada Talc Limited	Madoc	Huntingdon Tp.

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