CONSIDERABLE OUTPUT OF MICA IN CANADA

Report shows Production mostly comes from Two Fields

The total shipments of mica by mine operators in 1917 were 1,166 tons valued at $358,851, or an average of $307.76, as compared with shipments in 1916 of 1,208 tons, valued at $255,239, or an average of $211.29 per ton. By provinces the production was from Quebec, 744 tons valued at $286,730, or an average of $370.45 per ton; Ontario, 392 tons valued at $72,121, or an average of $183.98 per ton.

The statistics as to the value of production should be considered with due regard to the conditions under which the industry is conducted. The condition in which mica is shipped from the mines varies greatly; one operator may ship his output cleaned and trimmed, while the output of another is in a rough, cobbed state, with consequent noteworthy difference in prices realized. And further companies operating trimming shops as well as mines and place only nominal value on shipments from mines, to trimming shops.

MOSTLY MINED NEAR OTTAWA.

Most of the various minerals of the mica group have been found in Canada. Lepidolite occurrences have been noted in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Quebec; biotite occurrences in Ontario and Quebec; muscovite occurrences in British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec; and phlogopite occurrences in Baffinland, Ontario, and Quebec. Only the phlogopite (or amber mica) occurrences of Ontario and Quebec have proven to be of economic interest. These have been the subject of special investigation by the Mines Branch, Ottawa. The muscovite occurrences at Tête Jaune Cache, and Big Bend in British Columbia have also been specially investigated by the Mines Branch, but as yet they have made no production.

Canada's production of mica has come exclusively from two fields; one, in the province of Quebec, a short distance to the north of the city of Ottawa, and the other embracing parts of the counties of Lanark, Leeds, and Frontenac, in the Province of Ontario. The city of Ottawa (and the adjacent city of Hull), lying between these two fields is the centre to which almost all the production of these various mines and numerous small prospects is shipped for trimming, grading and marketing. In preparation for the market a considerable proportion of the tonnage received is cobbed out and the mica split, trimmed, and otherwise manufactured, with the result that the exports, though of smaller tonnage than the shipments from the mines, usually exceed them in value.

According to Customs records the exports of mica in 1917 were 636 tons valued at $451,345. In 1916 the total exports were 654 tons, valued at $379,720, of which 119 tons valued at $81,913 were exported to Great Britain; 533 tons valued at $296,221 to the United States; and 2 tons valued at $1,586 to other countries.

Large Wool Shipments.

Five carloads wool, weighing more than 120,000 pounds, have been shipped from Edmonton during the past three weeks by Alberta Provincial Sheep Breeders' Association. Expected that wool shipments from Edmonton will reach 145,000 pounds, according to information received by the Department of Immigration and Colonization.

Use 34 Different Woods.

A total of thirty-four different kinds of wood are reported as having been used by the wood-using industries of Ontario, according to a bulletin issued by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior.

PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF CREAMERY BUTTER BY PROVINCES

(From the Report on Dairy Factories, in the Census of Industry Series, prepared and issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.)

A—Creameries.

Province.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	$		$
Prince Edward Island	539,516	613,880	513,520	151,065	184,164	205,368
Nova Scotia	1,240,483	1,586,679	1,746,662	346,011	505,000	711,652
New Brunswick	729,863	664,751	498,173	217,937	221,162	206,564
Quebec	28,121,235	29,488,801	28,726,628	8,395,109	9,929,165	11,404,337
Ontario	25,022,559	23,417,377	26,288,847	7,130,403	7,637,786	10,241,545
Manitoba	5,839,667	6,574,510	7,050,921	1,693,503	2,038,109	2,595,472
Saskatchewan	3,811,014	4,310,669	4,220,758	1,055,000	1,338,180	1,575,965
Alberta	3,221,964	4,275,760	4,998,096	891,647	1,323,152	1,887,262
British Columbia	1,204,598	1,243,292	1,201,640	451,724	497,316	555,747
Canada	**69,730,899**	**72,175,719**	**75,245,249**	**20,332,399**	**23,674,044**	**29,383,912**

C—Combined Factories.

