

No. 20

*From The Premier of Ontario,
To The Prime Minister of Canada.*

TORONTO, October 18, 1940.

My Dear PRIME MINISTER,

I have your letters of October 10th and a copy of the memorandum from United States State Department which was enclosed and which sets out proposals with respect to the development of the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River, the diversion of approximately 5,000 cubic feet per second from the Albany River basin into Lake Superior and the immediate use of additional water for power at Niagara Falls. I note that you are seeking to secure from the United States Government a definite understanding that Ontario may begin at once to utilize, at Niagara, water equivalent to the amount to be diverted through the Ogoki and Long Lake without waiting for the completion of the Ogoki works, and I understand that the United States Government has consented to this on condition that the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario commence work upon the Ogoki diversion immediately.

I have discussed this matter with the Chairman of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario and am pleased to assure you that the Commission is prepared to proceed immediately with the Ogoki diversion and that the Province of Ontario approves of this diversion and the proposals set forth in the foregoing.

The further procedure, if any, that may be necessary to secure your formal authorization to divert additional water at Niagara is not entirely clear to me; I am not sure whether this letter is a sufficient undertaking on the part of Ontario or whether you may have in mind some more formal undertaking. In the latter case I should be glad to hear from you as soon as possible so that delay in securing your formal authorization for the additional Niagara diversion will be avoided.

I note your intention to appoint, as Canadian members of an International Committee to carry on preliminary investigations in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River, Dr. T. H. Hogg and Dr. Olivier Lefebvre, also your inquiry as to whether I concur in the appointment of Dr. Hogg. I am pleased to assure you that I do concur in Dr. Hogg's appointment, as outlined in my telegram of October 16th.

In general, I am happy to say that the points of agreement already reached with the United States appear to me to represent constructive