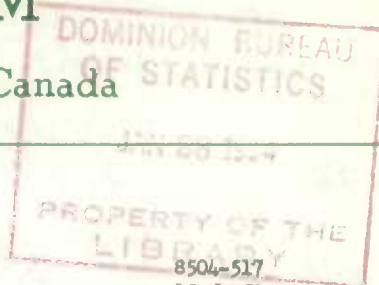


D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada



SUMMARY OF CANAL STATISTICS
FOR DECEMBER AND
SEASON OF NAVIGATION
1953

8504-517
15-1-54

The total volume of freight transported through the Canadian canals during the 1953 season of navigation amounted to 33,402,789 tons, a modern record which surpassed the previous high of 31,354,139 tons established in 1952 by 2,048,650 tons or 6.5 per cent. All of the canals, except the St. Andrews, reported increased freight traffic over the 1952 season, with the Welland Ship canal showing the greatest gain, followed by the St. Lawrence and the Sault Ste. Marie. Increased tonnages of soft coal and iron ore shipped through the Welland canal, crude oil and petroleum through the St. Lawrence system and wheat, other grains and other freight through the big three were mainly responsible for the appreciable advance. New highs were also established for the number of vessel passages, registered net tonnage, and, number of passengers and pleasure craft. The number of vessels locked through the ten canals rose to 27,568 from 26,322 in the previous year while the net tonnage advanced to 32,734,617 tons from 29,809,378. The number of passengers totalled 112,082 as compared with 104,135 and pleasure craft passages numbered 54,282 as against 45,902.

The 1953 season was one of the longest in history due to the mild winter experienced in 1952 which enabled the Sault Ste. Marie and St. Lawrence canals to open at an earlier date than usual. The Canadian lock at the Sault opened on March 29, four days ahead of the previous year and closed two days later on December 15. Their season thus lasted for 262 days as compared with 256 while the American locks which opened on March 21 were in operation for 270 days, eight more than in 1952. The Welland opened on March 28 one day later and closed December 20, also one day later so that the season of 268 days was the same for both years. The St. Lawrence system was open for 259 days, one more than in 1952.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - Canadian and United States Locks: The tonnage of freight locked through the Sault Ste. Marie canal during 1953 aggregated 128,489,170 tons, a new all time high and considerably above the previous record of 120,200,814 tons which was recorded in 1942 and 21,126,676 tons or 19.7 per cent more than in 1952 when labour strikes curtailed the flow of iron ore for six weeks. The volume of eastbound traffic rose to 116,802,098 tons from 94,171,157 in the previous year mostly as a result of increased shipments of iron ore although important gains were also reported for other grains, structural steel, crude oil and other freight. Westbound shipments declined to 11,687,072 tons from 13,191,337, a decrease of 1,504,265 tons most of which was soft coal which amounted to 8,602,969 tons as compared with 9,895,990 tons a year earlier.

The tonnage of freight transported through the Canadian lock, only, totalled 3,389,409 tons, an increase of 93,986 tons or 2.9 per cent over the 1952 total of 3,295,423 tons. A heavier volume of other grain, which amounted to 963,298 tons as compared with 683,097 tons in 1952, and other freight, which rose to 450,659 tons from 365,989, raised the eastbound total to 2,379,745 tons from 2,181,530 while lighter shipments of soft coal, oil and gasoline resulted in a decrease in westbound traffic to 1,009,664 tons from 1,113,893.

