

before. At the same time, the fact that the temporary arrangements agreed upon during the war are being superseded by a permanent agreement will permit the construction of new power plants of the latest design to replace a number of existing plants now in operation, which cannot make the most effective use of the available water. For these two reasons, a substantial increase in the amount of hydro-electric power generated at Niagara can be expected once this Treaty has been ratified and the new power plants have been constructed.

Nevertheless the demand for power keeps increasing, and this additional Niagara power cannot be expected to meet the full needs of Ontario and New York State. The power requirements of these areas can only be met by the full development of the potential power of the St. Lawrence River. The additional Niagara power should help to tide us over the period required for the construction of the St. Lawrence facilities, but the need for St. Lawrence power is as urgent as it ever has been. The new Niagara Diversion Treaty does not in any way lessen Canada's interest in, and desire for, early ratification by both governments of the St. Lawrence Waterway and Power Agreement of 1941.

The Treaty contains two provisions designed to protect and enhance the scenic beauty of the Niagara River and Falls. It calls for early completion of remedial works to ensure an unbroken crestline on the Falls by distributing the waters more evenly. It also ensures that the flow over the Falls and through the Rapids will not be reduced below the amounts which experience has shown are essential for the preservation of the full scenic spectacle.

I have been advised by the Chairman of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario that this Treaty meets with the approval of the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Hydro, and the Niagara Parks Commission.