



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 14 No. 11

March 18, 1959

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CANADA-U.S. AGREEMENT ON SEAWAY TOLLS

In the House of Commons on March 12, Mr. George Hees, the Minister of Transport, made the following statement regarding the agreement reached between Canada and the United States on the tolls to be charged on the St. Lawrence Seaway:

"The agreement makes provision for the division of the toll revenue; for the method of collection; for future minor amendments of the tariff; and for the constitution of a Joint Tolls Advisory Board to hear complaints with respect to interpretation of the tariff or alleged unjust discrimination. The tariff becomes effective from April 1, 1959.

"The whole concept of defraying the cost of construction and maintenance of the Seaway, including the cost of deepening and maintaining the Welland Canal as an integral part of the Seaway, by charging tolls, was provided for in the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act of 1951. This principle was fully debated at that time, and passed without dissent by Parliament.

"The tariff of tolls agreed to has the same rates recommended by the Tolls Committees of the Seaway entities on June 12, 1958. Some changes and clarifications have been made in the definitions for bulk and general cargoes.

"The tariff of tolls is based on a composite assessment which encompasses a charge per ton of cargo actually carried, together with a charge per gross registered ton of the vessel, and will be applicable to all vessels,

whether fully laden, partially laden, or in ballast.

"The method of assessing and collecting the tolls and rates was adopted with the following objectives:

1. Procedural simplicity which will minimize the cost of collection and expedite the dispatching of vessels.
2. Recovery of the cost of the Seaway and its operation on a basis which will provide economical rates to users and encourage traffic.

The rates will be as follows:

"For Each Passage Through the Entire Seaway - Montreal to Lake Erie: A vessel will be assessed 6 cents per gross registered ton of the vessel, and, in addition, 42 cents per ton of bulk cargo and 95 cents per ton of general cargo carried.

"For Each Passage - Montreal to or from Lake Ontario Only: A vessel will be assessed 4 cents per gross registered ton of the vessel, and, in addition, 40 cents per ton of bulk cargo and 90 cents per ton of general cargo carried. For partial transit of the new Seaway facilities - between Montreal and Lake Ontario - where there are seven locks, the user will be charged for each lock transited 15 per cent of the toll for complete passage.

"For Each Passage Through the Welland Canal Only: A vessel will be assessed 2 cents per gross registered ton of the vessel, and, in addition, 2 cents per ton of bulk cargo and 5

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