The number of vessels cleared through the locks was 25,714 as compared with 23,106 in the previous season. Of the total 5,147 vessels used the Canadian as against 4,701. The number of passengers carried totalled 109,615 versus 99,948 last season with the great majority passing through the Canadian side.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: The 425,959 tons of freight which were transported through the Welland Ship canal during the 20 days of operation in December brought the total for the season of navigation to 17,910,756 tons, another all time record and an increase of 1,661,119 tons or 9.3 per cent over the 1952 high of 17,249,637 tons. Gains were reported for most of the commodities listed, the most important of which were iron ore which amounted to 2,988,630 tons as compared with 2,339,413 tons in the previous season; soft coal which totalled 5,950,193 tons as against 5,343,057; other freight, which advanced to 1,747,238 tons from 1,322,171; wheat which was up to 2,795,429 tons from 2,598,423; corn, barley, oats and paper.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: Freight tonnage locked through the St. Lawrence system during 1953 exceeded the ten million ton mark for the first time and exceeded the 1952 total of 9,836,395 tons by 245,597 tons or 2.5 per cent. Commodities which participated in the advance include other freight which rose from 1,322,701 tons to 1,868,469; petroleum which was up to 757,344 tons from 405,319; crude oil up to 398,990 tons from 254,274; wheat, barley, oats, corn, paper and sand. The tonnage of gasoline shipments declined, however, to 103,158 tons from 931,579 due to the activity of the Sarnia-Montreal pipe line and other decreases were reported for soft coal, iron ore, pulpwood and rye. A total of 9,829 vessels with a combined registered net tonnage of 8,352,077 tons used the canal facilities during the navigation season as compared with 9,394 vessels aggregating 8,331,982 tons in the similar period of 1952.

Sault Ste. Marie Canals:

DECEMBER

1953

1952

| <u>EAST BOUND</u> | | Canadian Lock | Canadian & U.S. Locks | Canadian Lock | Canadian & U.S. Locks |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Pulpwood | Tons | - | - | - | - |
| Lumber | " | - | - | - | - |
| Flour | " | 2,408 | 4,516 | 330 | 330 |
| Wheat | " | 11,906 | 528,919 | 52,347 | 1,028,388 |
| Other Grain | " | 28,892 | 203,762 | 26,692 | 284,871 |
| Copper | " | - | - | - | - |
| Iron Ore | " | - | - | - | 563,201 |
| Scrap Iron | " | - | 13,946 | - | 18,060 |
| Structural Steel | " | - | 5,621 | 9,430 | 20,182 |
| Stone | " | - | - | - | - |
| Crude Oil | " | 1,288 | 53,760 | - | 148,685 |
| Other Freight | " | 12,070 | 13,708 | 8,528 | 11,028 |
| Total | " | 56,564 | 824,232 | 97,327 | 2,074,745 |
| Passengers | Number | - | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| <u>WEST BOUND</u> | | | | | |
| Coal, soft | Tons | - | - | 6,005 | 20,826 |
| Coal, hard | " | - | - | - | - |
| Coke | " | - | - | - | - |
| Iron ore | " | - | - | - | - |
| Structural Steel | " | - | - | 45 | 45 |
| Salt | " | 89 | 89 | - | - |
| Oil and Gasoline | " | 749 | 749 | 6,716 | 21,656 |
| Stone | " | - | 33,329 | - | - |
| Other Freight | " | 12,967 | 14,940 | 10,966 | 20,466 |
| Total | " | 13,805 | 49,107 | 23,732 | 62,993 |
| Passengers | Number | - | - | - | 1 |
| Total Freight | Tons | 70,369 | 873,339 | 121,059 | 2,137,738 |
| Total Passengers | Number | - | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| Number of Vessels | | 94 | 327 | 99 | 548 |
| Registered Tonnage | Net | 102,852 | 708,740 | 124,124 | 1,537,794 |

