

SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFIC8504-517  
4-7-52MAY, 1952

The tonnage of freight passing through the Canadian canals during May amounted to 4,150,931 tons, the largest volume for any month in over thirty years and exceeding May of last year by 234,202 tons or 6 per cent. The current total surpasses the modern record of 3,980,823 tons achieved in October, 1951 by 170,108 tons. The total, however, is still considerably below the monthly average for the years during World War I when United States cargoes were locked through the Canadian Canal at Sault Ste. Marie in heavy volume. This traffic was directed through the larger American Davis and Sabin locks on their completion in 1914 and 1919 respectively and resulted in a sharp reduction in the amount of freight handled by the Canadian system which has never been recovered.

The number of vessels locked through Canadian canals during May advanced to 3,365 with a net registered tonnage of 3,980,645 from 3,285 vessels of 3,700,261 tons one year earlier. Passengers carried at 5,236 compared with 4,280 in May of 1951. The accentuated early movement of grain was largely responsible for the record month.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: Traffic through the Sault Ste. Marie locks aggregated 16,742,075 tons, a new modern high for the month of May and 389,962 tons or 2.4 per cent more than in May last year. Both the eastbound and westbound movement of goods increased, the gains being 1.3 and 10.2 per cent respectively. Eastbound shipments of wheat advanced to 1,071,620 tons from 902,786 in the same month last year, a rise of 168,834 tons. Other Grain rose sharply from 391,261 to 616,066 tons or by 57.5 per cent, and crude oil, heavier by 112,886 tons, advanced to 322,348 tons. Iron ore, however, at a total of 12,329,870 was some 328,922 tons lighter reflecting labour trouble in the U.S. steel industry. Soft coal westbound was heavier by 317,423 tons, advancing the total to 1,741,846 tons. Declines were reported for oil and gasoline, iron ore and other freight. The number of passengers passing through the canals dropped almost 50 per cent to 1,184 from 2,347. Of the total traffic through the combined system, 499 vessels with a net registered tonnage of 645,429 tons carried 471,056 tons of freight through the Canadian lock.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: The volume of freight transported through the Welland Canal advanced from 2,038,939 to 2,283,990 tons, a gain of 245,051 tons or 12 per cent over May, 1951 achieved by larger shipments of barley, coal and iron ore. The amount of barley reported, 213,140 tons, was more than four times as much as in the preceding May. Soft coal tonnage rose from 626,626 to 705,214 tons and iron ore from 195,976 to 291,480 tons while declines were recorded for wheat, pulpwood and all other freight. The number of passengers transported was more than double last years total, 4,084 as compared to 1,930.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: The tonnage of freight passing through the St. Lawrence system during May was 1,356,057 as compared to 1,468,693 tons in the corresponding month of 1951. This represents a decrease of 112,636 tons which was effected mainly, by lower tonnages for wheat, petroleum and other oils, pulpwood and soft coal. Totals for these commodities, with the May, 1951 figures in brackets, were wheat 290,060 (351,434); petroleum 64,215 (137,708), pulpwood 19,914 (62,328) and soft coal 265,036 (346,156). Barley rose sharply from 42,005 to 207,522 tons and crude oil which is being shown separately for the first time amounted to 41,874 tons.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS:

