

March 25

Provinces Permitted To Start Development On St. Lawrence River

Question as to Who Owns Water Powers in Navi- gable Streams May Be Left in Abeyance—Fed- eral Authorities Say They Are Not in Water Power Business

MAY SUBMIT PLAN FOR WATERWAY

(By WILLIAM MARCHINGTON.)
(Staff Correspondent of The Globe.)

Ottawa, March 24. — Substantial progress has been made in connection with the St. Lawrence seaway project, as a result of recent conferences between the Dominion Government and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. It was learned today that the offer made by Premier Mackenzie King to Premier Ferguson and Premier Taschereau with respect to water powers on the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa Rivers was so attractive that the Provincial Premiers were somewhat reticent at first about its acceptance.

In effect the Dominion Prime Minister and his colleagues said to Premier Ferguson and Premier Taschereau that the Provinces could proceed with their plans for the development of the water powers on these rivers subject only to the requirements of navigation.

The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec do not question the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government with regard to navigation, it was stated by Premier Ferguson when he was in to Ottawa, and the Dominion Government virtually admitted in the recent conferences that the Provinces own the surplus waters after the requirements of navigation have been met. In other words, the Dominion is entitled to divert from navigable rivers sufficient water to operate locks. On the St. Lawrence this amounts to some 2,000 cubic feet per second.

It is confidently expected in Government circles here that an agreement shortly will be concluded and negotiations will then be resumed with the United States for the joint deepening and general improvement of the St. Lawrence Waterway. As indicated in previous dispatches, however, the waterway will be improved a section at a time rather than all at once, and the power will be developed as the market for it warrants.

Offer to Provinces

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, March 24.—The Dominion Government has offered to give agreements allowing the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to go ahead and develop water power as they see fit on the St. Lawrence so long as the rights of navigation are protected. The question of who owns the water power in navigable streams may be left in abeyance, is the contention of the Federal Government,

without holding up any power development the Provinces wish to make.

The Federal Government has told the Provinces that it is not in the water power business, and if the Provinces wish to develop water power, they may go ahead and do just as the Beauharnois Power Company is developing between Lakes St. Francis and St. Louis. In that case the Quebec Government issued the license and the Dominion did not raise any question of Quebec's ownership of this water, but only made provisions to protect the rights of navigation.

In the case of the Carillon power development proposals there would be a slightly different situation in that the Dominion had certain interests arising out of issuing a license to a private company, but even there, there was no great obstacle to prevent a power development if desired, in the opinion of Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of Interior.

Mr. Stewart explained that in the case of the St. Lawrence, the Province of Ontario might, for example, go ahead and submit plans for development of power if it so desired, just as Beauharnois had. To the question of whether or not Ontario might be in an embarrassing position by developing the power if later the courts decided that the power belonged to the Dominion, Mr. Stewart said that the agreement which the Dominion would give the Province would fully protect the Province against such an eventuality.

SEAWAY WILL COME, SAYS HEAD OF O.A.C.

Dr. Christie Also Praises Efforts of Canadian Wheat Pool

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, March 24.—Strong conviction that the St. Lawrence deep waterways system is a desirable project and that the Western wheat pool is going to win the fight for a fair price for its wheat, was expressed today by Dr. G. I. Christie, President of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph.

"The St. Lawrence waterway is coming," said Dr. Christie. "It is a question of when the two countries are ready for it. There should, however, be no question about Canada retaining Canadian power for use in the Dominion. Why should we sell our birthright of power when we will need it ourselves in the future?"

Commenting on the wheat situation, Dr. Christie said: "If the wheat pool gets 25 cents more per bushel they will be able to leave with the farmer the \$1 per bushel already paid. And that will be as it should be. The pool has plenty of time to win its fight, and I believe all will be well in the near future."

ANOTHER ADVANCE IN HYDRO ENTERPRISE REPORTED FOR YEAR

Large Increase in Load on Most Systems Is Shown

TEN GENERATING PLANTS

The twenty-second annual report of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, which was tabled in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. J. R. Cooke, Government member of the Commission, is another of the stories of "marked expansion and growth" that have been recited annually of this enterprise since the late Sir Adam Beck supplied the spark and impetus which set it off on its whirlwind career.

Unusual Increase.

During the fiscal year of 1929 total power generated for all stations was 4,340,315,196 kilowatt-hours, of 1,116,594 peak-load horsepower, with a normal operating capacity of 1,008,352 horsepower. An outstanding feature of the year's operation was the large increase in load on most of the systems. Peak loads of all systems show an increase over last year amounting to 16 per cent. of the total for all systems. The increase in kilowatt hours was 799,000,000 k.h., or a 23 per cent. increase. This increase is decidedly greater than a normal year's growth, and much greater than the previous year.

Amount of power purchased also shows an increase, being more than 415,000,000 kilowatt-hours, but the total power purchased from all sources during the year, 652,000,000 kilowatt-hours, is less than the year's increase in load.

Georgian Bay Only.

"While a great part of the increase in load is due to large industrial consumers in the Niagara Peninsula," reads the report, "yet there has been a general increase in all systems, excepting the Georgian Bay, indicating widespread business activity and prosperity. The decrease on the Georgian Bay System was largely due to special conditions arising out of the reduction in the Western grain crop and the storage in Western elevators of more than the usual amount of grain at the end of the season for navigation.

"The increase in the total load of the Central Ontario and Trent system was 6 per cent., which is slightly above normal, though not equal to last year's increase of 10 per cent.; the increase on the Ottawa system was 9 per cent., which is about that of an average year; on the Nipissing it was 12 per cent., above normal; the St. Lawrence and Rideau systems, a large gain; and on the Thunder Bay system the increase reached 46 per cent.

Need Outside Supply.

"The growth on the Niagara system was sufficiently large to require an arrangement with the Gatineau Power Company whereby 50,000 horsepower of the allotment, due for delivery Oct. 1, 1929, became available Sept. 3, and a further 20,000 horsepower of the amount, due for delivery Oct. 1, 1930, became available Oct. 16, 1929.

"The construction of the plants at Trethewey Falls and Elliott Chute added two more generating stations of the semi-automatic, remote-controlled type of the generating stations already operated," reads the report. "The purchase of the Bala Electric Light Com-