Welland Ship Canal:

| | | DECEMBER | DECEMBER |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| | | 1953 | 1952 |
| Vessels | Number | 292 | 325 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 451,826 | 461,987 |
| Passengers | Number | - | - |
| Pleasure Craft | " | - | - |
| Barley | Tons | 7,289 | 22,040 |
| Corn | " | 18,645 | 9,870 |
| Oats | " | - | 2,519 |
| Rye | " | 3,761 | - |
| Wheat | " | 132,477 | 59,029 |
| Flour | " | 640 | - |
| Gasoline | " | 19,000 | 26,440 |
| Crude Oil | " | 59,590 | 100,990 |
| Petroleum & other oils | " | 94,465 | 109,328 |
| Sugar | " | 960 | - |
| Pulpwood | " | - | - |
| Autos and Parts | " | - | - |
| Paper | " | 9,900 | 6,300 |
| Wood Pulp | " | 3,650 | 1,850 |
| Hard Coal | " | - | 80,251 |
| Soft Coal | " | 11,004 | - |
| Iron Ore | " | - | - |
| Sand | " | 12,355 | 17,123 |
| All Other Freight | " | 52,223 | 36,919 |
| Total Freight | " | 425,959 | 472,659 |

St. Lawrence Canals:

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|---------------|
| Vessels | Number | 131 | 52 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 132,903 | 60,058 |
| Passengers | Number | - | - |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 2 | - |
| Barley | Tons | 1,165 | 3,926 |
| Corn | " | 9,740 | 4,705 |
| Oats | " | - | 425 |
| Rye | " | - | - |
| Wheat | " | 46,207 | 9,854 |
| Flour | " | 1,630 | - |
| Gasoline | " | 2,850 | 5,300 |
| Crude Oil | " | 5,450 | - |
| Petroleum & other Oils | " | 10,750 | 6,780 |
| Sugar | " | - | - |
| Pulpwood | " | - | - |
| Autos and Parts | " | - | - |
| Paper | " | - | - |
| Wood Pulp | " | 2,150 | 1,850 |
| Hard Coal | " | - | - |
| Soft Coal | " | 2,150 | 2,702 |
| Iron ore | " | - | - |
| Sand | " | - | - |
| All other freight | " | 44,620 | 13,554 |
| Total Freight | " | 126,712 | 49,096 |

| | | 1953 | 1952 | 1953 | 1952 |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|------|-------------------|---------|
| | | Murray Canal | | St. Peter's Canal | |
| Vessels | Number | 7 | - | 25 | 23 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 274 | - | 1,245 | 1,145 |
| Passengers | Number | - | - | - | - |
| Pleasure Craft | " | - | - | - | - |
| Total freight | Tons | - | - | 584 | 487 |
| | | All Canadian Canals | | | |
| Vessels | Number | - | - | 549 | 499 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | - | - | 689,100 | 647,314 |
| Passengers | Number | - | - | - | 6 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | - | - | 4 | - |
| Total freight | Tons | - | - | 623,624 | 643,301 |

Sault Ste. Marie Canals:

