

# D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

SUMMARY OF CANAL STATISTICS  
FOR DECEMBER AND  
SEASON OF NAVIGATION  
 1952

8504-517

29-1-53

During the month of December, 643,301 tons of freight were locked through the Canadian Canals, slightly above the December, 1951 total of 642,450 tons. This brought the cumulative total for the navigation season to 31,354,139 tons, a new modern record and 2,029,105 tons or 6.9 per cent above the previous high of 29,325,034 tons established in 1951. A total of 26,322 vessels aggregating in weight 29,809,324 net tons were utilized to transport this record-breaking movement of goods as compared to the 25,548 vessels of 27,249,140 net tons required during the 1951 season. In addition, 104,135 passengers were carried against 93,512 and 45,902 pleasure craft were cleared, up from 45,143 during 1951.

The 1952 season of navigation on the major Canadian canals was somewhat longer than in 1951. The Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie opened 28 days earlier than in 1951 and closed on the same day, December 13 and was thus in operation 256 days. The American locks remained open until December 19, a 262 day season. The Welland opened on March 27, two days earlier than in the previous year and closed on December 19 one day earlier while the St. Lawrence handled traffic for 12 more days from April 2 until December 15 as compared to April 8 to December 9 in 1951. Of the smaller Canadian canals, the St. Peter's was the only one which remained open in December.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - Canadian and United States Locks: During the nineteen days in December that the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was in operation, 2,137,738 tons of freight were locked through the system, a slight gain of 55,552 tons over the December, 1951 total of 2,082,186 tons which were passed in fourteen days. Traffic through the Canadian lock rose to 1,21,059 tons from 94,514 in the preceeding December. Most of the increased tonnage was due to heavier eastbound shipments of wheat which amounted to 1,028,388 tons, up 221,389 tons over the December, 1951 total of 806,999, crude oil which advanced to 148,685 tons from 82,901, and other grains up to 284,871 tons from 157,817. Iron ore cargoes, however, decreased considerably to 563,201 tons from the comparable 1951 total of 943,553 tons. Traffic westbound showed a minor increase to 62,993 from 60,962 tons. Although the number of vessel passages rose to 548 from 495, the registered net tonnage was down to 1,537,794 from 1,614,755 tons.

Due largely to the 54 day United States steel and ore strike which lasted from June 7 to July 24, the total volume of traffic registered through the Sault locks during the 1952 season of navigation dropped to 107,362,494 tons, a decrease of 12,719,834 tons or 10.6 per cent from the peace-time record of 120,082,328 tons reported in 1951, but above the 106,195,738 tons recorded in 1950.

Both the eastbound and westbound traffic was lighter in 1952. Of the eastbound movement of goods, decreased shipments (in addition to iron ore which dropped to 75,693,626 tons from 90,092,747 in the preceeding season), were reported for pulpwood down to 569,859 from 619,536 tons, and in lumber and scrap iron. Notable increases were shown for other grains which rose to 4,555,336 tons from 2,875,433 a year earlier, a gain of 58.4 per cent; crude oil up to 2,924,334 from 2,021,201 tons, wheat, stone and all other freight. Lighter tonnage of soft coal which amounted to 9,895,990 tons as compared to 10,678,586 tons in 1951; oil and gasoline down to 732,731 from 850,056 tons; stone at 1,396,889 against 1,667,313 tons, iron ore and structural steel brought the total westbound traffic down to 13,191,337 tons, a drop of 1,147,684 tons or 8 per cent from the 1951 season of navigation total of 14,339,021 tons.

The Canadian Sault alone, however, registered a gain, both eastbound and westbound, over the previous season with a total of 3,295,423 tons as compared to 2,805,392, an increase of 490,031 tons or 17.5 per cent. Commodities which contributed to the advance include pulpwood, wheat, other grains, soft coal, oil and gasoline, and other freight.

