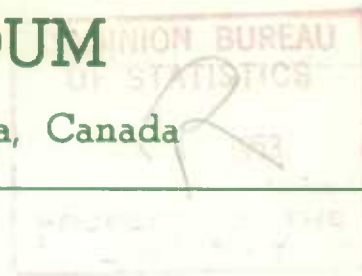


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D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFIC

8504-517

22-5-53

APRIL, 1953

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River canal system opened earlier than usual this year because of the mild winter, and to help relieve the pile-up of wheat and other grains in the Prairie Provinces which was brought about by the strike of West Coast grain elevator workers which halted all movement of grain to Pacific Coast ports. The United States locks at Sault Ste. Marie opened on March 21, twelve days in advance of the 1952 season of navigation, and ahead of the Canadian lock which began operations on March 29, four days earlier than last year. The St. Lawrence began operating on March 31 as compared to April 2 in the previous year, while the Welland passed the first vessel of the season on March 28, one day later than in 1952.

Total traffic through all Canadian canals during the month of April and the few days of March amounted to 3,307,044 tons, a modern record for the month and well above the 2,505,944 tons reported in the similar period of 1952, an increase of 801,100 tons or 32.0 per cent. Vessel passages numbered 2,405 aggregating 3,451,107 net tons as compared to 1,724 vessels of 2,548,454 tons in the previous April.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: Although the tonnage of freight locked westbound through the combined system was less than in the previous April, a sharp increase in eastbound traffic raised the total to 12,464,530 tons, a new high for the month, and 31.8 per cent above the April, 1952 sum of 9,456,447 tons. Commodities which contributed to the much larger volume this April include: iron ore which totalled 8,511,305 tons, up 2,271,708 tons or 36.4 per cent from the April, 1952 total of 6,239,597 tons; wheat which advanced to 1,636,677 tons from 1,365,419 an increase of 19.9 per cent; other grain which rose over eighty per cent from 363,776 to 666,381 tons, and crude oil, at 356,071 tons, was up more than two and a half times the April, 1952 total of 133,199 tons.

Traffic westbound fell to 1,168,606 tons in the month under review, a drop of 10.1 per cent from the total of 1,299,747 tons in April, 1952 due to the decline of soft coal shipments from 1,052,967 to 818,485 tons.

Freight traffic through the Canadian lock only amounted to 364,924 tons down slightly from the April, 1952 total of 368,960 tons, although the number of vessel passages rose to 409 from 319.

During the month under review, a total of 2,606 vessels aggregating 11,236,437 net tons were locked through the combined system as compared to 1,974 vessels of 8,206,663 tons in the corresponding period of 1952.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: Due mainly to heavy shipments of wheat, barley, soft coal and iron ore, total freight locked through the Welland Ship Canal rose to 2,010,531 tons as against 1,646,817 tons in April, 1952, an increase of 363,714 tons or 22.1 per cent. Wheat, at 433,642 tons, was more than double the previous year's total of 211,852 tons; barley advanced to 197,733 tons from 121,263; soft coal rose 9.2 per cent to 733,483 tons from 671,985; and iron ore amounted to 98,239 tons as compared to 38,347 one year earlier. Decreases were recorded for gasoline, crude oil and petroleum, due to the operation of new products pipelines.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: Almost twice as much freight was transported through the St. Lawrence canals as in the corresponding period of the previous year. Considerable increases in the tonnages of wheat, barley, petroleum, soft coal and all other freight raised the total to 910,686 tons from 486,786. Wheat advanced from 133,272 to 307,057 tons; barley from 70,699 to 140,908 tons; petroleum from 15,135 to 60,580 tons; soft coal from 86,748 to 133,101 tons, and all other freight rose to 136,374 tons as against 76,123. Small increases were also reported for oats, rye, crude oil, paper and sand.

Four of the smaller canals opened in April, and they reported a considerable increase in freight tonnage and in the number of vessel passages.

