

WELLAND CANAL TO BE ENLARGED

The following statement was made in the House of Commons on August 2 by Mr. George McIlraith, the Minister of Transport:

The Government has decided to proceed with the full twinning of the locks of the Welland Canal construction to commence this winter.

This project is considered essential to eliminate congestion which, traffic estimates indicate, would become acute by 1966 if the present single lock system were continued and to provide for traffic growth.

During the 1961 navigation season of 260 days, an average of four vessels were waiting on each of 162 days. This situation worsened in 1962 when, on each of 194 days, an average of seven vessels were waiting for transit. The same trend has continued to date in the 1963 season.

The locks to be twinned are Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8. With this expansion, it is estimated that the physical capacity of the canal will be increased by 60 per cent.

It is estimated that the twinning project will cost \$180 million. A bill will be introduced in this House to amend Section 13 of The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act, increasing the Authority's borrowing power to provide the means for securing the funds.

The substantial expenditures involved in the twinning project make it necessary to give serious consideration to the matter of removing the suspension of tolls which became effective July 18, 1962.

TIME AND LABOUR INVOLVED

The time schedule for completing the twinning construction and associated works involves a period of slightly less than five years. This time schedule is

ARGENTINE POTATO MISSION

Two Argentine agricultural experts arrived in Ottawa recently for a week-long tour of Canada's seed-potato industry in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The visitors were Ciro Cavia, National Horticultural Advisor of the Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria (an experimental-farm organization), and Arturo J. Rodriguez Jurado, Director-General of Vegetable Health Services of the Argentine Ministry of Agriculture. Their tour had been organized by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

During their stay in Canada, the Argentine officials had the opportunity to study at first hand the production, inspection, certification, grading and handling of Canadian seed potatoes.

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On August 12, they met in Ottawa with officials of the Departments of Trade and Commerce and of Agriculture, after which they departed for Fredericton, New Brunswick, and a two-day tour of the Saint John River Valley area. On August 15 and 16, the two moved on to Prince Edward Island, returning to Montreal before their departure on August 17.

designed to ensure maximum safety during construction, avoidance of excessive costs and minimum interruption of navigation and vehicular traffic.

It is estimated that the construction programme over four full years, including five winters, will require a labour force ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 men, with reasonably uniform year-round employment.

In preparation for this development, the Seaway Authority proceeded in 1960 with the engineering plans necessary and in 1962 expropriated 320 acres of land required for twinning.

The construction programme for twinning will be commenced this year on work essential to the whole project, which at the same time will increase the usefulness of existing facilities.

The major construction work of the new locks — 1, 2, 3, and 7 — is planned to commence in the fall of 1964, with scheduled completion in 1968.

At that time construction of the twin of Lock No. 8 at Port Colborne, not regarded as a part of the major programme, will be undertaken.

IMPLICATIONS FOR SEAWAY

With the twinning of the Welland Canal, consideration will have to be given to the over-all capacity of the Seaway system. In this connection, the Government intends to implement further the Seaway project by the construction of a lock at Cornwall, Ontario, as soon as studies indicate that it is warranted.

With a further lock in the area of Point Rockway in the United States as a counterpart of Iroquois Lock, the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River would then be, in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River, one canal entirely in Canada and another in the United States.

During their five days in the Atlantic Provinces, they visited experimental farms and potato fields and met provincial government officials, potato growers and exporters.

Argentina has a substantial domestic potato industry for which it imports seed potatoes. In 1962, following a lengthy absence from the Argentine market, Canadian growers in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were successful in selling 568,000 hundredweight of seed potatoes to that country, as well as a substantial quantity of table potatoes. The Department of Trade and Commerce arranged the recent visit to consolidate this re-activated export market and develop increased future exports of seed potatoes.

HONOURED BY SWEDEN

Two Indian Canadians, Cephias Snake and Jasper Hill, were recently in Sweden attending the celebrations marking the 300th anniversary of the founding of a Swedish colony in what is now the State of New Jersey.

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