

D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFIC

November, 1953

The total tonnage of freight transported through the Canadian canals during November amounted to 3,302,820 tons, 233,056 tons or 6.6 per cent less than in the previous November when a new high of 3,535,876 tons for the month was established. All three of the major canals and two of the smaller ones reported a decrease in freight traffic this November. Fewer shipments of iron ore through the Welland canal, soft coal through the Sault Ste. Marie and St. Lawrence systems and wheat through all three were mainly responsible for the decline from the November, 1952 record. Increases were reported for soft coal through the Welland and other freight through the Welland and St. Lawrence canals. The number of vessel passages registered tonnage, number of passengers and pleasure craft were also lower than in the previous November. Vessel passages numbered 2,657; 15 less than during November, 1952, while the net registered tonnage declined to 3,294,846 tons from 3,364,581.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS- CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: The volume of freight shipped through the five locks at Sault Ste. Marie totalled 8,626,998 tons for the month under review, well below the November, 1952 total of 13,747,307 tons as eastbound shipments of wheat fell from 1,325,730 tons to 887,984, crude oil from 421,596 tons to 195,397 and iron ore from 9,886,873 tons to 5,717,787 due probably to the strike free season which enabled the steel industry to stockpile iron ore for the winter at a more normal pace. Total eastbound cargoes were down to 7,933,407 tons from 12,552,826. Increased tonnages were reported, however, for other grain which rose to 954,428 tons from 782,001, structural steel, plupwood scrap iron and other freight. Westbound cargoes were also higher this November totalling 693,591 tons as compared with 1,194,481 a year earlier as soft coal shipments declined to 423,909 tons from 775,327 and stone from 168,260 tons to 55,982. Traffic passing the Canadian lock was also lower than in the preceding November and in both directions the eastbound traffic totalled 215,572 tons as compared with 261,866 and the westbound volume declined to 86,693 tons from 137,644.

The number of vessel passages and net registered tonnage were correspondingly lower this November. The number of vessels locked through the system totalled 1,762 aggregating 7,552,044 net tons as compared with 2,788 of 12,184,138 tons.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: Although the amount of soft coal shipped through the Welland canal during November rose to 682,715 tons from 520,980 in November of the previous year and other increases were recorded for barley, oats, pulpwood, paper and other freight which was up to 272,996 tons from 193,596, the total tonnage of all commodities declined to 1,870,090 tons from 1,975,343, a decrease of 105,253 tons or 5.3 per cent. As at the Sault shipments of wheat, iron ore and petroleum products were much lower this November the volume of wheat locked through the canal amounted to 274,031 tons as compared with 385,713 tons a year earlier while iron ore cargoes fell to 44,420 tons against 240,856 and gasoline to 43,639 from 82,995 tons. Other decreases were recorded for petroleum oils, corn, rye, pulpwood and sand. The number of vessel lockages and net registered tonnage rose however, to 1,029 with an accumulated net tonnage of 1,869,700 from 999 vessels of 1,818,310 net tons in the corresponding period of 1952.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: Freight tonnage transported through the St. Lawrence system during November totalled 1,100,257 tons, 40,992 less than in the similar period of 1952. Increases were reported for crude oil, which rose to 56,230 tons, almost double the 28,450 tons locked through in November 1952, other freight which advanced to 300,461 tons from 201,171, barley, oats, paper, woodpulp, iron ore and sand. These gains were, however, more than offset by lighter shipments of such commodities as wheat which declined to 195,512 tons from 333,940 in the preceding November, gasoline which was down to 10,410 tons from 61,880, soft coal which aggregated 144,877 tons against 163,710, rye, petroleum oils, and pulpwood. Although the number of vessel passages rose to 1,091 from 1,085 the net registered tonnage dropped to 923,341 tons from 973,858.

Price per year \$1.00

Prepared in the Public Finance and Transportation Division.



SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS:

		1953		1952	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
<u>EAST BOUND</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	4,400	17,700	3,100	12,500
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	15,891	15,891	13,767	13,767
Wheat	"	37,182	887,984	85,097	1,325,730
Other Grain	"	76,171	954,428	82,937	782,001
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	5,717,787	-	9,886,873
Scrap Iron	"	-	24,304	-	18,184
Structural Steel	"	4,365	40,181	11,995	27,405
Stone	"	11,149	11,149	11,430	11,430
Crude Oil	"	5,200	195,397	2,700	421,596
Other Freight	"	61,214	68,586	50,840	53,340
TOTAL	"	215,572	7,933,407	261,866	12,552,826
Passengers	Number	29	42	30	46
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	8,443	423,909	36,637	775,327
Coal, hard	"	-	11,750	-	7,600
Coke	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	21,655	-	49,777
Structural Steel	"	45	11,633	40	4,261
Salt	"	6,026	11,477	3,432	14,293
Oil and Gasoline	"	28,106	77,563	41,469	83,017
Stone	"	-	55,982	-	168,260
Other Freight	"	44,073	79,622	56,066	91,946
TOTAL	"	86,693	693,591	137,644	1,194,481
Passengers	Number	23	34	19	34
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	302,265	8,626,998	399,510	13,747,307
TOTAL PASSENGERS	Number	52	76	49	80
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	1	1
Number of Vessels		317	1,762	411	2,788
REGISTERED TONNAGE	Net	465,276	7,552,044	546,892	12,184,138

WELLAND SHIP CANAL

		November, 1953	November, 1952
Vessels	Number	1,029	999
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,869,700	1,818,310
Passengers	Number	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-
Barley	Tons	161,570	147,818
Corn	"	61,860	73,095
Oats	"	26,272	13,908
Rye	"	-	5,347
Wheat	"	274,031	385,713
Flour	"	2,971	-
Gasoline	"	43,639	82,995
Crude Oil	"	81,969	80,514
Petroleum & other oils	"	109,962	124,931
Sugar	"	3,860	3,367
Pulpwood	"	13,670	4,576
Autos and Parts	"	510	72
Paper	"	50,927	48,517
Wood Pulp	"	20,164	16,383
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	682,715	520,980
Iron Ore	"	44,420	240,856
Sand	"	18,554	32,675
All Other Freight	"	272,996	193,596
TOTAL FREIGHT	"	1,870,090	1,975,343

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:

Vessels	No.	1,091	1,085
Registered Tonnage	Tons	923,341	973,858
Passengers	No.	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	15	6
Barley	Tons	184,904	141,212
Corn	"	27,579	29,778
Oats	"	16,513	7,860
Rye	"	-	6,682
Wheat	"	195,512	333,940
Flour	"	2,217	-
Gasoline	"	10,410	61,880
Crude Oil	"	56,230	28,450
Petroleum & other Oils	"	58,407	68,655
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	22,380	31,722
Autos and Parts	"	689	48
Paper	"	32,482	29,938
Wood Pulp	"	16,971	13,762
Hard Coal	"	2,500	2,397
Soft Coal	"	144,877	163,710
Iron Ore	"	11,620	7,209
Sand	"	16,505	12,835
All other freight	"	300,461	201,171
TOTAL FREIGHT	"	1,100,257	1,141,249



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		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1953	1952	1953	1952
Vessels	No.	77	60	9	21
Registered Tonnage	Tons	18,579	14,161	449	1,075
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1)	67
Pleasure Craft	"	44	45	149	206
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	15,340	12,005	19	15
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	90	44	2	1
Registered Tonnage	Tons	15,741	7,125	34	17
Passengers	No.	-	-	X	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	22	17
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	14,244	6,942	-	-
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No.	4	1	36	45
Registered Tonnage	Tons	77	60	1,517	2,743
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	21	24	-	2
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	-	-	580	765
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	2	5	2,657	2,672
Registered Tonnage	Tons	132	340	3,294,846	3,364,581
Passengers	No.	-	-	84	116
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	251	301
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	25	47	3,302,820	3,535,876

1 Exclusive of 312 passengers carried in pleasure craft

X (76 passengers carried in small boats
(One passenger through one lock recorded as "1")