Prepared in the Public Finance and Transportation Division

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS:

		1 9 5 3		1 9 5 2	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U. S. Locks
<u>EAST BOUND</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	3,688	3,688	3,572	6,972
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	6,011	6,011	10,674	10,674
Wheat	"	69,684	1,636,677	137,111	1,365,419
Other Grain	"	101,031	666,381	92,324	363,776
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	8,511,305	-	6,239,597
Scrap Iron	"	-	12,702	-	5,768
Structural Steel	"	2,460	45,370	4,843	13,601
Stone	"	7,650	7,650	-	-
Crude Oil	"	-	356,071	3,157	133,199
Other Freight	"	50,069	50,069	10,087	17,694
TOTAL	"	240,593	11,295,924	261,768	8,156,700
Passengers	Number	11	25	2	16
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	44,176	818,485	46,873	1,052,967
Coal, hard	"	-	10,109	-	18,726
Coke	"	-	-	-	-
Iron ore	"	-	9,300	-	22,512
Structural Steel	"	676	676	386	386
Salt	"	97	97	153	4,548
Oil and Gasoline	"	23,415	47,346	22,205	49,089
Stone	"	13,491	201,969	-	102,110
Other Freight	"	42,476	80,624	37,575	49,409
TOTAL	"	124,331	1,168,606	107,192	1,299,747
Passengers	Number	21	26	12	25
Total Freight	Tons	364,924	12,464,530	368,960	9,456,447
Total Passengers	Number	32	51	14	41
Pleasure Craft	"	2	2	-	-
Number of Vessels		409	2,606	319	1,974
Registered Tonnage	NET	772,341	11,236,437	516,761	3,206,663

WELLAND SHIP CANAL:

		APRIL, 1953	APRIL, 1952
Vessels	No.	987	919
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,876,374	1,601,568
Passengers	No.	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-
Barley	Tons	197,733	121,263
Corn	"	9,948	-
Oats	"	34,176	9,838
Rye	"	5,884	2,735
Wheat	"	433,642	211,852
Flour	"	1,550	400
Gasoline	"	61,465	105,941
Crude Oil	"	118,955	133,179
Petroleum & other oils	"	92,967	133,532
Sugar	"	3,470	3,000
Pulpwood	"	-	-
Autos and Parts	"	153	261
Paper	"	50,211	37,061
Wood Pulp	"	2,796	2,354
Coke	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	733,483	671,985
Iron Ore	"	98,239	38,347
Sand	"	28,726	53,097
All Other Freight	"	137,133	121,972
TOTAL FREIGHT	"	2,010,531	1,646,817

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:

Vessels	No.	841	432
Registered Tonnage	Tons	776,719	424,217
Passengers	No.	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	7	2
Barley	Tons	140,908	70,699
Corn	"	10,916	11,195
Oats	"	20,977	6,918
Rye	"	5,237	2,735
Wheat	"	307,057	133,272
Flour	"	1,050	400
Gasoline	"	25,999	61,204
Crude Oil	"	26,100	11,500
Petroleum & other Oils	"	60,580	15,135
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	-	-
Autos and Parts	"	1,478	88
Paper	"	21,157	5,768
Wood Pulp	"	5,252	2,354
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	133,101	86,748
Iron ore	"	-	-
Sand	"	14,500	2,647
All Other Freight	"	136,374	76,123
TOTAL FREIGHT	"	910,686	486,786



		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1953	1952	1953	1952
Vessels	No.	73	-	-	-
Registered Tonnage	Tons	18,680	-	-	-
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	19	18	-	-
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	15,360	-	-	-
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	29	29	-	-
Registered Tonnage	Tons	3,897	3,460	-	-
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	-	2
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	5,163	3,137	-	-
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No	10	3	56	22
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,801	1,716	1,295	732
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	16	1	-
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	72	-	308	244
		St. Andrews Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	-	-	2,405	1,724
Registered Tonnage	Tons	-	-	3,451,107	2,548,454
Passengers	No.	-	-	32	14
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	29	38
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	-	-	3,307,044	2,505,944