

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Memorandum

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 DOMINION BUREAU
 OF STATISTICS

SUMMARY OF CANAL STATISTICS
FOR DECEMBER AND
SEASON OF NAVIGATION, 1954

The 1954 season of navigation was considerably shorter than the 1953 season for the Sault Ste. Marie canal, the St. Lawrence system and four of the smaller canals. The Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie opened April 10, twelve days later than in the previous year and closed December 11, four days earlier. The season was thus reduced to 246 days from 262 in 1953. The American locks, which opened April 11 and closed December 16, were in operation 250 days, twenty less than in the preceding year. The St. Lawrence system began operations April 13 as compared with March 31 in 1953 and closed December 11 as against December 14 with the result that the 1954 season of 243 days was sixteen less than in the previous year. The Welland Ship canal opened March 25, three days earlier and closed December 17, three days earlier so that the number of operating days, 268, remained the same for the two years.

The total tonnage of freight locked through the ten Canadian canals during the 1954 season of navigation amounted to 30,070,543 short tons, a decline of 3,302,521 tons or 9.9 per cent from the modern record of 33,373,064 tons which was attained in the previous year. All of the canal systems, except the Richelieu, reported a decrease in freight traffic in 1954. Decreased shipments of wheat, other grain and soft coal through the Canadian Sault; barley, soft coal and iron ore through the Welland; and barley, soft coal, and crude oil through the St. Lawrence system were the main contributors to the overall decline in 1954. Decreases were also reported for the number of vessel passages, the registered net tonnage of vessels and the number of pleasure craft lockages. The number of vessels cleared through the locks totalled 25,292, down from 27,563 in the preceding year, while the registered net tonnage declined 9.5 per cent to 29,442,575 net tons from 32,542,585. The number of pleasure craft passages declined to 54,031 from 54,284 but the number of passengers rose to 116,231 from 112,082, a gain of 4,149 or 3.7 per cent.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANAL - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: Freight traffic, both east and westbound, transported through the combined locks at Sault Ste. Marie during 1954 was considerably below the record level established in the previous year. The eastbound total decreased to 75,215,933 tons from 116,802,098, due mainly to a decline in demand for iron ore which dropped to 62,409,641 tons from 98,432,704. Large tonnage decreases were also reported for wheat which declined to 6,304,976 tons from 8,088,437; other grain which was down to 4,405,695 tons from 5,219,091; and crude oil which amounted to 630,148 tons as compared with 3,333,932 tons in the previous year. Total westbound traffic decreased to 10,199,416 tons from 11,687,072 a decline of 12.7 per cent as lighter shipments were reported for iron ore, stone, other freight and soft coal which dropped to 7,302,652 tons from 8,602,969.

The tonnage of freight transported through the Canadian lock amounted to 2,607,968 tons, a decrease of 781,441 tons or 23.1 per cent from the 1953 total of 3,389,409 tons. Grain shipments were considerably lighter in 1954.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: The volume of freight locked through the Welland Ship canal during the 1954 season of navigation declined 2,027,892 tons or 10.4 per cent to 17,514,258 tons from the 1953 total of 19,542,150 tons. Commodities which were moved in lighter quantities in 1954 include barley which amounted to 1,199,617 tons as compared with 1,738,776 tons a year earlier; gasoline which dropped to 370,174 tons from 459,184; soft coal which declined to 4,984,168 tons from 5,955,755; and iron ore which was down to 2,298,853 tons from 2,988,630. Fewer shipments were also reported for corn, oats, rye, petroleum, woodpulp and sand. Gains were registered, however, for wheat, flour, crude oil, sugar, pulpwood and other freight which rose 15.1 per cent to 2,013,947 tons from 1,749,566.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: As at the Sault and Welland canals, the amount of freight transported through the St. Lawrence system was less than in the previous season, particularly for such commodities as barley, crude oil, petroleum, soft coal, and sand. During the year, 9,637,034 tons were cleared through the various locks as compared with 10,081,992 tons in 1953, a decrease of 444,958 tons or 4.4 per cent. Barley shipments declined to 963,343 tons from 1,607,132 crude oil to 301,150 tons from 398,990, petroleum to 699,965 tons from 757,344, soft coal to 1,469,129 tons from 1,559,219, and sand to 209,981 tons from 269,195. Increased tonnages were reported for corn, oats, flour, gasoline, sugar, iron ore, other freight and wheat which rose to 2,372,468 tons from 2,081,349 in 1953.

