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SUMMARY OF CANAL STATISTICS

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Despite the fact that the season of navigation on the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River system got off to a late start this year, shipments of such bulk commodities as wheat and other grains, iron ore and soft coal have been light. The Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie opened on April 10th, twelve days later than in the previous year while the United States locks began operating twenty-one days later, beginning April 11 as compared with March 21st in 1953, and, the St. Lawrence system reported the first vessel passage on April 13th thirteen days later. The Welland Ship canal, however, began operations on March 25th, three days earlier but as at the other canals, traffic has been light.

The total tonnage of freight transported through all Canadian canals during April amounted to 1,653,812 tons less than half the total of 3,307,044 tons reported for the same month of 1953 as very little wheat and other grains were shipped from the lakehead to eastern elevators which are filled to near capacity. Traffic through all three major canals was considerably lower than the average over the past ten years.

The number of vessels locked through the canals totalled 1,254, a decrease of 1,151 from the April, 1953 total of 2,405 while the registered net tonnage declined to 1,703,506 tons from 3,451,107.

SAULT STE. MARIE CANAL - CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES LOCKS: The Canadian locks at Sault Ste. Marie opened 12 days later than in 1953 whereas those on the United States side were 21 days later. The total amount of cargo locked through the Sault Ste. Marie canal during the month dropped to 2,360,476 tons from the April, 1953 total of 12,464,530 tons. Eastbound shipments were down to 1,959,956 tons from 11,295,924 as cargoes of wheat amounted to 152,843 tons as compared with 1,636,677 tons in the previous April, iron ore totalled 1,377,968 tons as against 8,511,305 and other grain was down to 312,707 tons from 666,381. Westbound shipments also declined this April to 400,520 tons from 1,168,606 as cargoes of soft coal dropped to 254,768 tons from 818,485 and stone to 40,027 tons from 201,969.

The number of vessel passages and registered net tonnage decreased to 608 vessels aggregating 2,154,057 net tons from 2,606 vessels of 11,236,437 tons. Traffic through the Canadian lock only was down to 151,703 tons from 364,924 with all commodities except structural steel, showing declines.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL: Opening 3 days earlier than in 1953 the Welland Ship canal reported that the volume of freight transported amounted to 1,151,543 tons, a decrease of 858,988 tons or 42.7 per cent from the April, 1953 total of 2,010,531 tons, while the number of vessels totalled 587 aggregating 1,160,291 net tons as compared with 987 vessels of 1,876,374 tons. The tonnages of all commodities except petroleum, sugar and autos were lower than in the previous year. Shipments of wheat amounted to 38,552 tons as compared with 433,642 tons in the previous April, cargoes of barley decreased to 37,404 tons from 197,733, soft coal totalled 630,221 tons as against 733,483 and iron ore was down to 18,609 tons from 98,239.

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS: Opening 13 days later than in 1953, this canal reported that, during the month, 361 vessels totalling 316,071 net tons transported 344,685 tons of freight through the St. Lawrence system. In the previous April, 841 vessels of 776,719 net tons carried 910,686 tons of freight. The decrease thus amounted to 566,001 tons or 62.2 per cent. As at the Sault and Welland canals, practically all of the commodities were moved in lighter quantities than in the corresponding period of 1953. Wheat shipments were down to 73,663 tons from 307,057, barley dropped to 14,442 tons from 140,908 and soft coal was down to 77,343 tons from 133,101.

Prepared in the Public Finance and Transportation Division,  
Transportation and Public Utilities Section.

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SAULT STE. MARIE CANALS:

