

and whether the estimates of costs made by it require revision. The time within which the Board should make its report should, as was suggested by the Canadian Government, be determined in advance and stated in the instructions. It is believed that the fundamental questions can be reported upon within a short time. If the suggestion that the instructions to the Joint Engineering Board be prepared by the two advisory committees in joint conference be acceptable to the Canadian Government the appointment of technical officers especially for this purpose as proposed by the Canadian Government would not be necessary.

This Government further suggests that the two committees be empowered to meet from time to time in joint session in order to prepare supplemental instructions for the Board of Engineers as occasion may require, and to consider and develop the broader aspects of the whole matter so that each committee may be as helpful to the other as possible.

This Government is hopeful that the foregoing proposals will be acceptable to the Government of Canada and I should be pleased if arrangements can be made by telegraph for publishing them simultaneously at Washington and Ottawa.

Accept, etc.,

CHARLES E. HUGHES.

Mr. HENRY GETTY CHILTON,  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Great Britain.

**No. 30.**

From the Agent of the Department of External Affairs at Washington  
to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

Telegram.

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 4, 1924.

SIR JOSEPH POPE,  
Department of External Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

United States Supreme Court yesterday granted motion to advance case five two nine sanitary district of Chicago and case assigned for argument on Monday November tenth next.

M. M. MAHONEY.

**No. 31.**

From His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington to the Governor  
General

No. 94.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, March 5, 1924.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency, herewith, copies of the paper mentioned in the subjoined schedule.

I have, etc.,

(For the Ambassador)

H. G. CHILTON.

His Excellency  
The Governor General of Canada.

Name and Date	Subject
<i>Boston Transcript</i> , February 26th.	Press comment—Diversion of the water on the Great Lakes.

Reference: Washington despatch No. 72 of February 20th, 1924.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> No. 27.

ENCLOSURE IN No. 31

Clipping from *Boston Transcript*, February 26th, 1924.

THE FIGHT FOR LAKE MICHIGAN

A question of very great physical importance, and one having both interstate and international complications, has arisen on our Great Lakes. It is the question whether, for sanitary and other reasons, the Sanitary District of Chicago shall be empowered by a proposed act of Congress, introduced by Representative Hull, to withdraw 10,000 cubic feet of water per second from Lake Michigan and turn it into the Illinois and Michigan canal for the proper drainage of the city of Chicago and for purposes of navigation and of hydro-electric power. This proposition is being actively pressed by the Illinois representatives in Congress, and it is said that this amount of water is actually being taken at the present time, although by the existing permission, which rests only on an order of Secretary Alger twenty-five or more years old, only 4,167 cubic feet may be taken. The new proposition, and the present actual over-stepping of the law, are earnestly opposed by all the States on Lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie, on the ground that the diversion of the water into the Mississippi watershed, through the canal, is steadily lowering the level of the lakes named, and consequently shallowing the harbours and interfering with commerce. Chicago urges the proposition not only (and principally) "for the people's health and the lives of the children" of Chicago, but to improve the navigation between the lakes and the Mississippi and to furnish hydro-electric power. It is urged by the other States that Chicago is taking for this purpose, so desirable to her, the water that belongs to others. Two cases, one of them instituted by the State of Wisconsin, are now before the Supreme Court challenging the power to do this; and the Dominion of Canada, which is interested in the supply of water that comes down the Niagara and the St. Lawrence, is also opposing the diversion of the waters of Lake Michigan.

The question, of course, would never have arisen but for the geographically striking fact that the Mississippi River, at the point where the Illinois River comes into it, is less than five hundred feet above the sea level, whereas the level of Lake Michigan is 581 feet above sea. The Des Plaines River, which flows southward (and into the Illinois River) just west of Chicago, is only sixteen miles from the shore of Lake Michigan. The result of this condition is that the sixteen-mile strip of land between the lake and the Des Plaines River is a natural dike, and as soon as it was pierced to a sufficient depth by the construction of the canal, the water began to flow from the lake toward the Des Plaines, the Illinois, and the Mississippi. The flow through this canal is capable of control, and it is declared that at the present time the flow is fully equal to the ten thousand cubic feet per second which the Hull bill would permit. Lake Michigan, in this condition, becomes an affluent of both the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence, and it is obvious that it cannot continue to be so extensive a feeder of the Mississippi and also be able to supply so fully the lower lakes and the St. Lawrence. And in fact, the level of the lakes has been perceptibly falling, with the result that the harbours of Lakes Huron and Erie, as well as those of Lake Michigan itself, are shallowing, to their detriment and danger. The level of Lake Huron is the same as that of Lake Michigan. There is a descent of eight and seven-tenths feet in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers between Lake Huron and Lake Erie, and a Niagara plunge of 226.3 feet from Erie to Ontario. If the level of Lake Erie is depressed—as perceptibly it has been—the volume of water flowing over Niagara is by that much diminished, and its power lessened.

The struggle between the States and cities below Chicago on the lakes, and the city of Chicago and State of Illinois, will be watched with