A total of 23,106 vessels aggregating 86,670,256 net tons were cleared through the system during the period under review, 1,632 less than the 1951 total of 24,738 vessels of 94,744,175 tons. The number of passengers, most of which were routed through the Canadian lock, rose to 99,948 from 92,168.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: Freight tonnage through the Welland Ship canal during the month of December, was down 31,479, tons to 472,659 from the December, 1951 total of 504,138 tons. Commodities which were moved in

lighter quantities were gasoline which declined from 63,044 tons to 26,440, wheat down to 59,029 from 66,619 tons and all other freight at 36,919 tons against 47,896. Minor advances were reported for corn, oats, crude oil and petroleum, and soft coal. Vessel clearances numbered 325 totalling 461,987 net tons as compared to 304 of 440,887 net tons in December, 1951.

Preliminary tabulations of the volume of freight passing through the Welland during the 1952 season of navigation show the total to be 17,910,756 tons, a new record for this waterway and 1,712,832 tons or 10.6 per cent above the 1951 aggregate of 16,197,924 tons. Commodities participating in the improvement were barley which at 1,607,250 tons was almost three times the 1951 total of 558,256 tons, oats rising to 187,946 from 103,344 tons, flaxseed which advanced to 170,648 tons, almost double the preceding season's total of 85,555 tons, crude oil and petroleum up to 2,002,955 tons from 1,641,382, iron ore at 2,339,413 tons as compared to 1,981,239 and soft coal which increased 542,727 tons from 4,800,330 to 5,343,057 tons. Increases were also recorded for such items as cement; iron, pig and bloom; other iron and steel, and woodpulp. On the debit side, however, decreases were reported for gasoline, wheat, rye, corn, other grains, pulpwood, hard coal, other ores and sand. Gasoline shipments, due to extensive pipe line installations in Ontario declined to 898,523 from 1,125,608 tons; wheat was down 210,055 tons to 2,598,423 from 2,808,478 tons in the previous navigation season; other ores fell to 41,866 tons from 177,943; sand dropped to 293,669 tons from 376,754, other grains eased from 189,515 tons to 108,332, and rye totalled only 78,398 tons as compared to 134,604 tons in the 1951 season of navigation. The number of vessel passages and net tonnage rose appreciably to 9,158 aggregating 16,166,231 net tons from 8,113 of 14,376,720 tons, and the number of passengers increased to 5,353 from 1,939 as this service was renewed.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: A total of 52 vessels with a combined registered net tonnage of 60,058 transported 49,096 tons of freight through the St. Lawrence system during the 15 days of operation in December. This compares with 49 vessels of 46,828 net tons which carried 43,261 tons of freight in the 9 days of operations in December of the previous year. Cargoes of all other freight registered the greatest improvement rising to 13,554 tons from only 231 in December, 1951. Small gains were also reported for barley, wheat, woodpulp, and soft coal while shipments of corn, flour, gasoline, petroleum, pulpwood, and iron ore were reduced.

Although the season of navigation was twelve days longer than in 1951, the volume of cargo traffic was down slightly to 9,836,395 tons, a decline of 80,462 tons from the 1951 total of 9,916,857 tons. Commodities which showed important improvement were barley which at 1,467,487 tons was more than triple the 1951 total of 471,069 tons; oats which also rose threefold from 38,570 tons to 121,575; flaxseed up to 126,196 tons from 54,162; wheat up to 1,942,427 tons from 1,847,430; and, all other freight which rose 121,658 tons to 1,019,459 from 897,801. Betterment was also achieved in the movement of rye, iron and steel, woodpulp and iron ore.

These gains were, however, more than offset by lighter shipments of several items. Totals for these commodities, with the 1951 season of navigation figures in brackets, include corn 99,520 tons (157,836); other grains 1,500 (45,948); flour 5,177 (17,507); sugar 6,376 (14,924); autos 1,350 (5,540); paper 166,352 (184,910); pulpwood 576,144 (761,314); soft coal 1,957,662 (2,365,963); other ores 28,856 (138,499); sand 216,937 (304,729); gasoline, and petroleum and other oils declined to 931,579 and 659,593 tons as compared to 1,108,151 and 1,048,325 tons, respectively, due mainly to the installation of the products pipe line which services Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton, and greater supplies of western crude delivered to Ontario refineries.

