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The question, however, is of such general importance that there are doubtless many other departments of the Government directly interested and I am, therefore, communicating direct with you and would ask you to be so good as to forward the resolution in the proper direction. I shall be very grateful to you also for such information as you may find available in pursuance of the terms contained in your letter of the 6th instant, and shall be very pleased to lay before the Executive Committee of the Association any advice you think proper on the subject.

I have, etc.

FRANCIS KING.

No. 180.

From External Affairs to Messrs. G. A. P. Brickenden & Company,
Barristers, London

OTTAWA, October 22, 1923.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 7th August last,¹ I may inform you that the complaint of the residents along the St. Clair River in regard to conditions constituting a nuisance was duly brought to the attention of the United States Government and reply has now been received from that Government reporting the results of an investigation made by the Governor of the State of Michigan. It is said that this investigation included the inspection of the Black and St. Clair Rivers at different points, the inspection of various city sewer outlets and that of the Gas Plant, as well as interviews with several people of Port Huron, including city officials and bridge tenders. It is added that the inspection resulted in finding no appreciable amount of oily refuse being discharged into the Black River except from the Detroit Edison Company's Gas Plant, that the oily refuse from this plant made a clearly defined path in the Black River until it reached the St. Clair River, but that no trace of oil could be distinguished in the St. Clair River beyond a distance of about 200 feet from the American shore, although at the time the inspection was made there was a fair current in the Black River going out to the St. Clair River and the wind was favourable for carrying floating substances toward the Canadian shore. The report also shows that no oily refuse of the character discharged from the plant of the Detroit Edison Gas Company was seen upon the Canadian shore, although oil of a different character was seen on the St. Clair River near the Imperial Oil Company's refinery near Sarnia in Canada. It is further stated that every effort will be made to prevent a further discharge of wastes from the plant of the Detroit Edison Gas Company.

As a further suggestion is made looking to a possible joint investigation of the conditions of pollution by Canadian and United States representatives, together with representatives of the International Joint Commission, I should be glad to learn whether you feel satisfied that the steps already taken by the United States Government have resulted in an abatement of the nuisance of which complaint was made.

Yours very truly,

W. H. WALKER,

Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Messrs. G. A. P. BRICKENDEN AND COMPANY,

Barristers, Solicitors,
220 Dundas Street,
London, Ontario.

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No. 181.

From the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Deputy
Minister of the Interior

OTTAWA, October 23, 1923.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of a letter from Mr. Francis King, K.C., of Kingston, Counsel for the Dominion Marine Association, informing me of a resolution of the Executive Committee of the Association, on the subject of the diversion of water from the Great Lakes by the Sanitary District of Chicago.

I have acknowledged the receipt of Mr. King's letter, and informed him that the matter would be referred to the appropriate officers of the Government for consideration.

I have, etc.

JOSEPH POPE,

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

No. 182.

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

No. 413.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, November 19, 1923.

MY LORD,—With reference to Your Excellency's despatch No. 82 of May 30th, 1922,¹ I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency herewith copy of a note from the United States Government enquiring whether the competent authorities of the Dominion Government have yet been able to give consideration to the St. Lawrence River improvement scheme and whether they are prepared to enter into negotiations with the United States Government on the lines suggested by Mr. Hughes in his note of May 17th, 1922, copy of which was communicated to Your Excellency by Sir Auckland Geddes in his despatch No. 127 of May 18th of that year.²

I have, etc.

H. G. CHILTON.

His Excellency

The LORD BYNG OF VIMY, G.C.B.,

etc., etc.,
Governor General of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

¹ No. 118.
² No. 113.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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