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THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

1953

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NOTICE

The annual reports prepared by the Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics are divided into 3 volumes, as follows: Volume I — The Primary Industries, including mining, forestry and fisheries; Volume II — Manufacturing; Volume III — Merchandising and Services. The volumes are made up of parts, and the parts in turn are subdivided according to the industries which comprise.

Volume I consists of the following parts:

- Part I — Mineral Statistics
- Part II — Forestry Statistics — Operations in the Woods
- Part III — Fisheries Statistics

Part I includes the following reports which constitute the complete series on Mineral Statistics of Canada. Individual reports are issued as the information becomes available; they are arranged in a form suitable for binding.

- A — General Review of the Mining Industry, 50¢
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- C — The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 25¢
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THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

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Talc and soapstone shipped by producers in 1953 amounted to 27,408 tons valued at \$285,755 compared with 25,032 tons worth \$280,612 in 1952. Most of the production in Ontario was high-grade milled talc. The output from Quebec included crayons, blocks and ground soapstone. Operations in British Columbia were discontinued.

Employees numbered 54 persons to whom \$132,934 were paid in salaries and wages. Fuel cost \$10,476 and 1,209,695 k.w.h. of electricity were purchased for \$22,231.

Imports of talc and soapstone amounted to 11,867 tons valued at \$372,628 during 1953. Exports totalled 2,937 tons worth \$38,193.

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. Also 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, 1951-1953

		1951	1952	1953
Number of firms		4	3	3
Number of employees:				
Administrative and office		3	6	6
Workmen		47	48	48
Total		50	54	54
Salaries and wages:				
Administrative and office	\$	7,240	22,768	23,221
Workmen	\$	102,282	94,376	109,713
Total	\$	109,522	117,144	132,934
Gross value of products, f.o.b. quarries	\$	305,338	303,118	308,497
Cost of fuel and purchased electricity at works	\$	25,474	24,430	32,707
Cost of freight, process supplies and containers	\$	37,481	49,764	63,345

TABLE 2. Producers' Shipments¹ of Talc and Soapstone, by Provinces, 1951-1953

Province	1951		1952		1953	
	Quantity	Selling value f.o.b. shipping points	Quantity	Selling value f.o.b. shipping points	Quantity	Selling value f.o.b. shipping points
	tons	\$	tons	\$	tons	\$
Quebec (soapstone) ²	11,148	123,084	12,578	130,901	14,098	160,546
Ontario (talc) and British Columbia ³	13,698	160,540	12,454	149,711	13,310	125,209
Canada	24,846	283,624	25,032	280,612	27,408	285,755

1. Includes both crude and milled grades.

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

3. Includes pyrophyllite.

TABLE 3. Shipments of Talc and Soapstone by Canadian Producers, 1944-1953

Year	Tons	Value	Year	Tons	Value
		\$			\$
1944	32,597	357,249	1949	26,922	320,793
1945	27,088	294,888	1950	32,604	364,995
1946	29,353	303,684	1951	24,846	283,624
1947	26,709	266,377	1952	25,032	280,612
1948	28,780	309,823	1953	27,408	285,755

TABLE 4. Imports and Exports of Talc, 1951-1953

	1951		1952		1953	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Imports:		\$		\$		\$
Talc or soapstone	9,283	306,277	8,749	276,496	11,867	372,628
Exports:						
Talc	3,743	48,857	3,435	44,925	2,937	38,193

TABLE 5. Available Statistics on the Consumption of Ground Talc and Soapstone, 1949-1952

	1949	1950	1951	1952
	Tons			
By uses:				
Paints	5,378	9,023	6,921	7,264
Roofing	8,595	9,739	8,861	8,255
Pulp and paper	3,827	1,634	1,974	2,568
Rubber	3,002	3,290	1,684	1,617
Toilet and medicinal preparations	864	861	778	807
Electrical apparatus	815	475	641	427
Clay products	882	716	894	1,164
Soaps and cleaning preparations	215	159	192	206
Textiles and linoleum	489	571	520	533
Insecticides and miscellaneous chemicals	4,674	6,006	6,419	7,638
Polishes and dressings	—	25	12	16
Miscellaneous non-metallic mineral products	846	21	97	3,157
Iron foundries	110	110	—	—
Tanneries	50	50	8	20
Asbestos	—	—	—	1
Coal tar distillation	—	98	305	133
Total accounted for	29,747	32,778	29,306	33,806
By provinces:				
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland	151	127	182	204
New Brunswick	381	421	414	459
Quebec	8,433	8,735	9,077	9,455
Ontario	18,511	19,562	15,174	19,336
Manitoba	1,729	3,184	3,040	2,762
Saskatchewan	60	24	—	29
Alberta	66	103	616	862
British Columbia	416	622	803	699
Total	29,747	32,778	29,306	33,806

TABLE 6. Number of Workmen in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, by Months, 1952 and 1953

Month	1952				1953			
	Surface	Under-ground	Mill	Total	Surface	Under-ground	Mill	Total
Number								
January	6	13	18	37	8	16	24	48
February	7	12	19	38	8	12	21	41
March	7	12	20	49	8	18	24	50
April.....	10	14	22	46	9	23	26	58
May	16	16	19	51	13	22	25	60
June	18	13	18	49	13	20	27	60
July	16	16	22	54	13	17	25	55
August	15	14	22	51	8	12	23	43
September	14	11	24	49	10	10	23	43
October	15	12	23	50	12	8	19	39
November.....	22	9	21	52	6	12	19	37
December.....	21	10	19	50	6	12	19	37
Average	14	13	21	48	10	15	23	48
Total man-hours worked								
					1951	1952	1953	
Administrative and office					4,758	13,241	13,460	
Workmen					112,091	97,238	125,453	
Total					116,849	110,479	138,913	

