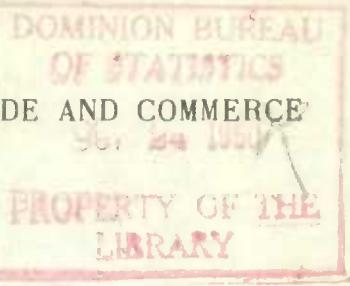


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THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

1949

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. HOWE
Minister of Trade and Commerce

Prepared in 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 will now be discontinued.

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

- A General Review of the Mining Industry
- B The Gold Mining Industry
- C The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry
- D The Nickel-Copper Mining, Smelting and Refining Industry
- E The Miscellaneous Metal Mining Industry
- F The Non-ferrous Smelting and Refining Industry
- G The Coal Mining Industry
- H The Natural Gas and Crude Petroleum Industry
- I The Asbestos Mining Industry
- J The Feldspar and Quartz Mining Industry
- K The Gypsum Industry
- L The Peat Industry
- M The Salt Industry
- N The Talc and Soapstone Industry
- O The Miscellaneous Industrial or Non-metallic Minerals Mining Industry
- P The Cement Manufacturing Industry
- Q The Clay and Clay Products Industry
- R The Lime Industry
- S The Sand and Gravel Industry
- T The Stone Industry
- U Contract Diamond Drilling in the Mining Industry
- V Appendix — Explanatory notes on the method of computing the quantities and values of the Mineral Production of Canada

THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

1949

Shipments of talc and soapstone by Canadian producers during 1949 amounted to 26,922 tons valued at \$320,793 compared with 28,780 tons worth \$309,823 in 1948. Ontario's production of 13,600 tons was mostly high-grade milled talc. Shipments from Quebec deposits included crayons, blocks and ground soapstone.

The industry employed 59 persons and distributed \$105,736 in wages and salaries. Fuel cost \$2,926 and electricity amounting to 1,567,092 k.w.h. cost \$18,900.

Imports of talc and soapstone totalled 7,269 tons valued at \$228,408. Exports of talc in 1949 amounted to 4,222 tons valued at \$54,515.

Ground talc, including soapstone and pyrophyllite, is used chiefly in the paint, roofing, paper, rubber, insecticide, and ceramic industries. It is used also in foundry facings, bleaching fillers for textiles, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, soaps and cleansers, plaster, polishes, plastics and for rice polishing. Soapstone is used extensively in the form of sawn blocks and bricks for lining the alkali recovery furnaces and kilns of kraft pulp and paper mills. It is used for brick and slab liners for fireboxes, stoves, and ovens, and for switchboard panels, laboratory benches, etc. Considerable quantities of soapstone quarry and sawing waste are ground and used as low-grade talc in the rubber, roofing, foundry, and other trades. Compact, massive talc, sawn into square pencils and slices, is an important material for steelmakers' crayons.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1947-1949

—	1947	1948	1949
Number of firms.....	5	5	3
Number of employees:			
Administrative	12	10	7
Workmen	61	48	52
Total	73	58	59
Salaries and wages:			
Salaries.....	\$ 32,766	\$ 29,035	\$ 27,559
Wages	\$ 77,761	\$ 73,052	\$ 78,177
Total	\$ 110,527	\$ 102,087	\$ 105,736
Gross selling value of products	\$ 266,377	\$ 309,823	\$ 320,793
Cost of fuel and purchased electricity.....	\$ 22,786	\$ 20,353	\$ 21,826
Cost of freight and process supplies.....	\$ 18,904	\$ 8,897	\$ 42,426

TABLE 2. Producers Shipments¹ of Talc and Soapstone, by Provinces, 1947-1949

—	1947		1948		1949	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Quebec (soapstone) ²	13,279	\$ 123,467	14,479	\$ 145,361	13,322	\$ 160,036
Ontario (talc).....	13,430	\$ 142,910	14,301	\$ 164,462	13,600	\$ 160,757
Canada.....	26,709	\$ 266,377	28,780	\$ 309,823	26,922	\$ 320,793

1. Includes both crude and milled grades.

2. Shipments by some firms usually include a considerable quantity of material classified as talc.

TABLE 3. Shipments of Talc and Soapstone by Canadian Producers, 1940-1949

Year	Tons	Value	Year	Tons	Value
		\$			\$
1940.....	23,791	\$ 229,639	1945.....	27,088	\$ 294,888
1941.....	34,632	\$ 360,809	1946.....	29,353	\$ 303,684
1942.....	29,868	\$ 310,824	1947.....	26,709	\$ 266,377
1943.....	26,163	\$ 266,685	1948.....	28,780	\$ 309,823
1944.....	32,597	\$ 357,249	1949.....	26,922	\$ 320,793

MINERAL STATISTICS FOR CANADA

TABLE 4. Imports and Exports of Talc, 1948 and 1949

	1948		1949	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
Imports:				
Talc or soapstone.....	7,798	213,438	7,269	228,408
Exports:				
Talc.....	5,052	63,474	4,222	54,515

