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Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Statistics
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THE IRON OXIDES (OCHRE) INDUSTRY, 1946

Sales by Canadian producers of ochreous iron oxides during 1946 totalled 12,695 tons valued at \$152,268 compared with 10,314 tons worth \$172,053 in 1945. These figures include the mineral in both the crude and refined states. Production from Quebec amounted to 12,268 tons worth \$146,401 and the remainder came from a deposit in British Columbia.

There were 60 persons employed by the 5 firms which operated in 1946, and the payrolls for the year amounted to \$77,727. Fuel and electricity cost \$16,656 and the cost of process supplies was \$4,200. Operations in the industry are seasonal, starting the latter part of April and closing in December.

The following information relating to ochreous oxides in Canada is taken from a report prepared by the Bureau of Mines, Ottawa:

"Ochreous iron oxide, which is sold uncalcined and is used chiefly in the purification of illuminating gas, comprises the bulk of the minerals produced 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 Canadian iron oxide industry is small and the quantity produced shows little change from year to year. Present producing localities have met the requirements of the domestic pigment trade for the cheaper grades for many years.

"The production for some time past has come mostly from deposits near Trois Rivières, Quebec, but there are other deposits in different parts of Canada that could be operated were the demand sufficient to warrant doing so.

"In the past, deposits in Quebec were operated near Ste. Anne de Beaupre, Montmorency county; in Lynch township, Labelle county; and at St. Raymond, Portneuf county.

"In British Columbia, there has been a small production since 1923 of iron oxide from Alta Lake, New Westminster district, and from oxide beds in the Windermere district. The oxide is used chiefly for gas purification.

"The Canadian price of red iron oxide, f.o.b. Toronto or Montreal, as given by Canadian Chemistry and Process Industries, remained at 2 to 7 cents a pound throughout 1946, while yellow, brown and black iron oxides remained between 5 and 12 cents a pound."

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

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Table 1 - PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE NATURAL IRON OXIDES INDUSTRY IN CANADA,
1944-1946

	1944	1945	1946
Number of firms	6(*)	5(*)	5(*)
Number of employees: Administration..	8	8	9
Workmen	47	43	51
Total	55	51	60
Salaries and wages: Salaries	\$ 11,416	\$ 13,382	\$ 15,748
Wages	\$ 38,460	\$ 44,629	\$ 61,979
Total	\$ 49,876	\$ 58,011	\$ 77,727
Selling value of products (gross)	\$ 150,250	\$ 172,053	\$ 152,268
Cost of fuel and purchased electricity	\$ 19,115	\$ 15,851	\$ 16,656
Cost of process supplies	\$ 6,700	\$ 5,900	\$ 4,200
Freight	\$ 11,670	\$ 13,650	\$ 15,161
Selling value of products (net)	\$ 112,765	\$ 136,652	\$ 116,251

(*) One producer in British Columbia, remainder in Quebec.

Table 2 - PRODUCTION OF IRON OXIDES, BY PROVINCES, 1945 and 1946

	1945		1946	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
		\$		\$
Quebec (*)	9,917	170,068	12,268	146,401
British Columbia	397	1,985	427	5,867
TOTAL	10,314	172,053	12,695	152,268

(*) Includes crude and refined grades.

Table 3 - PRODUCTION OF NATURAL IRON OXIDES IN CANADA, 1927-1946

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	Short tons	\$		Short tons	\$
1927	6,125	103,536	1937	6,197	83,640
1928	5,414	111,198	1938	5,321	71,769
1929	6,518	115,932	1939	6,015	88,418
1930	6,596	83,873	1940	9,979	111,874
1931	5,520	49,205	1941	10,045	142,069
1932	5,240	46,161	1942	9,304	151,653
1933	4,357	53,450	1943	8,401	135,893
1934	4,959	66,166	1944	8,599	150,250
1935	5,516	77,075	1945	10,314	172,053
1936	5,854	69,630	1946	12,695	152,268

Production of iron oxides in Canada since 1886 to the end of 1945 amounted to 356,722 tons valued at \$3,884,024.

