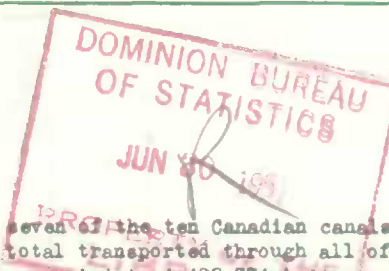


## D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFICMAY, 1953

8504-517

24-6-53

Although the tonnage of freight locked through seven of the ten Canadian canals during the month of May was less than in the corresponding period of 1952, the total transported through all of the canals established a new modern record for any single month. This new peak amounted to 4,402,774 tons exceeding the previous high of 4,248,737 tons which was recorded in September 1952, by 154,037 tons or 3.6 per cent and above the May, 1952 total of 4,150,931 tons by 251,843 tons or 6.1 per cent. Important increases in barley, soft coal and iron ore locked through the Welland Ship canal and barley, wheat, and petroleum oils through the St. Lawrence system were mainly responsible for the excellent showing this May.

During the month, 3,389 vessels, aggregating 4,334,408 net registered tons, were cleared through all Canadian canals as compared to 3,365 vessels of 3,980,645 tons which passed during the month of May in 1952. In addition, a total of 1,849 pleasure craft passed through the locks against 1,791 in the previous May. The number of passengers carried declined, however, from 5,236 to 4,797.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: Traffic handled by the Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie during the month under review amounted to 376,114 tons, a drop of 94,942 tons or 20.2 per cent from the May, 1952 total of 471,056 tons. Total cargoes loaded for eastern ports, at 259,213 tons, was lower than the previous May total of 329,854 tons by 21.4 per cent. Decreased tonnages were reported for other grain which declined from 126,182 to 73,926 tons, wheat, pulpwood and crude oil.

Traffic westbound, also dropped this May to 116,901 tons as compared to 141,202 tons due to lighter tonnages of soft coal, oil and gasoline, and, other freight.

The volume of traffic handled by the combined system however, reached a new high for the month of May advancing 7.9 per cent from the previous peak of 16,742,075 tons reported for May, 1952 to 18,064,089 tons. Commodities which were moved in heavier quantities this May include iron ore which rose to 13,581,816 tons from 12,329,870, wheat up to 1,205,258 tons from 1,071,620; other grain at 660,688 tons against 616,066; and crude oil which advanced to 476,517 tons from 322,348. These improvements raised the combined eastward flow of traffic to 16,145,395 tons as compared to the May, 1952 total of 14,550,086 tons. The total westbound volume declined to 1,918,694 from 2,191,989 tons due to lighter shipments of soft coal which were down to 1,465,440 tons from the 1,741,846 tons locked through the system in the corresponding period a year earlier.

A total of 3,353 vessels were given clearance through the locks during the month under review, 51 more than in the previous May while the net registered tonnage of vessels was 14,251,043 tons as against 13,009,715 and the number of passengers rose to 1,209 from 1,184.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: Freight tonnage records continue to fall at the Welland. The all time high for any single month of 2,463,010 tons which was reached only last September was surpassed this May when total cargoes aggregated 2,525,684 tons, 2.5 per cent above the previous high and 241,694 tons or 10.6 per cent above the month of May, 1952. Increased tonnages were reported for a long list of commodities, the most important of which were barley, which rose to 328,130 tons from 213,140 in May one year earlier; soft coal which advanced to 778,192 tons from 705,214; iron ore up to 412,303 tons from 291,480, corn, crude oil, pulpwood and paper. Wheat, however, amounted to only 388,676 tons as compared to 449,891 tons and gasoline declined to 60,370 tons from 131,920. Vessels passing through the canal numbered 1,236 with a net tonnage of 2,345,976 as opposed to 1,149 of 2,042,162 tons. The number of passengers totalled 3,516 against 4,084 in the previous May.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: During the month of May, 1,362 vessels totalling 1,243,555 net tons transported 1,456,133 tons of freight through the St. Lawrence canal system. This compares with 1,349 vessels of 1,237,969 net tons which carried 1,356,057 tons of cargo in May of the preceding year. The 100,076 tons or 7.4 per cent increase in the volume of freight was due to heavier shipments of barley which rose to 307,812 tons from 207,522; wheat up to 330,866 tons from 290,060, petroleum which advanced to 104,345 tons from 64,215, and all other freight which at 215,690 tons compares with 167,010 in the corresponding period of 1952. Other commodities which show increases this May, include corn, oats, pulpwood, paper and sand. Gasoline traffic declined to 17,078 tons from 176,810 due to new pipe line movement across Ontario.

Of the smaller canals, only the Ottawa River shows an increase in freight volume which amounted to 34,900 tons as compared to 21,901 a year earlier.