TABLE 5. Available Statistics on the Consumption of Ground Talc and Soapstone, 1946-1948

	1946	1947	1948	(Tons)
(a) BY USES				
Paints.....	5,445	7,352	6,041	
Roofing.....	8,065	8,618	7,696	
Pulp and paper.....	2,872	1,899	3,722	
Rubber.....	2,529	3,075	3,125	
Toilet and medicinal preparations.....	1,226	1,350	1,242	
Electrical apparatus.....	259	330	658	
Clay products.....	1,107	1,214	1,127	
Soaps and cleaning preparations.....	683	524	310	
Textiles.....	250	150 ¹	150 ¹	
Insecticides.....	2,616	2,388	2,461	
Polishes.....	31	8	14	
Prepared foundry facings.....	17	39	70	
Iron foundries.....	106	106 ¹	106 ¹	
Tanneries.....	—	—	50 ¹	
Adhesives.....	45	6 ¹	4	
Linoleum.....	19	6	6	
Total.....	25,270	27,115	26,782	
(b) BY PROVINCES				
Nova Scotia.....	52	60	56	
New Brunswick.....	375	509	292	
Quebec.....	9,204	10,006	8,334	
Ontario.....	13,285	14,208	15,911	
Manitoba.....	1,548	1,503	1,493	
Saskatchewan.....	75	81	113	
Alberta.....	83	70	96	
British Columbia.....	648	678	487	
Total.....	25,270	27,115	26,782	

1. Partly estimated.

TABLE 6. Number of Workmen in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, by Months, 1948 and 1949

Month	1948			1949		
	Surface	Underground	Mill	Surface	Underground	Mill
January.....	14	8	22	5	13	23
February.....	13	10	21	6	15	21
March.....	15	14	23	5	16	25
April.....	12	12	22	6	11	27
May.....	12	7	21	15	11	25
June.....	21	8	20	27	11	34
July.....	22	9	20	27	12	33
August.....	22	9	24	26	11	23
September.....	16	11	19	24	9	22
October.....	16	12	20	24	8	24
November.....	27	11	20	25	8	23
December.....	9	12	21	6	8	21
Average.....	16	11	21	17	11	24

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TABLE 7. World Production of Talc, Pyrophyllite, and Soapstone, by Countries, 1945-1948
 (Extracted from the annual review issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines)

Country ¹	1945	1946	1947	1948
(metric tons)				
Argentina.....	2,681	3,760	2	2
Australia:				
New South Wales.....	1,776	1,665	1,181	2
South Australia.....	3,037	3,727	4,532	4,300 ³
Tasmania	155	50	—	22
Western Australia.....	—	396	216	73
Austria.....	4,470	21,600	24,500	47,300
Canada.....	24,574	26,628	24,230	23,587
Chile.....	477	640	1,065	270
China.....	2	2	2	2
Egypt.....	3,868	4,760	4,630	5,521
Finland.....	75	300	2	2
France.....	40,650	63,350	73,116	2
Germany.....	6,300	13,800	20,484 ⁴	28,214 ⁵
Greece.....	—	500	500 ³	1,800
India.....	22,872	96,220	19,857	2
Indochina, French.....	—	—	2	2
Italy.....	39,861	31,000	50,000	2
Japan	2	116,000	166,446	237,000
Kenya.....	202	490	297	322
Korea.....	2	300 ^{3,6}	700 ^{3,6}	2
Madagascar.....	—	—	2	2
Newfoundland.....	711	660	220	2
New Zealand.....	—	—	—	—
Norway.....	15,051	2	2	2
Rumania.....	2	267	2	2
Spain ⁷	19,319	30,665	31,616	14,439 ⁸
Sweden.....	7,806	8,851	9,796	2
Union of South Africa.....	1,947	3,680	2,700	4,897
United Kingdom.....	2,170	3,437	3,379	2
United States ⁹	361,406	414,641	468,190	470,596
Uruguay	1,823	1,818	2,675	2,984
Total (estimate) ¹	660,000	910,000	980,000	1,070,000

1. In addition to countries listed, talc or pyrophyllite is reported produced in Brazil, Bulgaria, French Morocco, Tanganyika and U.S.S.R., but data on production are not available; no estimate included in total.

2. Data not available; estimate included in total.

3. Estimate.

4. United States zone only.

5. Bizonal area.

6. South Korea only.

7. Includes steatite.

8. Excludes talc.

9. Talc, pyrophyllite, pinite and ground soapstone sold by producers.

Directory of Firms in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1949

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Plant or Mines
Quebec:		
Baker Mining & Milling Co. Ltd.....	4010 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal.....	Highwater
Broughton Soapstone & Quarry Co. Ltd.....	Broughton Station	Broughton
Pharo, L.C., Co. Ltd.....	1 Victoria St., Thetford Mines.....	Leeds Tp.
Industrial Talc Prospecting Syndicate.....	137 Wellington St. W., Toronto.....	Bolton Tp.
Ontario:		
Canada Talc Limited.....	Madoc	Huntingdon Tp.

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