Although the number of vessel passages through the system declined to 9,394 from 9,630, the registered net tonnage rose to 8,331,928 from 8,145,288 tons in the preceding season indicating a trend towards the use of larger vessels in Great Lakes traffic.

All the smaller canals reported reduced freight traffic in 1952 with the Ottawa showing the largest decrease from 277,171 to 201,151 tons.

Sault Ste. Marie Canals:

DECEMBER

1952

1951

<u>EAST BOUND</u>		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
Pulpwood	Tons	-	-	2,820	2,820
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	330	330	-	-
Wheat	"	52,347	1,028,388	31,183	806,999
Other Grain	"	26,692	284,871	24,884	157,817
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	563,201	-	943,553
Scrap Iron	"	-	18,060	-	12,695
Structural Steel	"	9,430	20,182	7,005	7,005
Stone	"	-	-	-	-
Crude Oil	"	-	148,685	5,700	82,901
Other Freight	"	8,528	11,028	7,434	7,434
<b>Total</b>	"	<b>97,327</b>	<b>2,074,745</b>	<b>79,026</b>	<b>2,021,224</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
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<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	6,005	20,826	2,800	26,985
Coal, hard	"	-	-	-	-
Coke	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	-	-	-
Structural Steel	"	45	45	-	-
Salt	"	-	-	-	-
Oil and Gasoline	"	6,716	21,656	1,400	1,400
Stone	"	-	-	-	21,289
Other Freight	"	10,966	20,466	11,288	11,288
<b>Total</b>	"	<b>23,732</b>	<b>62,993</b>	<b>15,488</b>	<b>60,962</b>
<b>Passengers</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<hr/>					
<b>Total Freight</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>121,059</b>	<b>2,137,738</b>	<b>94,514</b>	<b>2,082,186</b>
<b>Total Passengers</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Number of Vessels</b>		<b>99</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>495</b>
<b>Registered Tonnage</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>124,124</b>	<b>1,537,794</b>	<b>120,588</b>	<b>1,614,755</b>



Welland Ship Canal:

		DECEMBER	DECEMBER
		1952	1951
Vessels	No.	325	304
Registered Tonnage	Tons	461,987	440,887
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	22,040	22,841
Corn	"	9,870	5,852
Oats	"	2,519	-
Rye	"	-	-
Wheat	"	59,029	66,619
Flour	"	-	2,250
Gasoline	"	26,440	63,044
Crude Oil	"	100,990	-
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	109,328	203,271
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	-	2,500
Autos and Parts	"	-	-
Paper	"	6,300	9,898
Wood Pulp	"	1,850	600
Soft Coal	"	80,251	60,136
Coke	"	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	5,530
Sand	"	17,123	13,701
All other Freight	"	36,919	47,896
<b>Total Freight</b>	"	<b>472,659</b>	<b>504,138</b>

St. Lawrence Canals:

Vessels	No.	52	49
Registered Tonnage	Tons	60,058	46,828
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	3,926	-
Corn	"	4,705	6,910
Oats	"	425	-
Rye	"	-	-
Wheat	"	9,854	1,770
Flour	"	-	2,250
Gasoline	"	5,300	7,630
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	6,780	16,000
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	-	2,500
Autos and Parts	"	-	-
Paper	"	-	-
Wood Pulp	"	1,850	-
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	2,702	2,530
Iron Ore	"	-	2,840
Sand	"	-	600
All other Freight	"	13,554	231
<b>Total Freight</b>	"	<b>49,096</b>	<b>43,261</b>

DECEMBER

		St. Peter's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
		1952	1951	1952	1951
Vessels	No.	23	30	499	470
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,145	1,594	647,314	609,897
Passengers	No.	-	-	6	2
Total Freight	Tons	487	537	643,301	642,450
Pleasure Craft	No.	-	1	-	1

SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFIC  
FOR SEASON OF NAVIGATION, 1952