		1954		1953	
		Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks	Canadian Lock	Canadian & U.S. Locks
<u>EAST BOUND</u>					
Pulpwood	Tons	1,854	5,054	3,688	3,688
Lumber	"	-	-	-	-
Flour	"	3,165	3,165	6,011	6,011
Wheat	"	3,462	152,843	69,684	1,636,677
Other Grain	"	58,410	312,707	101,031	666,361
Copper	"	-	-	-	-
Iron Ore	"	-	1,377,968	-	8,511,305
Scrap Iron	"	-	-	-	12,702
Structural Steel	"	4,856	7,264	2,460	45,370
Stone	"	-	-	7,650	7,650
Crude Oil	"	-	51,094	-	356,071
Other Freight	"	19,582	49,861	50,069	50,069
<b>TOTAL</b>	"	<b>91,329</b>	<b>1,959,956</b>	<b>240,593</b>	<b>11,895,924</b>
Passengers	Number	2	6	11	25
<u>WEST BOUND</u>					
Coal, soft	Tons	19,330	254,768	44,176	818,485
Coal, hard	"	-	6,500	-	10,109
Coke	"	-	-	-	-
Iron ore	"	-	-	-	9,300
Structural Steel	"	2,000	8,997	676	676
Salt	"	65	65	97	97
Oil and Gasoline	"	8,866	39,561	23,415	47,346
Stone	"	-	40,027	13,491	201,969
Other Freight	"	30,113	50,602	42,476	80,624
<b>TOTAL</b>	"	<b>60,374</b>	<b>400,520</b>	<b>124,331</b>	<b>1,168,606</b>
Passengers	Number	9	13	21	26
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	<b>Tons</b>	<b>151,703</b>	<b>2,360,476</b>	<b>364,924</b>	<b>12,464,530</b>
<b>TOTAL PASSENGERS</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>51</b>
Pleasure Craft	"	1	1	2	2
Number of Vessels		167	608	409	2,606
<b>REGISTERED TONNAGE</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>219,348</b>	<b>2,154,057</b>	<b>772,341</b>	<b>11,236,437</b>

WELLAND SHIP CANAL

		April, 1954	April, 1953
Vessels	Number	587	987
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,160,291	1,876,374
Passengers	Number	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-
Barley	Tons	37,404	197,733
Corn	"	7,364	9,948
Oats	"	10,591	34,176
Rye	"	-	5,884
Wheat	"	38,552	443,642
Flour	"	300	1,550
Gasoline	"	43,747	61,465
Crude Oil	"	73,675	118,955
Petroleum & other oils	"	118,791	92,967
Sugar	"	4,110	3,470
Pulpwood	"	-	-
Autos and Parts	"	818	153
Paper	"	40,700	50,211
Wood Pulp	"	-	2,796
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	630,221	733,483
Iron Ore	"	18,609	98,239
Sand	"	14,202	28,726
All Other Freight	"	112,459	137,133
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	"	<b>1,151,543</b>	<b>2,010,531</b>

ST. LAWRENCE CANALS:

Vessels	No.	361	841
Registered Tonnage	Tons	316,071	776,719
Passengers	No.	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	7
Barley	Tons	14,442	140,908
Corn	"	7,691	10,916
Oats	"	3,784	20,977
Rye	"	-	5,237
Wheat	"	73,663	307,057
Flour	"	300	1,050
Gasoline	"	10,747	25,999
Crude Oil	"	16,400	26,100
Petroleum & other Oils	"	26,504	60,580
Sugar	"	-	-
Pulpwood	"	-	-
Autos and Parts	"	94	1,478
Paper	"	20,978	21,157
Wood Pulp	"	555	5,252
Hard Coal	"	-	-
Soft Coal	"	77,343	133,101
Iron ore	"	-	-
Sand	"	-	14,500
All other freight	"	92,184	136,374
<b>TOTAL FREIGHT</b>	"	<b>344,685</b>	<b>910,686</b>

		Ottawa River Canals		Rideau Canal	
		1954	1953	1954	1953
Vessels	No.	4	73	-	-
Registered Tonnage	Tons	1,385	18,680	-	-
Passengers	No.	-	-	-	-
Pleasure Craft	"	9	19	-	-
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	-	15,360	-	-
		Richelieu River Canal		Trent Canal	
Vessels	No.	29	29	-	-
Registered Tonnage	Tons	4,601	3,897	-	-
Passengers	No.	-	-	X -	-
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	8	-
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	5,514	5,163	-	-
		Murray Canal		St. Peter's Canal	
Vessels	No.	1	10	105	56
Registered Tonnage	Tons	35	1,801	1,775	1,295
Passengers	No.	-	-	3	-
Pleasure Craft	"	10	-	-	1
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	-	72	367	308
		St. Andrew's Canal		All Canadian Canals	
Vessels	No.	-	-	1,254	2,405
Registered Tonnage	Tons	-	-	1,703,506	3,451,107
Passengers	No.	-	-	14	32
Pleasure Craft	"	-	-	28	29
TOTAL FREIGHT	Tons	-	-	1,653,812	3,307,044

X 29 passengers carried in small boats  
one passenger through one lock recorded as "1"