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Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

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18-11-53SUMMARY OF CANAL TRAFFICSEPTEMBER, 1953

For the first time in many months, the total amount of freight transported through the Canadian canals was below the total reported in the corresponding period of the previous year. This September, the total amounted to 3,885,900 tons, 362,837 tons or 8.5 per cent below the September 1952 total, of 4,248,737 tons. Two of the major systems, the Welland Ship and the St. Lawrence, and most of the smaller ones reported decreases this September with the Welland registering the major portion of the decline, whereas, the Sault Ste. Maire canal registered a slight increase. Decreased shipments of iron ore, soft coal, pulpwood, gasoline and petroleum products accounted for the lower total. Although the number of vessel passengers was correspondingly lower in the month under review, 3,419 as compared with 3,487, the registered net tonnage rose to 3,850,656 tons from 3,844,566. The number of passengers and pleasure craft passages was also higher this September numbering 11,290 and 5,683 as against 7,288 and 4,934, respectively, one year earlier.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: During September, 14,092,417 tons of iron ore were locked through the Sault Ste. Marie canal, 426,133 tons less than in the preceding September. This decline was the dominant factor in lowering the total volume of traffic shipped through the system, to 17,222,041 tons from 17,720,018 in the corresponding period of 1952. Both the eastbound and westbound totals were down this September. Eastbound traffic amounted to 15,832,225 tons as compared with the September, 1952 total of 16,218,734, a drop of 386,509 tons or 2.4 per cent. In addition to iron ore, lighter shipments were reported for wheat, down to 517,210 tons from 656,740, and pulpwood which amounted to 70,860 tons versus 91,224 in September, 1952. Increases were reported, however, for other grains which rose to 563,968 tons from 455,387, and crude oil which was up to 468,924 from 392,436 tons. Traffic westbound eased to 1,389,816 tons from 1,501,284, due mainly to a lower volume of soft coal which aggregated 1,027,840 tons as against 1,137,707. The number of vessel passages was also lower this September at 3,243 as compared with 3,408 with a corresponding drop in net tonnage to 13,637,698 tons from 13,972,733.

Although westbound traffic through the Canadian lock also showed a decline, to 143,166 tons from 174,458, an overall increase of 12,255 tons was recorded as eastbound cargoes increased to 306,988 tons from 263,441, due to a heavier volume of other grains which advanced to 161,168 tons from 69,919 in the previous September.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: The volume of freight locked through the Welland Ship canal during September amounted to 2,220,817 tons, a decrease of 242,193 tons or 9.8 per cent from the September, 1952 total of 2,463,010 tons. Decreases in tonnage were reported for iron ore which amounted to 485,207 tons as compared to 609,774 a year earlier; petroleum products which fell to 110,887 tons from 180,326; gasoline which was down to 63,607 tons from 135,675; pulpwood down to 72,360 tons from 116,324; and barley which totalled 165,979 tons against 195,132 in the previous September. Minor declines were also reported for crude oil and soft coal. The number of vessel passages were also down this September to 1,110 from 1,161 although the registered net tonnage was a little higher at 2,152,560 tons as compared with 2,136,580. Passengers numbered 536 against 630 in September of last year.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: Freight tonnage shipped through the St. Lawrence canal system in the month under review declined to 1,171,451 tons from 1,297,531 tons in the similar month of 1952, a decrease of 126,080 tons or 9.7 per cent. Although increases were reported for a number of commodities, including corn, oats, flour, wheat, crude oil, petroleum oils and other freight, they were more than offset by lighter shipments of soft coal which totalled 178,949 tons as compared with 307,720 tons in the previous September; pulpwood which was down to 89,106 tons from 126,164; iron ore down to 26,223 tons from 74,401; gasoline which aggregated 13,280 tons as against 118,144; barley and sand. A total of 1,172 vessels with a combined registered net tonnage of 929,690 tons used the canal facilities during the month. In the same period of 1952, the total was higher at 1,226 aggregating 1,015,245 tons.