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Sault Ste. Marie Canals:

DECEMBER

1954

1953

		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
<u>EAST BOUND</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	-	-	-	-
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	4,437	4,437	2,408	4,516
Wheat	"	18,710	568,229	11,906	528,919
Other Grain	"	27,016	246,196	28,892	203,762
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	27,022	-	-
Scrap Iron	"	-	30,790	-	13,946
Structural Steel	"	1,454	7,034	-	5,621
Stone	"	820	820	-	-
Crude Oil	"	-	16,149	1,288	53,760
Other Freight	"	21,771	23,944	12,070	13,708
Total	"	74,208	924,621	56,564	824,232
Passengers	Number	4	4	1	1
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	-	28,219	-	-
Coal, hard	"	-	-	-	-
Coke	"	-	-	-	-
Iron ore	"	-	-	-	-
Structural Steel	"	-	4,800	-	-
Salt	"	42	42	89	89
Oil and Gasoline	"	3,401	8,030	749	749
Stone	"	-	23,252	-	33,329
Other Freight	"	12,584	12,584	12,967	14,940
Total	"	16,027	76,927	13,805	49,107
Passengers	Number	2	2	-	-
Total Freight	Tons	90,235	1,001,548	70,369	873,339
Total Passengers	Number	6	6	-	1
Pleasure Craft	"	2	2	2	2
Number of Vessels	"	88	345	94	327
Registered Tonnage	Net	113,814	838,341	102,852	708,740

Welland Ship Canal:

		DECEMBER	
		1954	1953
Vessels	Number	319	292
Registered Tonnage	Tons	558,351	395,815*
Passengers	Number	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-
Barley	Tons	32,855	7,289
Corn	"	8,796	18,645
Oats	"	11,110	-
Rye	"	8,586	3,761
Wheat	"	186,523	132,477
Flour	"	638	640
Gasoline	"	18,950	19,000
Crude Oil	"	66,269	59,590
Petroleum & other oils	"	56,374	94,465
Sugar	"	-	960
Pulpwood	"	-	-
Autos and Parts	"	-	-
Paper	"	12,480	9,900
Wood Pulp	"	4,000	3,650
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	92,630	11,004
Iron Ore	"	-	-
Sand	"	2,117	12,355
All Other Freight	"	88,548	52,223
Total Freight	"	589,876	425,959

St. Lawrence Canals:

Vessels	Number	291	131
Registered Tonnage	Tons	232,127	132,903
Passengers	Number	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	6	2
Barley	Tons	7,137	1,165
Corn	"	9,572	9,740
Oats	"	10,295	-
Rye	"	-	-
Wheat	"	84,164	46,207
Flour	"	288	1,630
Gasoline	"	-	2,850
Crude Oil	"	-	5,450
Petroleum & other Oils	"	22,580	10,750
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	-	-
Autos and Parts	"	114	-
Paper	"	-	-
Wood Pulp	"	-	2,150
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	4,470	2,150
Iron Ore	"	-	-
Sand	"	-	-
All Other Freight	"	75,568	44,620
Total Freight	"	214,188	126,712

		1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal		Murray Canal	
Vessels	Number	1	-	-	-	-	7
Registered Tonnage	Tons	121	-	-	-	-	274
Passengers	Number	-	-	x	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	4	2	-	-
Total Freight	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-
		St. Peter's Canal		All Canadian Canals			
Vessels	Number	26	25	725	549	-	-
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,877	1,245	906,290	633,089	-	-
Passengers	Number	-	-	6	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	12	6	-	-
Total Freight	Tons	893	584	895,192	623,624	-	-

* Revised

x 53 passengers carried in small boats
One passenger through one lock recorded as "1"

Sault Ste. Marie Canals:

Season of Navigation

1954

1953

<u>EAST BOUND</u>		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
Pulpwood	Tons	173,179	460,625	183,140	505,050
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	96,918	97,918	106,883	108,991
Wheat	"	217,596	6,304,976	523,957	8,088,437
Other Grain	"	675,949	4,405,695	963,298	5,219,091
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	62,409,641	-	98,432,704
Scrap Iron	"	7,570	103,742	-	176,719
Structural Steel	"	75,995	89,474	36,326	391,678
Stone	"	55,400	58,050	91,009	91,009
Crude Oil	"	14,070	630,148	24,473	3,333,932
Other Freight	"	445,301	655,664	450,659	454,487
Total	"	1,761,978	75,215,933	2,379,745	116,802,098
Passengers	Number	58,243	59,818	52,520	54,619
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	202,143	7,302,652	268,536	8,602,969
Coal, hard	"	-	47,716	12,122	96,941
Coke	"	-	94,971	1,629	1,629
Iron ore	"	-	173,828	702	224,887
Structural Steel	"	5,666	128,668	4,147	39,247
Salt	"	13,082	94,497	17,133	64,846
Oil and Gasoline	"	286,209	639,044	301,810	621,548
Stone	"	6,470	1,163,207	19,129	1,299,095
Other Freight	"	332,420	554,833	384,456	735,910
Total	"	845,990	10,199,416	1,009,664	11,687,072
Passengers	Number			52,846	54,996
Total Freight	Tons	2,607,968	85,415,349	3,389,409	128,489,170
Total Passengers	Number	115,014	118,208	105,366	109,615
Pleasure Craft	"	381	381	419	419
Number of Vessels		4,349	17,022	5,147	25,714
Registered Tonnage	Net	4,093,911	67,683,259	5,681,447	104,114,263