Season of Navigation

<u>Sault Ste. Marie Canal</u>		1952		1951	
<u>EAST BOUND</u>		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
Pulpwood	Tons	234,367	569,859	185,150	619,536
Lumber	"	-	-	19,644	19,844
Flour	"	107,627	107,627	89,654	99,864
Wheat	"	589,235	9,558,463	471,777	9,354,058
Other Grain	"	683,097	4,555,336	563,720	2,875,433
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	75,693,626	-	90,092,747
Scrap Iron	"	-	134,454	-	146,971
Structural Steel	"	69,663	166,342	95,458	153,681
Stone	"	68,250	68,250	43,830	43,830
Crude Oil	"	63,302	2,924,334	75,478	2,021,201
Other Freight	"	365,989	392,866	250,310	316,142
Total	"	2,181,530	94,171,157	1,795,021	105,743,307
Passengers	No.	49,071	50,325	46,594	48,598
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	291,170	9,895,990	251,016	10,678,586
Coal, hard	"	9,294	168,214	13,402	159,300
Coke	"	5,221	5,221	6,148	6,148
Iron Ore	"	-	220,497	6,300	279,073
Structural Steel	"	1,664	22,321	2,239	37,132
Salt	"	13,201	67,734	2,846	56,699
Oil and Gasoline	"	400,670	732,731	334,846	850,056
Stone	"	-	1,396,889	-	1,667,313
Other Freight	"	392,673	681,740	393,574	604,714
Total	"	1,113,893	13,191,337	1,010,371	14,339,021
Passengers	No.	48,381	49,623	41,559	43,570
Total Freight	Tons	3,295,423	107,362,494	2,805,392	120,082,328
Total Passengers	No.	97,452	99,948	88,153	92,168
Number of Vessels		4,701	23,106	4,278	24,738
Registered Tonnage	Net	4,874,584	86,670,256	4,170,937	94,744,175

Welland Ship Canal

Season of Navigation

		1952	1951
Vessels	No.	9,158	8,113*
Registered Tonnage	Tons	16,166,231	14,376,720*
Passengers	No.	5,353	1,939
Barley	Tons	1,607,250	558,256*
Corn	"	204,159	231,190
Oats	"	187,946	103,344
Rye	"	78,398	134,604
Flaxseed	"	170,648	85,555
Wheat	"	2,598,423	2,808,478*
Other Grains	"	108,332	189,515
Flour	"	5,337	7,242
Hay and Straw	"	-	-
Other Mill Products	"	-	-
Fruit and Vegetables	"	-	-
Potatoes	"	-	-
Fish	"	624	300
Dressed Meats	"	-	-
Other Packing-House Products	"	-	-
All other Animal Products	"	-	-
Gasoline	"	898,523	1,125,608
Crude Oil	"	711,206	-
Petroleum and other Oils	"	1,291,749	1,641,382*
Agricultural Implements	"	620	889
Cement, Bricks, Lime & Plaster	"	87,544	68,717
Iron, Pig and Bloom	"	54,799	21,115
Iron and Steel, other	"	91,303	54,252
Sugar	"	31,590	31,878
Salt	"	88,606	92,667
Beverages	"	42	-
Autos and Parts	"	2,027	1,218
Paper	"	342,772	342,193
Wood Pulp	"	52,775	33,933
Pulpwood	"	579,376	611,353
Logs, Posts, Poles, Piling	"	-	534
Firewood	"	-	-
Lumber, Mill and Cooperage Stock	"	600	2,074
Other Forest Products	"	150	-
Hard Coal	"	20,915	41,353
Soft Coal	"	5,343,057	4,800,330
Coke	"	15,270	12,362
Copper Ore	"	-	-
Iron Ore	"	2,339,413	1,981,239
Other Ore	"	41,866	177,943
Sand, Gravel and Stone	"	293,669	376,754
All other Freight	"	661,767	661,646*
<b>Total</b>	"	<b>17,910,756</b>	<b>16,197,924*</b>

St. Lawrence Canals:

Season of Navigation

		1952	1951
Vessels	No.	9,394	9,630
Registered Tonnage	Tons	8,331,928	8,145,288
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	1,467,487	471,069
Corn	"	99,520	157,836
Oats	"	121,575	38,570
Rye	"	76,232	61,091
Flaxseed	"	126,196	54,162
Wheat	"	1,942,427	1,847,430
Other Grains	"	1,500	45,948
Flour	"	5,177	17,507
Hay and Straw	"	-	-
Other Mill Products	"	-	-
Fruit and Vegetables	"	-	-
Potatoes	"	-	-
Fish	"	624	300
Dressed Meats	"	-	-
Other Packing-house Products	"	-	-
All other Animal Products	"	80	1,312
Gasoline	"	931,579	1,108,151
Crude Oil	"	254,274	-
Petroleum and Other Oils	"	405,319	1,048,325
Agricultural Implements	"	-	-
Cement, Bricks, Lime and Plaster	"	1,231	705
Iron, Pig and Bloom	"	2,000	85
Iron and Steel, other	"	20,515	14,736
Sugar	"	6,376	14,924
Salt	"	77,035	79,727
Beverages	"	42	-
Autos and Parts	"	1,350	5,540
Paper	"	166,352	184,910
Wood Pulp	"	55,188	36,432
Pulpwood	"	576,144	761,314
Logs, Posts, Poles, Piling	"	-	-
Firewood	"	-	-
Lumber, Mill and Cooperage Stock	"	29,687	33,201
Other Forest Products	"	-	-
Hard Coal	"	15,207	13,069
Soft Coal	"	1,957,662	2,365,963
Coke	"	15,476	9,512
Copper Ore	"	-	-
Iron Ore	"	214,888	204,009
Other Ore	"	28,856	138,499
Sand, Gravel and Stone	"	216,937	304,729
All other Freight	"	1,019,459	897,801
<b>Total</b>	"	<b>9,836,395</b>	<b>9,916,857</b>



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SEASON OF NAVIGATION, 1952

		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1952	1951	1952	1951
Vessels	No.	966	1,102	183	175
Registered Tonnage	Tons.	234,996	322,864	6,519	5,360
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1) 851	834
Total Freight	Tons.	201,151	277,171	921	1,198
Pleasure Craft Lockages	No.	3,819	3,547	21,932	21,390
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	614	719	72	53
Registered Tonnage	Tons	88,866	102,585	970	878
Passengers	No.	-	-	(x) -	-
Total Freight	Tons	88,973	98,134	135	354
Pleasure Craft Lockages	No.	-	-	17,659	17,739
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No.	94	74	478	712
Registered Tonnage	Tons	33,800	36,042	18,330	22,082
Passengers	No.	18	-	30	178
Total Freight	Tons	380	3,333	3,802	8,178
Pleasure Craft Lockages	No.	1,158	1,010	61	42
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	662	692	26,322	25,548
Registered Tonnage	Tons	53,100	66,384	29,809,324	27,249,140
Passengers	No.	(y) 431	2,408	104,135	93,512
Total Freight	Tons	16,203	16,493	31,354,139	29,325,034*
Pleasure Craft Lockages	No.	353	362	45,902	45,143

- (1) (Exclusive of 26,172 passengers on sight seeing pleasure craft.  
(Exclusive of 60,705 passengers carried in pleasure craft.)
- (x) (Exclusive of 61,545 passengers carried in small boats.  
(One passenger through one lock recorded as "1".)
- (y) Exclusive of 1,037 passengers carried in pleasure craft.
- \* Revised.

TRAFFIC ON CANADIAN CANALS

1952

Canal	Vessels No.	Registered Tonnage	Passengers Number	Tons	Freight Tonnage Compared with 1951 (Increase +) (Decrease -)
Sault Ste. Marie	4,701	4,874,584	97,452	3,295,423	+ 490,031
Welland Ship	9,158	16,166,231	5,353	17,910,756	+ 1,712,832
St. Lawrence	9,394	8,331,928	-	9,836,395	- 80,462
Ottawa River	966	234,996	-	201,151	- 76,020
Rideau	183	6,519	851	921	- 277
Richelieu River	614	88,866	-	88,973	- 9,161
Trent	72	970	-	135	- 219
Murray	94	33,800	18	380	- 2,953
St. Andrew's	662	53,100	431	16,203	- 290
St. Peter's	478	18,330	30	3,802	- 4,376
Total $\neq$	26,322	29,809,324	104,135	31,354,139	+ 2,029,105

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