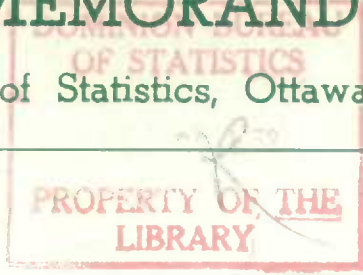


D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada



SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFIC

8504-517

OCTOBER, 1952

9-12-52

More freight was shipped through the Canadian canals in the month under review than in any other October over the past thirty years. The total amounted to 4,158,938 tons, somewhat below the record for any month of 4,248,737 tons established in September of this year but 179,056 tons or 4.5 per cent more than in October, 1951 when the total reached 3,979,882 tons. All three of the major canal systems reported gains this October with the Welland showing the greatest improvement. The smaller canals recorded, in total, a slight decrease. Heavier shipments of barley and iron ore transported through the Welland Ship canal, and barley through the St. Lawrence canals accounted for the greater part of the betterment shown for October.

A total of 3,388 vessels, aggregating 3,830,132 net tons used the facilities of Canada's canals during the month. Although the increase in the number of vessels over the preceding October was only 44 the registered net tonnage was higher by 226,768 tons, rising to 3,830,132 from 3,603,364 tons which indicates the growing emphasis on the employment of larger vessels in Great Lakes service. The number of passengers carried and the number of pleasure craft locked through the canals were both down this October numbering 131 and 1,290 as compared to 584 and 1,447, respectively, a year earlier.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: Although the tonnage of freight moved westbound through the Sault Ste. Marie canal was lower this October, a substantial increase in eastbound traffic raised the total to 16,548,960 tons, a new high for the month, and 7.1 per cent above the October, 1951 sum of 15,456,133 tons. Iron ore shipments eastwards, which advanced 13.6 per cent to 13,119,461 tons from 11,549,378 tons in the previous October, were the main reason for the excellent showing this month. Other eastbound commodities which recorded sizeable gains include other grain which advanced to 444,296 tons from 294,974 in the same period last year, and crude oil which rose to 428,966 from 293,967 tons. The tonnage of wheat, however, was down this October to 952,234 tons from 1,192,695 a year earlier.

Traffic westbound fell to 1,438,828 tons in the month under review, a drop of 26.8 per cent from the total of 1,964,650 tons in October, 1951 due to a one-third decrease in the amount of soft coal which totalled 977,082 tons as compared to 1,472,154 tons one year ago. Lighter movements of oil and gasoline and stone were also recorded in the current month.

A total of 3,323 vessels aggregating 13,802,646 net tons were locked through the combined system during the month as compared to 3,081 vessels of 12,569,112 tons in the corresponding period last year. The number of passengers carried eased to 238 from 480.

Freight traffic through the Canadian lock registered a minor increase over the previous October while vessel passages rose from 388 to 431.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: The volume of freight transported through the Welland Ship canal during October amounted to 2,326,346 tons, a new high for the month and the third highest total for any month being exceeded in June and September of this year, only. It exceeded the October 1951 revised total of 2,218,510 tons by 107,836 tons or 4.9 per cent. Important gains were reported for barley which advanced to 185,447 tons from 75,274, in the previous October, and iron ore up to 511,274 from 375,223 tons. Increases were also reported for petroleum and other oils, corn, rye wood pulp and all other freight. On the debit side, wheat, gasoline, pulpwood, sand and soft coal were down this October with wheat showing the largest decline, dropping to 263,526 tons from 365,442. Some 1,140 vessels representing a net tonnage of 2,074,165 passed through the canal as compared to 1,653 vessels of 1,941,664 tons in the corresponding month of 1951.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: Freight traffic passing through the St. Lawrence system rose to 1,381,693 tons during the month, a gain of 70,781 tons or 5.4 per cent over the October, 1951 total of 1,310,912 tons. Decreases in the amounts of corn, crude oil and petroleum, pulpwood and soft coals carried were more than offset by increases in barley, wheat, wood pulp, iron ore and all other freight. The volume of the above commodities with the October, 1951 totals in brackets are as follows: corn 5,561 tons (16,794); crude oil and petroleum 74,742 tons (148,912); pulpwood 98,376 tons (132,626); soft coal 271,824 tons (300,355); barley 204,398 tons (72,393); wheat 243,897 tons (220,633); wood pulp 12,248 tons (3,587); iron ore 51,672 tons (24,650); and all other freight 207,870 tons (177,925).