Table 4 - IMPORTS INTO CANADA AND EXPORTS OF IRON OXIDES, 1945 and 1946

	1945		1946	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
<u>Imports -</u>				
Ochres, ochrey earths, siennas and umbers	1,900	97,164	1,437	81,929
Oxides, fireproofs, rough stuff, fillers and colours, dry, n.o.p.	3,221	1,238,768	3,647	1,709,726
<u>Exports -</u>				
Pigments, n.o.p. (exclusive of white lead)	6,078	1,012,524	6,754	1,394,354
Iron oxides	2,447	96,490	4,366	199,619

Table 5 - CONSUMPTION OF IRON OXIDES IN SPECIFIED CANADIAN INDUSTRIES, 1938-1946

Year	Coke and Gas		Paints and Varnishes			
	Quantity	Value	Iron oxide pigments		Ochres, siennas and umbers	
	Tons (a)	\$	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			Tons	\$	Tons	\$
1938	(b)	41,013	822	70,736	487	41,062
1939	(b)	35,417	882	80,274	523	46,134
1940	5,417	42,491	1,146	112,826	575	62,636
1941	5,133	36,480	1,602	187,836	464	58,385
1942	4,600	33,790	2,334	253,383	412	52,155
1943	6,568	45,946	2,321	222,858	440	68,425
1944	9,194	71,545	2,614	242,234	648	69,092
1945	7,357	75,441	2,799	310,434	671	71,231
1946	9,385	69,899	2,564	288,190	543	75,769

(a) Oxide and purifying materials.

(b) Data not available.

Table 6 - NUMBER OF WORKMEN (*), BY MONTHS, 1945 and 1946

Month	1945		1946		Month	1945		1946	
	Mine	Mill	Mine	Mill		Mine	Mill	Mine	Mill
	(Number)					(Number)			
January..	...	28	3	30	July	26	24	38	40
February.	...	27	...	27	August ..	26	29	33	42
March ...	...	27	...	30	September	27	31	16	38
April ...	9	31	14	38	October..	20	32	17	35
May	25	25	13	39	November.	6	34	16	28
June	23	27	30	39	December.	1	38	12	28

(*) No underground work.



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Table 7 - FUEL AND ELECTRICITY USED, 1945 and 1946

Kind	Unit of measure	1945		1946	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
			\$		\$
Bituminous coal -					
Imported	short ton	807	8,849	800	9,400
Anthracite coal -					
From United States	short ton	22	319	25	375
Gasoline (including gasoline used in cars and trucks)	Imp.gal.	1,920	600	3,420	1,043
Kerosene or coal oil	Imp.gal.	100	20	100	20
Fuel oil and Diesel oil	Imp.gal.	930	110	1,500	180
Wood (cords of 128 cubic feet of piled wood)	cord	414	2,900	225	2,475
Electricity purchased for power and lighting (including service charge)	K.W.H.	210,408	3,053	226,064	3,163
TOTAL .....	...	...	15,851	...	16,656

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS IN THE IRON OXIDE MINING INDUSTRY, 1946

Name of Firm	Head Office Address	Location of Plant or Mine
<u>Quebec -</u>		
Argall, Mrs. Thomas H.	Pointe du Lac	Pointe du Lac
Girardin, Chas. D.	Yamachiche	Almaville en Haut
Lafreniere, Philias	St. Louis de France	St. Louis de France
The Sherwin-Williams Co. of Canada Ltd. (*)	2875 Centre St., Montreal	Red Mill, Champlain Co.
Vennes, Wm.	90 6eme Ave., Grand'Mere	St. Adelphe
<u>British Columbia -</u>		
Scott, F. B.	Squamish	Alta Lake

(*) Produces refined grades.