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

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IRON OXIDES (OCHRE) - 1942

Production (producers' sales) in Canada of iron oxides and ochres, crude and refined, during 1942 totalled 9,304 short tons valued at $151,653 compared with 10,045 short tons worth $142,069 in 1941. Of the 1942 output, 8,866 short tons valued at $147,049 came from properties in the province of Quebec and the balance of 438 tons at $4,604 represented crude material shipped from deposits located in British Columbia.

Production during 1942 in the province of Quebec was reported by the Sherwin-Williams Co. Ltd., operating deposits at Red Mill, Champlain County; Chas. D. Girardin at Almaville, Laviolette County and Les Forges, St. Maurice County; Thos. H. Argall at Pointe du Lac, St. Maurice County, and Maurice Oxide Co. at Ste. Adelphe, Champlain County. Refined or calcined products were manufactured and shipped by the Sherwin-Williams Co. Ltd., whereas the other operators shipped the mineral in the crude state. In British Columbia, shipments of crude oxides were made by J. G. Davidson from deposits located at Alta Lake.

The industry provided employment for 47 employees and distributed $44,238 in salaries and wages. Most of the deposits were operated from June to September with the exception of one which was worked from April 6 to December 20.

The Bureau of Mines, Ottawa, reports that other deposits could be worked in Quebec and Ontario, if the demand warranted their development. In Nova Scotia, beds of ochre and umber were operated to a small extent in the past. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, several deposits of ochre are known, some having commercial possibilities, but, as they are difficult of access and as the market is limited, they have had little development. Large deposits near Grand Rapids and Cedar Lake in northern Manitoba remain undeveloped for similar reasons.

Ochreous iron oxide, which is sold uncalcined and used chiefly in the purification of illuminating gas, comprises the bulk of the minerals produced in Canada under this category. The calcined form of ochreous iron oxide is used in the manufacture of paints. A smaller quantity of natural iron oxides associated with clay-like materials in the form of umbers and siennas is produced in the raw and in the calcined state for use as pigments in paints.

The price in New York of iron oxide, standard No. 1 quality, Spanish red, remained normally at 3 to 5 cents per pound throughout 1941. The average Canadian

price of red iron oxide in 1942 as given by Canadian Chemistry and Process Industries was 2 to 7 cents a pound.

Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE NATURAL IRON OXIDES INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1940-1942

		1940	1941	1942
Number of firms		7(b)	4(a)	5(d)
Capital employed	$	195,263	189,877	194,541
Number of employees - On salaries		5(c)	6(c)	6(c)
On wages		41	37	41
Total		46	43	47
Salaries and wages - Salaries	$	7,896	8,571	9,174
Wages	$	30,946	33,581	35,114
Total	$	38,842	42,152	44,288
Selling value of products (gross)	$	111,874	142,069	151,653
Cost of fuel and purchased electricity	$	17,598	15,697	20,835
Cost of process supplies	$	435	5,697	5,780
Selling value of products (net)	$	93,841	120,675	125,038

(a) Three producing in Quebec and one in British Columbia.
(b) Five producing in Quebec and two in British Columbia.
(c) One female.
(d) Four producing in Quebec and one in British Columbia.
(e) Two females.

Table 2 - WAGE-EARNERS(x) EMPLOYED, BY MONTHS, 1941 and 1942

Months	Number				Months	Number			
	1941		1942			1941		1942	
	Mine	Mill	Mine	Mill		Mine	Mill	Mine	Mill
January	...	25	2	24	July	31	18	30	23
February	...	26	...	29	August	31	20	25	29
March	...	25	...	33	September	28	20	23	28
April	...	25	6	28	October	15	22	14	24
May	8	28	8	27	November	17	20	10	27
June	34	17	31	25	December	8	22	10	26

(x) No underground work and no female wage-earners.

Table 3 - WAGE-EARNERS WORKING THE NUMBER OF HOURS SPECIFIED DURING ONE WEEK IN MONTH OF HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT, 1942

		Number of employees
48 hours		35
49-50 hours		...
56-64 hours		13
Grand total number of employees in week specified		48
Total wages paid in week specified	$	374

Table 4 - TOTAL FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1941 and 1942

Kind	Unit of measure	1941 Quantity	1941 Value	1942 Quantity	1942 Value
			$		$
Bituminous coal	short ton	...	...	22	214
Anthracite coal	short ton	11	138	8	128
Coke	short ton	4	55	3	36
Fuel oil	Imp. gal.	400	47	1,258	252
Gasoline	Imp. gal.	740	239	873	277
Kerosene	Imp. gal.	50	11	129	24
Wood	cords	3,000	12,000	3,358	16,790
Electricity purchased	K. W. H.	200,000	3,207	200,000	3,114
TOTAL COST	...	...	15,697	...	20,835

Table 5 - PRODUCTION (SALES) IN CANADA OF IRON OXIDES, 1941 and 1942

	1941 Quantity	1941 Value	1942 Quantity	1942 Value
		$		$
Quebec (x)	9,770	139,185	8,866	147,049
British Columbia	275	2,884	438	4,604
TOTAL	10,045	142,069	9,304	151,653

(x) Includes crude and refined grades.

Table 6 - PRODUCTION OF IRON OXIDES IN CANADA, 1927-1942

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	Short tons	$		Short tons	$
1927	6,125	103,536	1935	5,516	77,075
1928	5,414	111,198	1936	5,854	89,830
1929	6,518	115,932	1937	6,197	83,040
1930	6,596	83,873	1938	5,821	71,769
1931	5,520	49,205	1939	6,015	88,418
1932	5,240	46,161	1940	9,979	111,874
1933	4,357	53,450	1941	10,045	142,069
1934	4,959	66,166	1942	9,304	151,653

The production of iron oxides in Canada since the first recording of statistics in 1886 to the end of 1942 totalled 316,713 short tons valued at $3,273,560.

Table 7 - CONSUMPTION OF IRON OXIDES IN SPECIFIED CANADIAN INDUSTRIES, 1932-1941

Year	Coke and gas		Paints, pigments and varnishes		Paints, pigments and varnishes	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Tons (a)	$	Tons (b)	$	Tons (c)	$
1932	3,736	35,284	701	52,323	512	48,047
1933	2,734	22,076	504	43,826	491	43,671
1934	3,757	47,010	580	53,539	544	53,236
1935	3,701	46,204	800	77,758	564	56,219
1936	(d)	41,291	733	67,850	634	65,819
1937	(d)	40,414	890	81,709	566	49,082
1938	(d)	41,013	822	70,736	487	41,062
1939	(d)	35,417	882	80,274	523	46,134
1940	5,417	42,431	1,146	112,826	575	62,636
1941	5,133	36,480	1,602	137,836	463	58,385

(a) Oxide and purifying materials.
(b) Iron oxide pigments.
(c) Ochres, siennas and umbers.
(d) Data not available.

NOTE: Complete data for 1942 not yet available.

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