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
EAST BOUND						
Pulpwood	Tons	21,158	70,860	48,496	91,224	
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-	
Flour	"	15,916	15,916	11,428	11,428	
Wheat	"	49,619	517,210	54,671	656,740	
Other Grain	"	161,168	563,968	69,919	455,387	
Copper	"	-	-	-	-	
Iron Ore	"	-	14,092,417	-	14,518,550	
Scrap Iron	"	-	21,529	-	11,600	
Structural Steel	"	6,108	30,890	10,224	28,435	
Stone	"	10,050	10,050	7,260	7,260	
Crude Oil	"	-	458,924	15,769	392,436	
Other Freight	"	42,969	50,461	45,674	45,674	
TOTAL	"	306,988	15,832,225	263,441	16,218,734	
Passengers	Number	5,296	5,665	3,351	3,708	
WEST BOUND						
Coal, soft	Tons	26,539	1,027,840	30,105	1,137,707	
Coal, hard	"	6,380	11,887	3,450	33,460	
Coke	"	-	-	1,769	1,769	
Iron Ore	"	-	12,320	-	23,100	
Structural Steel	"	-	5,000	175	6,415	
Salt	"	3,163	3,163	19	19	
Oil and Gasoline	"	62,092	96,280	93,824	117,164	
Stone	"	-	145,605	-	95,795	
Other Freight	"	44,992	87,721	45,116	85,855	
TOTAL	"	143,166	1,389,816	174,458	1,501,284	
Passengers	Number	5,266	5,598	3,202	3,506	
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	450,154	17,222,041	437,899	17,720,018	
TOTAL PASSENGERS	Number	10,562	11,263	6,553	7,214	
Pleasure Craft	"	40	40	47	47	
Number of Vessels		671	3,243	575	3,408	
REGISTERED TONNAGE	NET	700,504	13,637,698	618,984	13,972,733	

WELLAND SHIP CANAL

		September, 1953	September, 1952
Vessels	Number	1,110	1,161
Registered Tonnage	Tons	2,152,560	2,136,580
Passengers	Number	536	630
Pleasure Craft	"	5	4
Barley	Tons	165,979	195,132
Corn	"	52,625	22,560
Oats	"	45,845	12,123
Rye	"	12,732	4,298
Wheat	"	197,736	198,457
Flour	"	2,000	-
Gasoline	"	63,607	135,675
Crude Oil	"	83,061	87,962
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	110,887	180,326
Sugar	"	2,910	4,661
Pulpwood	"	72,360	116,324
Autos and Parts	"	157	219
Paper	"	49,162	47,948
Wood Pulp	"	9,819	6,272
Coke	"	-	2,085
Soft Coal	"	631,311	640,326
Iron Ore	"	485,207	609,774
Sand	"	46,883	49,746
All Other Freight	"	188,546	149,122
TOTAL FREIGHT	"	2,220,817	2,463,010

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:

Vessels	Number	1,172	1,226
Registered Tonnage	Tons	929,690	1,015,245
Passengers	Number	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	124	45
Barley	Tons	170,440	182,229
Corn	"	51,509	11,525
Oats	"	27,212	15,005
Rye	"	4,270	4,298
Wheat	"	164,902	133,188
Flour	"	2,340	-
Gasoline	"	13,280	118,144
Crude Oil	"	54,000	47,400
Petroleum & Other Oils	"	81,975	27,990
Sugar	"	-	1,761
Pulpwood	"	89,106	126,164
Autos and Parts	"	22	284
Paper	"	27,144	24,704
Wood Pulp	"	8,971	7,404
Hard Coal	"	1,000	4,237
Soft Coal	"	178,949	307,720
Iron Ore	"	26,223	74,401
Sand	"	37,280	39,005
All Other Freight	"	232,828	172,072
TOTAL FREIGHT	"	1,171,451	1,297,531



		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1953	1952	1953	1952
Vessels	No.	138	176	30	20
Registered Tonnage	Tons	36,160	42,074	895	812
Passengers	No.	-	-	(1) 133	73
Pleasure Craft	"	726	487	2,875	2,520
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	30,550	35,817	225	310
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	86	68	9	11
Registered Tonnage	Tons	11,875	10,260	133	118
Passengers	No.	-	-	X -	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	1,718	1,641
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	9,992	10,039	47	24
		Murray Canal		St. Perer's Canal	
Vessels	No.	17	12	64	82
Registered Tonnage	Tons	7,590	5,231	1,653	2,994
Passengers	No.	-	10	3	-
Pleasure Craft	"	143	99	-	24
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	500	73	97	207
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	122	156	3,419	3,487
Registered Tonnage	Tons	9,596	12,268	3,850,656	3,844,566
Passengers	No.	(Y) 56	22	11,290	7,288
Pleasure Craft	"	52	67	5,683	4,934
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	2,067	3,827	3,885,900	4,248,737

1 (Exclusive of 2,760 passengers on sight seeing pleasure boat cruises.
(Exclusive of 7,573 passengers carried in pleasure craft.

X (6,309 passengers carried in small boats.
(One passenger through one lock recorded as "1".

Y Exclusive of 171 passengers carried in pleasure craft.