Season of Navigation

1953

1952

| <u>EAST BOUND</u> | | Canadian Lock | Canadian & U.S. Locks | Canadian Lock | Canadian & U.S. Locks |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Pulpwood | Tons | 183,140 | 505,050 | 234,367 | 569,859 |
| Lumber | " | - | - | - | - |
| Flour | " | 106,883 | 108,991 | 107,627 | 107,627 |
| Wheat | " | 523,957 | 8,088,437 | 589,235 | 9,558,463 |
| Other Grain | " | 963,298 | 5,219,091 | 683,097 | 4,555,336 |
| Copper | " | - | - | - | - |
| Iron Ore | " | - | 98,432,704 | - | 75,693,626 |
| Scrap Iron | " | - | 176,719 | - | 134,454 |
| Structural Steel | " | 36,326 | 391,678 | 69,663 | 166,342 |
| Stone | " | 91,009 | 91,009 | 68,250 | 68,250 |
| Crude Oil | " | 24,473 | 3,333,932 | 63,302 | 2,924,334 |
| Other Freight | " | 450,659 | 454,487 | 365,989 | 392,866 |
| Total | " | 2,379,745 | 116,802,098 | 2,181,530 | 94,171,157 |
| Passengers | Number | 52,520 | 54,619 | 49,071 | 50,325 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| <u>WEST BOUND</u> | | Canadian Lock | Canadian & U.S. Locks | Canadian Lock | Canadian & U.S. Locks |
| Coal, soft | Tons | 268,536 | 8,602,969 | 291,170 | 9,895,990 |
| Coal, hard | " | 12,122 | 96,941 | 9,294 | 168,214 |
| Coke | " | 1,629 | 1,629 | 5,221 | 5,221 |
| Iron ore | " | 702 | 224,887 | - | 220,497 |
| Structural Steel | " | 4,147 | 39,247 | 1,664 | 22,321 |
| Salt | " | 17,133 | 64,846 | 13,201 | 67,734 |
| Oil and Gasoline | " | 301,810 | 621,548 | 400,670 | 732,731 |
| Stone | " | 19,129 | 1,299,095 | - | 1,396,889 |
| Other Freight | " | 384,456 | 735,910 | 392,673 | 681,740 |
| Total | " | 1,009,664 | 11,687,072 | 1,113,893 | 13,191,337 |
| Passengers | Number | 52,846 | 54,996 | 48,381 | 49,623 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| Total Freight | Tons | 3,389,409 | 128,489,170 | 3,295,423 | 107,362,494 |
| Total Passengers | Number | 105,366 | 109,615 | 97,452 | 99,948 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 419 | 419 | 386 | 386 |
| Number of Vessels | " | 5,147 | 25,714 | 4,701 | 23,106 |
| Registered Tonnage | Net | 5,681,447 | 104,114,263 | 4,874,584 | 86,670,256 |

Welland Ship Canal:

Season of Navigation

| | | 1953 | 1952 |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Vessels | Number | 9,479 | 9,158 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 18,211,796 | 16,166,231 |
| Passengers | Number | 4,776 | 5,353 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 55 | - 57 |
| Barley | Tons | 1,738,776 | 1,607,250 |
| Corn | " | 337,286 | 204,159 |
| Oats | " | 280,427 | 187,946 |
| Rye | " | 99,708 | 78,398 |
| Wheat | " | 2,795,429 | 2,598,423 |
| Flour | " | 13,664 | 5,337 |
| Gasoline | " | 459,184 | 898,523 |
| Crude Oil | " | 781,348 | 711,206 |
| Petroleum & other oils | " | 1,093,505 | 1,291,749 |
| Sugar | " | 37,146 | 31,590 |
| Pulpwood | " | 500,163 | 579,376 |
| Autos and Parts | " | 3,109 | 2,027 |
| Paper | " | 420,103 | 342,772 |
| Wood Pulp | " | 80,535 | 52,775 |
| Hard Coal | " | 9,742 | 20,915 |
| Soft Coal | " | 5,950,193 | 5,343,057 |
| Iron Ore | " | 2,988,630 | 2,339,413 |
| Sand | " | 235,689 | 293,669 |
| All Other Freight | " | 1,747,238 | 1,322,171 |
| Total Freight | " | 19,571,875 | 17,910,756 |
| | | | |
| <u>St. Lawrence Canals:</u> | | | |
| Vessels | Number | 9,829 | 9,394 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 8,352,077 | 8,331,982 |
| Passengers | Number | 14 | - |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 717 | 477 |
| Barley | Tons | 1,607,132 | 1,467,487 |
| Corn | " | 220,486 | 99,520 |
| Oats | " | 185,476 | 121,575 |
| Rye | " | 73,117 | 76,232 |
| Wheat | " | 2,081,349 | 1,942,427 |
| Flour | " | 14,463 | 5,177 |
| Gasoline | " | 103,158 | 931,579 |
| Crude Oil | " | 398,990 | 254,274 |
| Petroleum & other Oils | " | 757,344 | 405,319 |
| Sugar | " | 6,838 | 6,376 |
| Pulpwood | " | 494,616 | 576,144 |
| Autos and Parts | " | 4,194 | 1,350 |
| Paper | " | 236,802 | 166,352 |
| Wood Pulp | " | 69,319 | 55,188 |
| Hard Coal | " | 19,537 | 15,207 |
| Soft Coal | " | 1,559,219 | 1,957,662 |
| Iron ore | " | 112,288 | 214,888 |
| Sand | " | 269,195 | 216,937 |
| All other freight | " | 1,868,469 | 1,322,701 |
| Total Freight | " | 10,081,992 | 9,836,395 |



