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SUMMARY OF CANAL STATISTICS
FOR DECEMBER AND
SEASON OF NAVIGATION

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Freight traffic on Canadian canal systems during 1951 established a new modern record at some 29,318,000 tons compared with the previous high of 27,439,076 registered for 1950. The increase in the preliminary total was thus 1,879,060 tons or 6.9 p.c. Tonnage had averaged 24,717,666 tons per annum over the preceding ten years, indicating that 1951 volume was well above this total - in fact up over 18.6 p.c. Navigation opened at the Canadian Sault a week later on April 30th compared with April 23rd in 1950 and closed on December 13th two days earlier than in the preceding year. The American locks were in service from April 2nd to December 14th. The Welland opened March 29th and closed the same day as in 1950, namely, December 20th, while the St. Lawrence Canals were open from April 8th to December 9th. The season was 3 days shorter than in 1950. Only the St. Peter's Canal among the smaller units operated in December. A feature of the shipping year was the necessity of naming on August 30th a Transport Controller to allocate tonnage for the movement of bulk commodities in view of the heavy western crop.

Sault Ste. Marie Canals - Canadian and United States Locks: December traffic amounted to 2,082,186 tons in the abbreviated period, an increase of 63,127 tons over the similar days of 1950. The Canadian lock reported 94,514 tons against 85,727 tons one year earlier. Eastbound traffic rose from 1,945,289 to 2,021,224 tons, with good gains in wheat, scrap iron and crude oil at 82,901 tons compared with none during the previous December. Other grains and iron ore were lighter. Westbound volume during the open days of December declined to 60,962 from 75,770 tons a year previously with coal and oil and gasoline reduced. Vessel passages numbered 495 in both directions against 427.

The season of navigation produced an impressive peacetime record of 120,082,328 tons compared with 106,195,738 tons during 1950 for an advance of 13,886,590 tons or 13 p.c. The Canadian canal with 2,805,392 tons was up 503,629 tons. The current grand total exceeds 1949 with 96,187,769 tons and approaches the wartime high of 120,200,814 tons recorded during 1942 when iron ore shipments were heavier. A welcome addition to the interlake movement in 1951 was the 2,021,201 tons of western Canadian crude oil for Ontario refineries. This new traffic will likely increase as the tanker fleet is augmented. Wheat, eastbound, at 9,354,058 was up from 5,704,496 tons in 1950. Other noteworthy gains were shown in pulpwood, lumber, flour, other grains, iron ore at 90,092,747 tons against 79,976,650 tons, and in scrap iron and other freight. The westbound total was off from 16,952,707 tons to 14,339,021 tons as coal shipments were considerably lighter. However, salt, stone and oil and gasoline registered improvement into Lake Superior.

The number of vessels cleared was 24,738 against 21,004 in 1950 and 21,819 in 1949 with the Canadian lock showing 4,278 vessel passages compared to 3,666 in 1950. Passenger business was much brighter last season with 92,168 reported versus 63,366 passengers in 1950, with the great majority passing through the Canadian side.

Welland Ship Canal: Traffic during the open days of December amounted to 504,138 tons, down 147,872 tons from the similar 20 days of 1950 but above the 493,527 tons for the same month of 1949. The drop in soft coal from 209,131 to 60,136 tons accounted for most of the decrease from 1950 and offset gains in wheat and petroleum. Wheat moved up from 31,494 to 66,619 tons. Vessel passages eased from 335 to 304.

Preliminary tabulations on the season of navigation show 16,191,026 tons of freight at the Welland against a revised 14,740,573 in 1950 and 13,692,209 tons in 1949. The advance over the 1950 season was thus 1,450,453 tons or 9.8 p.c. Commodities posting appreciable gains included barley, up from 290,991 to 558,596 tons, rye, wheat totalling 2,808,925 tons, up 509,645 tons, and other grains. Gasoline shipments rose from 854,251 to 1,125,608 tons and petroleum and other oils 274,752 tons to 1,631,382. Salt, newsprint paper, pulpwood, iron ore at 1,981,239 tons against 1,478,056 tons, other ores and sand and gravel joined in the advance. The principal recessions were reported in pig iron, sugar, woodpulp, hard coal, coke, and soft coal which dropped 196,877 tons to 4,800,330 tons. Miscellaneous freight was nearly maintained at 663,961 tons. Vessel passages rose from 7,436 to 8,122 while passenger traffic was considerably reduced.