TABLE 7. Fuel and Electricity Used in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1953

Kind	Quantity	Cost at plant	
		\$	
Bituminous coal (a) From Canadian mines	— short tons	—	—
(b) Imported	— short tons	—	—
Sub-bituminous coal (from Alberta mines only)	— short tons	—	—
Anthracite coal	— short tons	—	—
Lignite coal	— short tons	—	—
Coke (for fuel only)	— short tons	—	—
Gasoline, (include gasoline used in cars and trucks)	21,507 Imp. gals.	8,116	
Kerosene or coal oil	10 Imp. gals.	3	
Fuel oil (do not include lubricating oil)	5,822 Imp. gals.	1,833	
Wood (cords of 128 cubic feet of piled wood)	104 cords	524	
Gas (a) Liquefied petroleum gases (propane, etc.)	— M cu. ft.	—	
(b) Other manufactured gas	— M cu. ft.	—	
(c) Natural gas	— M cu. ft.	—	
Other fuel (state kind and quantity)	— —	—	
Electricity purchased for power and lighting (include service charge in cost)	1,209,695 k.w.h.	22,231	
Electricity purchased for other purposes (specify) (service charge in cost)	— k.w.h.	—	
Total (cost only)	— —	32,707	
Electricity generated (a) For own use	— k.w.h.	—	
(b) For sale	— k.w.h.	—	

TABLE 8. Power Equipment (including stand-by or emergency equipment)

Description	Ordinarily in use		In reserve or idle	
	Number of units	Total h.p. (according to manufacturer's rating)	Number of units	Total h.p. (according to manufacturer's rating)
1. Steam engines	—	—	—	—
2. Steam turbines	—	—	—	—
3. Diesel engines	2	137	—	—
4. Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than Diesel engines ..	—	—	1	90
5. Hydraulic turbines or water-wheels	—	—	—	—
6. Electric motors—(except those reported under item 10): (a) Operated by purchased power	33	550	4	45
7. Total (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6a)	35	687	5	135
8. (b) Operated by power generated by (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5)	—	—	—	—
9. Stationary boilers for power purposes only	—	—	—	—
10. Motor-generator sets	—	—	—	—

TABLE 9. World Production of Talc, Pyrophyllite, and Soapstone, by Countries, 1948-1952
(Extracted from the annual review issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines)

Country ¹	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
metric tons ²					
North America:					
Canada (shipments)	26,109	24,423	29,578	22,540	23,504
United States	479,484 ³	416,709	559,440	581,009	545,132
South America:					
Argentina ⁴	5	5	5	15,000	16,000
Brazil	9,881	17,782	12,632	11,304	5
Chile	270	110	142	25	5
Uruguay	2,984	660	681	959	679
Europe:					
Austria	47,510	56,050	58,681	72,784	50,822
Finland	237	5	4,000	—	—
France	91,520	100,055	95,500	120,000	95,400
Germany, West	28,214	30,968	13,314	19,500	10,653
Greece	1,800	1,700	2,500	2,623	1,200
Italy	70,430	61,462	67,616	75,827	80,336
Norway	57,226	53,993	64,099	60,000	60,000 ⁴
Portugal	21	3	2	1	5
Spain ⁶	29,984	38,208	25,131	36,034	27,850
Sweden	11,703	11,293	13,843	13,332	5
United Kingdom	4,000	2,616	1,727	2,540	5

TABLE 9. World Production of Talc, Pyrophyllite, and Soapstone, by Countries, 1948-1952 — Concluded
 (Extracted from the annual review issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines)

Country ¹	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
metric tons ²					
Asia:					
Afghanistan	—	100	75	840	800
India	18,386	21,535	25,894	32,314	5
Japan	243,737	262,433	283,566	400,626	318,386
Korea, Republic of	72	2,773	5	3,208	3,964
Taiwan (Formosa)	—	76	700	2,057	1,093
Africa:					
Egypt	5,521	5,573	3,731	3,754	4,903
Kenya	322	590	334	337	235
Union of South Africa	4,897	5,386	3,978	5,663	8,674
Australia	6,199	8,717	9,851	13,359	7,772
Total (estimate)	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,425,000	1,650,000	1,475,000

1. In addition to countries listed, talc or pyrophyllite is reported in China, Rumania, and U.S.S.R., but data on production are not available; estimates have been included in total.
 2. This table incorporates a number of revisions of data published in previous talc chapters.
 3. Includes some pinite.
 4. Estimate.
 5. Data not available; estimate included in total.
 6. Includes tonnages of steatite as follows: 1948, 18,627 tons; 1949, 20,880 tons; 1950, 13,702 tons; 1951, 22,628 tons; 1952, 18,412 tons.

Directory of Firms in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1953

Name of firm	Head office address	Location of plant or mine
Quebec:		
Baker Talc Limited	215 St. James St. W., Montreal	Highwater
Broughton Soapstone & Quarry Co. Ltd.	Broughton Station	Broughton
Ontario:		
Canada Talc Industries Ltd.	Madoc	Huntingdon Twp.
British Columbia:		
Mountain Minerals Ltd.	Box 273, Lethbridge, Alberta	Armstrong, Semlin

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