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SPECIAL BOARD FOR LAKE OF THE WOODS QUESTION.

One of the Privy Council committee reports approved on March 2nd by the Governor-General, deals with the organization of a Board, representative of different departments of the Government, for the special consideration of various questions that are being referred from time to time to the International Joint Commission. Questions frequently arise in which more than one department of the Government is interested and in regard to which several departments have special knowledge. In order that such questions may be fully and effectively dealt with, it has been deemed desirable that there should be some method by which advantage may be taken of the information possessed by the different departments, and thus greater co-operation secured in dealing with the problems involved.

It is interesting to note that in the United States such matters are within the jurisdiction of, and dealt with by, the War Department alone.

At the present time the question which requires the most urgent consideration is the one involved in the reference regarding the level of the Lake of the Woods, and it is suggested that a Board be organized for the special purpose of considering it, and outlining a policy for submission to the Government.

The report recommends that the working members of the Lake of the Woods Board should be representatives of the various departments affected. The Department of Marine and Fisheries and the Department of Public Works are responsible for the navigation on the lakes; the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries is interested in the propagation and care of fish and, therefore, in any change of level which may affect the spawning beds; the Department of the Interior is much interested in the water powers connected with the watershed of the Lake of the Woods, particularly those in the Province of Manitoba; the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario is interested in the water powers in the Ontario section of the watershed; and the Department of the Naval Service is charged with the work of preparing charts for navigable waters.

In view of difficulties that may be encountered in getting representatives from these various departments to act together, and in order to facilitate direct communication with the Government, it is suggested that a member of the Cabinet should be the chairman of the Board. The report accordingly recommends the constitution and appointment of such a Board under the chairmanship of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to consist of the following members as representing their respective departments: B. H. Fraser, assistant chief engineer, Department of Marine and Fisheries; S. J. Chapleau, district engineer, Department of Public Works; J. B. Challies, superintendent, Water Power Branch, Department of the Interior; W. J. Stewart, chief hydrographer, Department of the Naval Service and External Affairs; and H. G. Acres, hydraulic engineer, Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

The committee also recommend that the Board be instructed to examine the various departmental interests involved, bring them into harmony as far as possible, and present to the International Joint Commission the views of the Government of Canada on this question.

Authority should be given to the Board to appoint the requisite number of clerks, or junior engineers to collect and tabulate such data as may be collected; and further (with the concurrence of the Prime Minister), that