St. Lawrence Canals: December freight volume at 43,261 tons was down from 75,101 tons one year earlier with 49 vessels cleared against 72 one year earlier when the operating period was 5 days longer. The drop in soft coal from 25,344 to 2,530 tons and much lighter shipments of miscellaneous freight and wheat caused the decline. Barley, flour, gasoline and pulpwood, as well as iron ore, showed gains.

The season of navigation which was 3 days shorter produced a total of 9,916,857 tons, down slightly from the 9,969,271 tons reported for 1950 which had been bolstered by heavy corn, flaxseed, iron and steel and iron ore shipments. The 1949 traffic amounted to 7,960,194 tons.

Gains were registered in the movement of barley up 303,745 tons to 471,069, and in rye and other grains. Gasoline totalled 1,108,151 tons against 917,482 tons. The new products pipeline planned from Sarnia to Montreal may affect this traffic downward through the Welland and St. Lawrence. Pulpwood gained 92,840 tons over 1950 to total 761,314 tons. Soft coal at 2,365,963 tons advanced 87,740 tons while salt, other ores, sand and gravel and other freight improved.

Declines were posted in corn off 341,112 tons to 157,836 and in oats, flaxseed, wheat down 44,397 tons to 1,847,430. Petroleum oils moved down from 1,165,897 to 1,048,325 tons, while pig iron, iron and steel, sugar, autos, paper, woodpulp, hard coal, coke and iron ore were lighter.

Passenger service was nil for the first season in the canal's history, compared with 28 in 1950 and 13,328 in 1949. Vessel passages totalled 9,630 or 517 fewer than during 1950.

The volume of freight passing through the smaller canals was reduced somewhat from 1950 with the Ottawa showing the largest decline, due in part to the closing of oil tank facilities at Hull, P.Q., as a contribution to beautification of the Capital area. The Richelieu and Trent traffic was lighter while the Murray, St. Peter's and St. Andrew's registered gains. The Rideau Canals reported 40 more vessels with freight tonnage maintained at 1950 levels. Good gains were shown in the movement of pleasure craft, particularly on the Rideau.

Sault Ste. Marie Canal

D E C E M B E R

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EAST BOUND

		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
Pulpwood	Tons	2,820	2,820	-	-
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	-	-	60	60
Wheat	"	31,183	806,999	22,334	630,635
Other Grain	"	24,884	157,817	33,267	221,332
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	943,553	-	1,070,404
Scrap Iron	"	-	12,695	-	6,888
Structural Steel	"	7,005	7,005	-	5,617
Stone	"	-	-	-	-
Crude Oil	"	5,700	82,901	-	-
Other Freight	"	7,434	7,434	10,353	10,353
Total	"	79,026	2,021,224	66,014	1,945,289
Passengers	No.	2	8	-	14

WEST BOUND

Coal, soft	Tons	2,800	26,985	3,200	35,643
Coal, hard	"	-	-	-	-
Coke	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	-	-	-
Structural Steel	"	-	-	-	-
Salt	"	-	-	32	32
Oil and Gasoline	"	1,400	1,400	5,773	5,773
Stone	"	-	21,289	-	21,540
Other Freight	"	11,288	11,288	10,708	10,782
Total	"	15,488	60,962	19,713	73,770
Passengers	No.	-	1	-	10

Total Freight	Tons	94,514	2,082,186	85,727	2,019,059
Total Passengers	No.	2	9	-	24
Number of Vessels		87	495	69	427
Registered Tonnage	Net	120,588	1,614,755	93,511	1,457,064

Welland Ship Canal:

		DECEMBER	DECEMBER
		1951	1950
Vessels	No.	304	335
Registered Tonnage	Tons	440,887	651,118
Passengers	No.	-	4
Barley	Tons	22,841	37,068
Corn	"	5,852	5,555
Oats	"	-	2,102
Rye	"	-	-
Wheat	"	66,619	31,494
Flour	"	2,250	-
Gasoline	"	63,044	75,383
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	203,271	183,179
Sugar	"	-	354
Pulpwood	"	2,500	8,500
Autos and Parts	"	-	-
Paper	"	9,898	13,310
Wood Pulp	"	600	700
Soft Coal	"	60,136	209,131
Coke	"	-	-
Iron Ore	"	5,530	17,472
Sand	"	13,701	16,938
All other freight	"	47,896	50,824
Total Freight	"	504,138	652,010

St. Lawrence Canals:

Vessels	No.	49	72
Registered Tonnage	Tons	46,828	71,342
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	-	-
Corn	"	6,910	6,749
Oats	"	-	-
Rye	"	-	-
Wheat	"	1,770	5,427
Flour	"	2,250	-
Gasoline	"	7,630	7,440
Petroleum & other Oils	"	16,000	16,965
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	2,500	-
Autos and Parts	"	-	-
Paper	"	-	2,010
Wood Pulp	"	-	-
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	2,530	25,344
Iron Ore	"	2,840	-
Sand	"	600	600
All other freight	"	231	10,566
Total Freight	"	43,261	75,101