The Ottawa River and Richelieu Canals also reported improved freight volume this October.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS:

		1 9 5 2		1 9 5 1	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
<u>East Bound</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	27,286	47,086	21,362	59,444
Lumber	"	-	-	140	140
Flour	"	16,512	16,512	17,353	17,363
Wheat	"	51,794	952,234	53,306	1,192,695
Other Grain	"	70,111	444,296	66,967	294,974
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	13,119,461	-	11,549,378
Scrap Iron	"	-	24,893	-	18,760
Structural Steel	"	18,846	23,446	12,269	12,269
Stone	"	8,130	8,130	6,050	6,050
Crude Oil	"	9,540	428,966	14,152	293,967
Other Freight	"	45,108	45,108	46,452	46,452
Total	"	247,327	15,110,132	238,051	13,491,482
Passengers	Number	49	134	174	236
<u>West Bound</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	35,835	977,082	53,962	1,472,154
Coal, hard	"	2,900	26,920	-	29,569
Coke	"	-	-	1,881	1,881
Iron Ore	"	-	43,683	-	40,544
Structural Steel	"	6	3,718	163	4,463
Salt	"	6,490	14,072	91	14,664
Oil and Gasoline	"	38,971	78,195	36,061	91,024
Stone	"	-	197,050	-	210,916
Other Freight	"	56,066	98,108	56,628	99,435
Total	"	140,268	1,438,828	148,786	1,964,650
Passengers	Number	29	104	184	244
Total Freight	Tons	387,595	16,548,960	386,837	15,456,132
Total Passengers	Number	78	238	358	480
Number of Vessels		431	3,323	388*	3,081*
Registered Tonnage	Net	574,997	13,802,646	510,949	12,569,112

		OCTOBER, 1952	OCTOBER, 1951
<u>WILLAND SHIP CANAL:</u>			
Vessels	No.	1,140	1,053
Registered Tonnage	Tons	2,074,165	1,941,664
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	185,447	75,274
Corn	"	40,608	32,400
Oats	"	7,492	9,173
Rye	"	23,708	18,567
Wheat	"	263,526	365,442
Flour	"	540	265
Gasoline	"	105,110	147,916
Crude Oil	"	65,171	-
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	147,007	176,873
Sugar	"	4,427	1,500
Pulpwood	"	94,088	117,628
Autos and Parts	"	379	35
Paper	"	44,330	45,918
Wood Pulp	"	11,794	2,287
Soft Coal	"	602,029	633,424
Coke	"	784	-
Iron Ore	"	511,274	375,223
Sand	"	23,655	41,620
All other freight	"	194,977	174,965*
Total Freight	"	2,326,346	2,218,510*
<u>ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:</u>			
Vessels	No.	1,312	1,306
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,100,040	1,059,383
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	204,398	72,393
Corn	"	5,561	16,794
Oats	"	3,611	4,699
Rye	"	22,290	22,903
Wheat	"	243,897	220,633
Flour	"	540	265
Gasoline	"	111,171	110,827
Crude Oil	"	27,300	-
Petroleum & other Oils	"	47,442	148,912
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	98,376	132,626
Autos and Parts	"	391	977
Paper	"	25,066	27,177
Wood Pulp	"	12,248	3,587
Hard Coal	"	4,196	3,344
Soft Coal	"	271,824	300,355
Iron Ore	"	51,672	24,650
Sand	"	43,840	42,845
All other freight	"	207,870	177,925
Total Freight	"	1,381,693	1,310,912



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		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1952	1951	1952	1951
Vessels	No.	206	157	20	18
Registered Tonnage	Tons	50,958	48,333	741	732
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1) 53	101
Total Freight	Tons	43,810	42,211	110	248
Pleasure Craft		159	253	728	791*
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	88	94	3	14
Registered Tonnage	Tons	15,160	14,892	41	239
Passengers	No.	-	-	X -	-
Total Freight	Tons	17,154	13,708	8	117
Pleasure Craft		-	-	293	226*
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No.	11	13	39	105
Registered Tonnage	Tons	5,793	7,676	1,167	3,790
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	4
Total Freight	Tons	-	900	261	1,781
Pleasure Craft		51	57	6	-
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	138	126	3,388	3,344*
Registered Tonnage	Tons	7,070	15,706	3,830,132	3,603,364
Passengers	No.	(Y) -	121	131	584
Total Freight	Tons	1,961	4,658	4,158,938	3,979,882*
Pleasure Craft		53	70	1,290	1,447*

* Revised.

- (1) Exclusive of 420 passengers on sight seeing pleasure boat cruises.
Exclusive of 1,737 passengers carried in pleasure craft.
- (X) Exclusive of 994 passengers carried in small boats.
One passenger through one lock recorded as "1".
- (Y) Exclusive of 81 passengers carried in pleasure craft.