Welland Ship Canal:

Season of Navigation

		1954	1953
Vessels	Number	8,479	9,372*
Registered Tonnage	Tons	16,747,693	18,019,764*
Passengers	Number	40	4,776
Pleasure Craft	"	41	55
Barley	Tons	1,199,617	1,738,776
Corn	"	313,716	337,286
Oats	"	283,306	284,188*
Rye	"	48,384	95,947*
Wheat	"	2,800,655	2,795,429
Flour	"	56,919	13,664
Gasoline	"	370,174	459,184
Crude Oil	"	868,791	781,348
Petroleum & other oils	"	1,056,751	1,098,273*
Sugar	"	52,102	37,146
Pulpwood	"	516,001	500,163
Autos and Parts	"	2,272	3,109
Paper	"	422,188	422,903*
Wood Pulp	"	55,448	80,535
Hard Coal	"	4,344	9,690*
Soft Coal	"	4,984,168	5,955,755*
Iron Ore	"	2,298,853	2,988,630
Sand	"	166,622	190,558*
All Other Freight	"	2,013,947	1,749,566*
Total Freight	"	17,514,258	19,542,150*
<u>St. Lawrence Canals:</u>			
Vessels	Number	9,449	9,829
Registered Tonnage	Tons	8,173,908	8,352,077
Passengers	Number	4	14
Pleasure Craft	"	759	717
Barley	Tons	963,343	1,607,132
Corn	"	280,317	220,486
Oats	"	189,019	185,476
Rye	"	44,275	73,117
Wheat	"	2,372,468	2,081,349
Flour	"	18,711	14,463
Gasoline	"	122,736	103,158
Crude Oil	"	301,150	398,990
Petroleum & other Oils	"	699,965	757,344
Sugar	"	7,542	6,838
Pulpwood	"	493,028	494,616
Autos and Parts	"	1,418	4,194
Paper	"	229,218	236,802
Wood Pulp	"	43,821	69,319
Hard Coal	"	4,965	19,537
Soft Coal	"	1,469,129	1,559,219
Iron ore	"	297,396	112,288
Sand	"	209,981	269,195
All other freight	"	1,888,552	1,868,469
Total Freight	"	9,637,034	10,081,992

* Revised



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Season of Navigation

		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1954	1953	1954	1953
Vessels	Number	926	1,155	180	263
Registered Tonnage	Tons	223,340	284,920	7,737	7,521
Passengers	Number	-	6	(1) 778	1,541
Pleasure Craft	"	5,418	5,601	25,383	25,548
Total Freight	Tons	190,810	243,032	1,490	1,531
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	Number	709	655	130	71
Registered Tonnage	Tons	111,563	97,775	1,698	1,095
Passengers	Number	136	11	(x) -	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	20,510	20,330
Total Freight	Tons	109,316	94,379	170	239
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	Number	104	84	570	505
Registered Tonnage	Tons	40,037	32,415	14,625	15,348
Passengers	Number	-	9	29	54
Pleasure Craft	"	1,220	1,342	-	14
Total Freight	Tons	272	676	3,195	3,841
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	Number	396	482	25,292	27,563
Registered Tonnage	Tons	28,063	50,223	29,442,575	32,542,585
Passengers	Number	(y) 230	305	116,231	112,082
Pleasure Craft	"	319	258	54,031	54,284
Total Freight	Tons	6,030	15,815	30,070,543	33,373,064

- (1) (Exclusive of 23,976 passengers on sight seeing pleasure boat cruises.
(Exclusive of 69,900 passengers carried in pleasure craft.)
(72,931 passengers carried in small boats.)
(x) (One passenger through one lock recorded as "1")
(y) Exclusive of 1,131 passengers carried in pleasure craft.

TRAFFIC ON CANADIAN CANALS

1954

Canal	Vessels No.	Registered Tonnage	Passengers Number	Tons	Freight Tonnage Compared with 1953 (Increase +) (Decrease -)
Sault Ste. Marie	4,349	4,093,911	115,014	2,607,968	- 781,441
Welland Ship	8,479	16,747,693	40	17,514,258	- 2,027,892
St. Lawrence	9,449	8,173,908	4	9,637,034	- 444,958
Ottawa River	926	223,340	-	190,810	- 52,222
Rideau	180	7,737	778	1,490	- 41
Richelieu River	709	111,563	136	109,316	+ 14,937
Trent	130	1,698	-	170	- 69
Murray	104	40,037	-	272	- 404
St. Andrew's	396	28,063	230	6,030	- 9,785
St. Peter's	570	14,625	29	3,195	- 646
Total /	25,292	29,442,575	116,231	30,070,543	- 3,302,521

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