D E C E M B E R

		St. Peter's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
		1951	1950	1951	1950
Vessels	No.	30	44	470	520
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,594	2,828	609,897	818,799
Passengers	No.	-	-	2	4
Total Freight	Tons	537	1,100	642,450	813,938
Pleasure Crafts		1	-	1	-

SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFIC
FOR SEASON OF NAVIGATION, 1951

Season of Navigation

Sault Ste. Marie Canal

		1951		1950	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U. S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U. S. Locks
<u>EAST BOUND</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	185,150	619,536	143,988	443,120
Lumber	"	19,644	19,844	-	-
Flour	"	89,654	99,864	60,484	63,201
Wheat	"	471,777	9,354,058	402,170	5,704,496
Other Grain	"	563,720	2,875,433	529,892	2,379,647
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	90,092,747	-	79,976,650
Scrap Iron	"	-	146,971	-	122,356
Structural Steel	"	95,458	153,681	7,466	193,204
Stone	"	43,830	43,830	48,040	58,084
Crude Oil	"	75,478	2,021,201	-	-
Other Freight	"	250,310	316,142	247,452	302,273
Total	"	1,795,021	105,743,307	1,439,492	89,243,031
Passengers	No.	46,594	48,598	29,482	31,787
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	251,016	10,678,586	224,383	13,301,020
Coal, Hard	"	13,402	159,300	15,072	295,504
Coke	"	6,148	6,148	-	-
Iron Ore	"	6,300	279,073	-	292,341
Structural Steel	"	2,239	37,132	7,917	79,565
Salt	"	2,846	56,699	745	46,956
Oil and Gasoline	"	334,846	850,056	219,356	826,205
Stone	"	-	1,667,313	5,108	1,508,624
Other Freight	"	393,574	604,714	389,690	602,492
Total	"	1,010,371	14,339,021	862,271	16,952,707
Passengers	No.	41,559	43,570	27,283	31,579
Total Freight	Tons	2,805,392	120,082,328	2,301,763	106,195,738
Total Passengers	No.	88,153	92,168	56,765	63,366
Number of Vessels		4,278	24,738	3,666	21,004
Registered Tonnage	Net	4,170,937	94,744,175	3,544,194	80,319,285

Welland Ship Canal

Season of Navigation

		1951	1950
Vessels	No.	8,122	7,436
Registered Tonnage	Tons	14,461,836	13,159,442
Passengers	No.	1,939	4,843
Barley	Tons	558,596	230,991
Corn	"	231,190	655,505
Oats	"	103,344	124,203
Rye	"	134,604	13,525
Flaxseed	"	85,555	147,164
Wheat	"	2,808,925	2,299,280
Other Grains	"	189,515	115,849
Flour	"	7,242	23,175
Hay and Straw	"	-	-
Other Mill Products	"	-	2,034
Fruit and Vegetables	"	-	-
Potatoes	"	-	-
Fish	"	300	790
Dressed Meats	"	-	-
Other Packing-House Products	"	-	-
All other Animal Products	"	-	-
Gasoline	"	1,125,608	854,251
Petroleum and other Oils	"	1,631,382	1,356,630
Agricultural Implements	"	889	2,657
Cement, Bricks, Lime & Plaster	"	68,717	77,179
Iron, Pig and Bloom	"	21,115	68,722
Iron and Steel, other	"	54,252	54,653
Sugar	"	31,878	56,440
Salt	"	92,667	83,091
Beverages	"	-	45
Autos and Parts	"	1,218	2,932
Paper	"	342,193	319,001
Wood Pulp	"	33,933	47,150
Pulpwood	"	611,353	527,855
Logs, Posts, Poles, Piling	"	534	-
Firewood	"	-	-
Lumber, Mill and Cooperage Stock	"	2,074	1,690
Other Forest Products	"	-	2,500
Hard Coal	"	41,353	62,408
Soft Coal	"	4,800,330	4,997,207
Coke	"	12,362	34,977
Copper Ore	"	-	-
Iron Ore	"	1,981,239	1,478,056
Other Ore	"	177,943	128,572
Sand, Gravel and Stone	"	376,754	247,703
All other Freight	"	663,961	664,338
Total	"	16,191,026	14,740,573

St. Lawrence Canals:

Season of Navigation

		1 9 5 1	1 9 5 0
Vessels	No.	9,630	10,147
Registered Tonnage	Tons	8,145,288	8,233,472
Passengers	No.	-	28
Barley	Tons	471,069	167,324
Corn	"	157,836	498,948
Oats	"	38,570	78,351
Rye	"	61,091	8,555
Flaxseed	"	54,162	128,853
Wheat	"	1,847,430	1,891,827
Other Grains	"	45,948	2,995
Flour	"	17,507	20,628
Hay and Straw	"	-	-
Other Mill Products	"	-	867
Fruit and Vegetables	"	-	-
Potatoes	"	-	-
Fish	"	300	790
Dressed Meats	"	-	-
Other Packing-house Products	"	-	-
All other Animal Products	"	1,312	4,139
Gasoline	"	1,108,151	917,482
Petroleum and Other Oils	"	1,048,325	1,165,897
Agricultural Implements	"	-	-
Cement, Bricks, Lime and Plaster	"	705	558
Iron, Pig and Bloom	"	85	1,500
Iron and Steel, other	"	14,736	66,594
Sugar	"	14,924	56,402
Salt	"	79,727	73,991
Beverages	"	-	528
Autos and Parts	"	5,540	7,871
Paper	"	184,910	189,036
Wood Pulp	"	36,432	56,109
Pulpwood	"	761,314	668,474
Logs, Posts, Poles, Piling	"	-	-
Firewood	"	-	32
Lumber, Mill and Cooperage Stock	"	33,201	41,402
Other Forest Products	"	-	-
Hard Coal	"	13,069	36,752
Soft Coal	"	2,365,963	2,278,223
Coke	"	9,512	24,453
Cooper Ore	"	-	-
Iron Ore	"	204,009	252,816
Other Ore	"	138,493	127,206
Sand, Gravel and Stone	"	304,729	303,520
All other Freight	"	897,801	897,148
Total	"	9,916,857	9,969,271



SEASON OF NAVIGATION, 1951

		Ottawa River Canal		Rideau Canal	
		1951	1950	1951	1950
Vessels	No.	1,102	1,117	175	135
Registered Tonnage	Tons	322,864	340,084	5,360	4,456
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1) 834	505
Total Freight	Tons	277,171	294,604	1,198	1,215
Pleasure Craft Lockages		3,547	3,411	21,390	18,494
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	719	692	53	76
Registered Tonnage	Tons	102,585	104,526	878	1,175
Passengers	No.	-	8	X -	-
Total Freight	Tons	98,134	105,373	354	602
Pleasure Craft Lockages		-	-	17,739	17,202
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessel	No.	74	66	712	669
Registered Tonnage	Tons	36,042	33,988	22,082	30,005
Passengers	No.	-	-	178	111
Total Freight	Tons	3,333	2,969	8,178	7,805
Pleasure Craft Lockages		1,010	837	42	105
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	692	416	25,557	24,420
Registered Tonnage	Tons	66,384	52,123	27,334,256	25,503,465
Passengers	No.	(Y) 2,408	1,995	93,512	64,255
Total Freight	Tons	16,493	14,901	29,318,136	27,439,076
Pleasure Craft Lockages		362	200	45,143	41,162

- (1) Exclusive of 21,149 passengers on sight-seeing pleasure boat cruises.
Exclusive of 60,264 passengers carried in pleasure crafts.
- (X) Exclusive of 138,861 passengers carried in small boats.
One passenger through one lock recorded as "1".
- (Y) Exclusive of 913 passengers carried in pleasure crafts.

TRAFFIC ON CANADIAN CANALS

1951

Canal	Vessels No.	Registered Tonnage	Passengers Number	Tons	Freight Tonnage Compared with 1950 (Increase +) (Decrease -)
Sault Ste. Marie	4,278	4,170,937	88,153	2,805,392	+ 503,629
Welland Ship	8,122	14,461,836	1,939	16,191,026	+ 1,450,453
St. Lawrence	9,630	8,145,288	-	9,916,857	- 52,414
Ottawa River	1,102	322,864	-	277,171	- 17,433
Rideau	175	5,360	834	1,198	- 17
Richelieu River	719	102,585	-	98,134	- 7,239
Trent	53	878	-	354	- 248
Murray	74	36,042	-	3,333	+ 364
St. Andrew's	692	66,384	2,408	16,493	+ 1,592
St. Peter's	712	22,082	178	8,178	+ 373
Total †	25,557	27,334,256	93,512	29,318,136	+ 1,879,060

† Includes duplications and is affected by the proportion of the total traffic at Sault Ste. Marie using the Canadian Lock.