D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS:

		1953		1952	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
<u>EAST BOUND</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	30,878	69,380	41,082	95,388
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	14,212	14,212	11,547	11,547
Wheat	"	70,051	1,205,258	78,446	1,071,620
Other Grain	"	73,926	660,688	126,182	616,066
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	13,581,816	-	12,329,870
Scrap Iron	"	-	20,958	-	21,470
Structural Steel	"	7,223	55,196	7,210	17,904
Stone	"	8,140	8,140	9,970	9,970
Crude Oil	"	3,010	476,517	10,099	322,348
Other Freight	"	51,773	53,230	45,318	53,903
<b>TOTAL</b>	"	<b>259,213</b>	<b>16,145,395</b>	<b>329,854</b>	<b>14,550,086</b>
Passengers	Number	566	596	508	577
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	34,302	1,465,440	47,265	1,741,846
Coal, hard	"	3,392	14,373	2,944	24,074
Coke	"	-	-	3,452	3,452
Iron ore	"	-	30,179	-	44,233
Structural Steel	"	323	5,982	118	3,741
Salt	"	3,063	8,136	30	7,657
Oil and Gasoline	"	27,886	64,682	35,855	51,991
Stone	"	-	232,975	-	238,011
Other Freight	"	47,935	96,927	51,538	76,984
<b>TOTAL</b>	"	<b>116,901</b>	<b>1,918,694</b>	<b>141,202</b>	<b>2,191,989</b>
Passengers	Number	586	613	533	607
Total Freight	Tons	376,114	18,064,089	471,056	16,742,075
Total Passengers	Number	1,152	1,209	1,041	1,184
Pleasure Craft	"	25	25	15	15
Number of Vessels		438	3,353	499	3,302
Registered Tonnage	NMT	684,125	14,251,043	645,429	13,009,715

WELLAND SHIP CANAL:

		MAY, 1953	MAY, 1952
Vessels	No.	1,236	1,149
Registered Tonnage	Tons	2,345,976	2,042,162
Passengers	No.	3,516	4,084
Pleasure Craft	"	-	10
Barley	Tons	328,130	213,140
Corn	"	43,079	6,327
Oats	"	35,168	21,838
Rye	"	10,756	25,792
Wheat	"	388,676	449,891
Flour	"	627	1,400
Gasoline	"	60,370	131,920
Crude Oil	"	62,480	31,019
Petroleum & other oils	"	128,873	123,944
Sugar	"	5,969	4,568
Pulpwood	"	44,640	38,880
Autos and Parts	"	358	314
Paper	"	50,045	41,289
Wood Pulp	"	14,458	2,212
Coke	"	1,260	567
Soft Coal	"	778,192	705,214
Iron Ore	"	412,303	291,480
Sand	"	2,300	15,100
All Other Freight	"	158,000	179,095
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	"	<b>2,525,684</b>	<b>2,283,990</b>

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:

		MAY, 1953	MAY, 1952
Vessels	No.	1,362	1,349
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,243,555	1,237,969
Passengers	No.	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	30	21
Barley	Tons	307,812	207,522
Corn	"	22,281	3,313
Oats	"	21,829	19,820
Rye	"	12,050	24,894
Wheat	"	330,866	290,060
Flour	"	877	1,400
Gasoline	"	17,078	176,810
Crude Oil	"	39,550	41,874
Petroleum & other Oils	"	104,345	64,215
Sugar	"	3,038	1,688
Pulpwood	"	38,430	19,914
Autos and Parts	"	266	239
Paper	"	31,410	20,539
Wood Pulp	"	10,225	6,362
Hard Coal	"	4,570	2,352
Soft Coal	"	250,261	266,036
Iron ore	"	10,855	14,609
Sand	"	34,700	28,400
All Other Freight	"	215,690	167,010
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	"	<b>1,456,133</b>	<b>1,356,057</b>



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		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1953	1952	1953	1952
Vessels	No.	166	106	41	32
Registered Tonnage	Tons	40,482	26,236	1,542	1,353
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1) 127	85
Pleasure Craft	"	329	185	1,389	876
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>34,900</b>	<b>21,901</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>75</b>
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	63	107	3	4
Registered Tonnage	Tons	9,658	16,433	38	53
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	-	592
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>8,997</b>	<b>15,467</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No.	9	12	42	64
Registered Tonnage	Tons	5,148	4,019	1,869	2,831
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	59	32	13	2
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>710</b>
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	29	43	3,389	3,365
Registered Tonnage	Tons	2,015	4,160	4,334,408	3,980,645
Passengers	No.	(Y) 2	26	4,797	5,236
Pleasure Craft	"	4	58	1,849	1,791
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>4,402,774</b>	<b>4,150,931</b>

1 (Exclusive of 1,135 passengers on sight seeing pleasure boat cruises.  
(Exclusive of 3,403 passengers carried in pleasure craft.

Y Exclusive of 16 passengers carried in Pleasure craft.