Prince Edward Island	–	–	41,345	–	–	16,762
Nova Scotia	–	–	–	–	–	–
New Brunswick	46,553	45,181	67,526	13,901	15,031	27,122
Quebec	8,509,256	4,834,474	5,665,934	2,504,701	1,586,983	2,284,973
Ontario	1,391,561	1,262,732	1,694,509	404,250	394,201	664,523
Manitoba	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saskatchewan	–	–	–	–	–	–
Alberta	4,322,134	4,246,024	3,945,875	1,129,801	1,296,096	1,527,279
British Columbia	–	–	93,097	–	–	38,876
Canada	**14,269,554**	**10,388,411**	**11,508,286**	**4,052,653**	**3,292,311**	**4,559,535**

D—Condensed Milk Factories.

Canada, (Ontario and P.E.I.)	–	–	773,402	–	–	330,771

E—All Factories.

Prince Edward Island	539,516	613,880	597,271	151,065	184,164	239,940
Nova Scotia	1,240,483	1,586,679	1,746,662	346,011	505,000	711,652
New Brunswick	776,416	709,932	565,699	231,838	236,193	233,686
Quebec	36,621,491	34,323,275	34,392,562	10,899,810	11,516,148	13,689,310
Ontario	26,414,120	24,680,109	28,714,352	7,534,653	8,031,997	11,219,029
Manitoba	5,839,667	6,574,510	7,050,921	1,693,503	2,038,109	2,595,472
Saskatchewan	3,811,014	4,310,669	4,220,758	1,055,000	1,338,180	1,575,965
Alberta	7,544,148	8,521,784	8,943,971	2,021,448	2,619,248	3,414,541
British Columbia	1,204,598	1,243,292	1,294,743	451,724	497,316	594,623
Canada	**83,991,453**	**82,564,130**	**87,526,939**	**24,385,052**	**26,966,355**	**34,274,218**

STATISTICS ON BREAD PRODUCTION AND COST

Bakers' Reports for Month of June Show Slight Increase

The Cost of Living Commissioner presents the following report on bread production for the month of June, to the Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labour, remarking as follows:—

The consumption of bread does not show any marked increase in general, though Ottawa reports an increased output, probably accounted for by the greater number of visitors to the capital. Labour troubles appear to have caused a shrinkage of nearly 20 per cent in the output of Winnipeg. Montreal and Toronto show slight decreases in quantity of bread manufactured.

From all the facts before me, I conclude that the high cost of other commodities has not led our people to substitute bread at the present prices for other lines of food. I believe I am justified in saying that our leading bakers are turning out a quality of bread not surpassed by any; palatable, nutritious, and satisfactory.

The average cost of flour used figures out the small increase of 3 cents per barrel, accounted for practically by the quality of the grade used, as flour prices have been stationary.

A comparison of the costs in May and June shows in twelve districts fractional increases, while eleven work out decreases, and four districts are without change. In the total average for the Dominion there is an increase in the cost of about one-eighth of one cent per pound.

An analysis of the cost per barrel of flour, producing 265 pounds of bread, shows as follows:—

	May.	June.
Flour	$10.76	$10.79
Ingredients	1.46	1.46
Baking	1.81	1.89
Delivery	2.80	2.88
Management and fixed	1.41	1.59
Total	$18.24	$18.61

From this I note the baking cost has increased 8 cents per barrel, delivery 8 cents, while management and overhead charges show an increase of 18 cents per barrel, and the question is: Have these latter charges been unduly raised?

Output Shows Increase.

The annual report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia shows that mineral production for 1918 was $41,782,474, as compared with $37,010,392 in 1917, an increase of $4,782,082. Of this $3,986,312 accounted for by increased coal production. Gold receipts Vancouver Assay Office for July amounted to $610,573, compared with $356,904 during corresponding period last year, as reported by the Winnipeg office of the Department of Immigration and Colonization.

Oxalic Acid from Wood Waste.

Finely ground wood fused with caustic soda forms sodium oxalate from which oxalic acid may easily be produced. The manufacture of this product may prove profitable, though the restricted market would be against it. A very little wood used in this way would produce all the oxalic acid used in the country. Almost any species of wood is suitable, according to a circular issued by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior.

War Savings Stamps not only save money but earn it.