Saint John River Development: Quebec, January 23 (CP) -- Engineers today estimated $250,000,000 could be spent on successful development of hydro-electric projects on the Saint John River, in Eastern Canada and the United States.

The figure came from the International Saint John River Engineering Work group after a two-day meeting to discuss data collected on three sites for possible hydro developments.

Three projects, with an estimated cost of $125,000,000, would double the river's hydro output in 10 years.

The four-man international group, seconded by 46 representatives of Canadian and American Government and private interests, has other projects in mind whose cost would bring total expenditure to the quarter billion dollars mark.

The group was appointed 15 months ago by the Saint John River Engineering Board which will make an over-all report to the International Joint Commission of Canada and the United States when field studies are completed, possibly in 1½ years.

Projects discussed at the meeting included river conditions at Rankin Rapids in Maine.

Canada's Oil Outlook: Ottawa, January 24 (CP) -- Canada may never produce all the oil she uses, despite the new western oil fields, Dr. Oliver B. Hopkins, Vice-President of Imperial Oil, Ltd., stated.

In an address prepared for delivery to the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Dr. Hopkins, President of the Institute and Director of the Petroleum Division of the Defence Production Department, explained that Canada will become self-sufficient in oil, but self-sufficient only "on balance."

"By that I mean that it would be uneconomic to ship western oil to the Maritimes, for example, if we could balance imports there by exports elsewhere. Normally crude oil is worth more in Vancouver than it is in Halifax, so it would be advantageous to make this exchange."

For this "on balance" self-sufficiency, Canada needed to produce more than 400,000 bbls. a day. By the end of 1953, he foresaw a production of 300,000 bbls. a day.

Already Alberta oil, by replacing imports, had enabled Canada to make important savings in U.S. funds.

In 1948, the saving was $9 million and in 1950 this figure rose to $100 million, he told the convention. In 1951, with western oil moving to eastern refineries, it is estimated that the saving increased to $150 million.

To Amend Annuities Act: The Government's bill to amend the Annuities Act, which was one of three left on the Order Paper when Parliament prorogued in December, will be revived next session, according to a statement by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Gregg. Last session the Industrial Relations Committee examined the bill exhaustively and heard considerable evidence. When the House rose, however, the legislation had not been considered in committee of the whole House.

"The measure is an attempt to bring Canada's annuities legislation into line with modern needs," Mr. Gregg said. "For example, the maximum annuity for which a person can subscribe at present is $1,200 a year. The amending bill raises this maximum to $2,400.

Across Canada: The Canadian Construction Association has asked the federal Government to recognize that an annual programme of from 100,000 to 125,000 dwelling units should normally be considered as a minimum national target during 1952.... The fourth session of Quebec's 23rd Legislature was prorogued late yesterday.... British Columbia will have a plebiscite at the next election on liquor regulations....Ford of Canada workers will go on strike Sunday night in support of contract demands, George Burt, Canadian Director of the UAW-CIO, announced last night in Windsor, Ontario. His statement followed an announcement by the company that it could not accede to demands of the union.