		1952		1951	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
<u>East Bound</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	41,082	95,388	31,388	90,472
Lumber	"	-	-	50	50
Flour	"	11,547	11,547	10,025	10,025
Wheat	"	78,446	1,071,620	75,256	902,786
Other Grain	"	126,182	616,066	79,079	391,261
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	12,329,870	-	12,658,792
Scrap Iron	"	-	21,470	-	13,104
Structural Steel	"	7,210	17,904	9,841	21,805
Stone	"	9,970	9,970	11,050	11,050
Crude Oil	"	10,099	322,348	14,100	209,462
Other Freight	"	45,318	53,903	24,883	53,864
<b>Total</b>	"	<b>329,854</b>	<b>14,550,086</b>	<b>255,672</b>	<b>14,362,671</b>
Passengers	Number	508	577	1,117	1,151
<u>West Bound</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	47,265	1,741,846	10,424	1,424,423
Coal, hard	"	2,944	24,074	-	31,583
Coke	"	3,452	3,452	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	44,233	-	59,136
Structural Steel	"	118	3,741	753	7,934
Salt	"	30	7,657	45	5,945
Oil and Gasoline	"	35,855	51,991	34,433	132,612
Stone	"	-	238,011	-	230,885
Other Freight	"	51,538	76,984	65,730	96,924
<b>Total</b>	"	<b>141,202</b>	<b>2,191,989</b>	<b>111,385</b>	<b>1,989,442</b>
Passengers	Number	533	607	1,149	1,196
<b>Total Freight</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>471,056</b>	<b>16,742,075</b>	<b>367,057</b>	<b>16,352,113</b>
<b>Total Passengers</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>2,347</b>
<b>Number of Vessels</b>		<b>499</b>	<b>3,302</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>3,265</b>
<b>Registered Tonnage</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>645,429</b>	<b>13,009,715</b>	<b>577,040</b>	<b>12,560,273</b>

WELAND SHIP CANAL:

		MAY, 1952	MAY, 1951
Vessels	No.	1,149	1,051
Registered Tonnage	Tons	2,042,162	1,835,040
Passengers	No.	4,084	1,930
Barley	Tons	213,140	50,042
Corn	"	6,327	30,684
Oats	"	21,838	8,388
Rye	"	25,792	30,606
Wheat	"	449,891	479,311
Flour	"	1,400	351
Gasoline	"	131,920	116,790
Crude Oil	"	31,019	-
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	123,944	134,088
Sugar	"	4,568	2,999
Pulpwood	"	38,880	55,530
Autos and Parts	"	314	240
Paper	"	41,289	45,421
Wood Pulp	"	2,212	374
Soft Coal	"	705,214	626,626
Coke	"	567	2,688
Iron Ore	"	291,480	195,976
Sand	"	15,100	35,163
All other freight	"	179,095	223,662
Total Freight	"	2,283,990	2,038,939
<u>ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:</u>			
Vessels	No.	1,349	1,394
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,237,969	1,233,392
Passengers	No.	-	-
Barley	Tons	207,522	42,005
Corn	"	3,313	30,377
Oats	"	19,820	2,966
Rye	"	24,894	5,782
Wheat	"	290,060	351,434
Flour	"	1,400	12,022
Gasoline	"	176,810	191,612
Crude Oil	"	41,874	-
Petroleum & other Oils	"	64,215	137,708
Sugar	"	1,688	713
Pulpwood	"	19,914	62,328
Autos and Parts	"	239	2,285
Paper	"	20,539	26,366
Wood Pulp	"	6,362	5,424
Hard Coal	"	2,352	-
Soft Coal	"	265,036	346,156
Iron Ore	"	14,609	27,374
Sand	"	28,400	36,411
All other freight	"	167,010	187,730
Total Freight	"	1,356,057	1,468,693



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		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1952	1951	1952	1951
Vessels	No.	106	118	32	23
Registered Tonnage	Tons	26,236	33,426	1,353	780
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1) 85	79
Total Freight	Tons	21,901	27,530	75	226
Pleasure Craft		185	172	876	884
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	107	95	4	2
Registered Tonnage	Tons	16,433	13,655	53	24
Passengers	No.	-	-	X -	-
Total Freight	Tons	15,467	13,025	6	6
Pleasure Craft		-	-	2	613
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No.	12	7	64	88
Registered Tonnage	Tons	4,019	3,997	2,831	2,907
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	5
Total Freight	Tons	307	-	710	1,253
Pleasure Craft		32	43	2	3
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	43	-	3,365	3,285
Registered Tonnage	Tons	4,160	-	3,980,645	3,700,261
Passengers	No.	(Y) 26	-	5,236	4,280
Total Freight	Tons	1,362	-	4,150,931	3,916,729
Pleasure Craft		58	-	1,155	1,715

- (1) Exclusive of 930 passengers on sight-seeing pleasure boat cruises  
Exclusive of 1,993 passengers carried in pleasure crafts.
- (X) 1,902 passengers carried in small boats  
One passenger through one lock recorded as "1".
- (Y) Exclusive of 71 passengers carried in pleasure crafts.