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SEASON OF NAVIGATION

| | | Ottawa River Canals | | Rideau Canal | |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|
| | | 1953 | 1952 | 1953 | 1952 |
| Vessels | Number | 1,155 | 966 | 263 | 183 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 284,920 | 234,996 | 7,521 | 6,519 |
| Passengers | Number | 6 | - | (1) 1,541 | 851 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 5,601 | 3,819 | 25,548 | 21,932 |
| Total Freight | Tons | 243,032 | 201,151 | 1,531 | 921 |
| | | Richelieu River Canal | | Trent Canal | |
| Vessels | Number | 655 | 614 | 71 | 72 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 97,775 | 88,866 | 1,095 | 970 |
| Passengers | Number | 11 | - | (x) - | - |
| Pleasure Craft | " | - | - | 20,328 | 17,659 |
| Total Freight | Tons | 94,379 | 88,973 | 239 | 135 |
| | | Murray Canal | | St. Peter's Canal | |
| Vessels | Number | 84 | 94 | 505 | 478 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 32,415 | 33,800 | 15,348 | 18,330 |
| Passengers | Number | 9 | 18 | 54 | 30 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 1,342 | 1,158 | 14 | 61 |
| Total Freight | Tons | 676 | 380 | 3,841 | 3,802 |
| | | St. Andrew's Canal | | All Canadian Canals | |
| Vessels | Number | 482 | 662 | 27,568 | 26,322 |
| Registered Tonnage | Tons | 50,223 | 53,100 | 32,734,617 | 29,809,378 |
| Passengers | Number | (y) 305 | 431 | 112,082 | 104,135 |
| Pleasure Craft | " | 258 | 353 | 54,282 | 45,902 |
| Total Freight | Tons | 15,815 | 162,203 | 33,402,789 | 31,354,139 |

- (1) (Exclusive of 28,589 passengers on sight seeing pleasure boat cruises.
(Exclusive of 70,086 passengers carried in pleasure craft.)
- (x) (Exclusive of 75,074 passengers carried in small boats.
(One passenger through one lock recorded as "1".)
- (y) (Exclusive of 819 passengers carried in pleasure craft.)

TRAFFIC ON CANADIAN CANALS

1953

| Canal | Vessels No. | Registered Tonnage | Passengers Number | Tons | Freight Tonnage Compared with 1952 (Increase +) (Decrease -) |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| Sault Ste. Marie | 5,045 | 5,681,447 | 105,366 | 3,389,409 | + 93,986 |
| Welland Ship | 9,479 | 18,211,796 | 4,776 | 19,571,875 | + 1,661,119 |
| St. Lawrence | 9,829 | 8,352,077 | 14 | 10,081,992 | + 245,597 |
| Ottawa River | 1,155 | 284,920 | 6 | 243,032 | + 41,881 |
| Rideau | 263 | 7,521 | 1,541 | 1,531 | + 610 |
| Richelieu River | 655 | 97,775 | 11 | 94,379 | + 5,406 |
| Trent | 71 | 1,095 | - | 239 | + 104 |
| Murray | 84 | 32,415 | 9 | 676 | + 296 |
| St. Andrew's | 482 | 50,223 | 305 | 15,815 | - 388 |
| St. Peter's | 505 | 15,348 | 54 | 3,841 | + 39 |
| Total ¹ | 27,568 | 32,734,617 | 112,082 | 33,402,789 | + 2,048,650 |

¹ Includes duplications and is affected by the proportion of the total traffic at Sault Ste. Marie using the Canadian Lock.