

PASSAMAQUODDY POWER PROJECT: If and when the United States Government makes a specific proposal for investigation of the possibilities of the Passamaquoddy tidal power project it will be examined most carefully by the Canadian Government, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, said in answer to a question in the House of Commons on January 19.

The question and answer were as follows:

Mr. A.J. Brooks (Royal): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. My question is based on an Associated Press despatch of January 16 which states that a subcommittee of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recommended an economic feasibility survey of the Passamaquoddy tidal power project by the United States army engineers in conjunction with the International Joint Commission. Is it the intention of the Canadian Government to join with the United States and assist with this survey?

Mr. Pearson: I have seen the press despatch to which reference has been made and we have made inquiries concerning it but have not yet received an official report from the Senate subcommittee in question through our Embassy in Washington. However, I have no reason to believe that the press report is not accurate. The suggestion that is said to have been made by the subcommittee for a full-scale investigation of this project costing approximately \$3 million is not a new one, and I can assure Hon. Members that if and when the United States Government makes a specific proposal for investigation of the possibilities of this tidal project it will be examined most carefully by the Government.

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HOSPITALS REPORT: In less than a decade the number of patients admitted to public hospitals in Canada jumped 74 per cent from 1,008,822 in 1943 to 1,760,052 in 1952, while the bed capacity of hospitals increased about 26 per cent, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reveals in Volume 1 of its latest issue of the Annual Report Of Hospitals.

The 777 hospitals reporting to the Bureau for 1952 had a rated capacity of 68,033 beds as against 53,938 reported by 613 hospitals in 1943. However, the average number of beds per hospital actually declined during the nine years to 87.6 from 88, and the ratio of public hospital beds per thousand Canadians rose only slightly to 4.72 from 4.57. On the other hand, the average number of admissions per hospital climbed to 2,265 from 1,646, admissions per bed increasing 38 per cent to 25.9 from 18.7.

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Leather footwear output climbed 11% to 30,274,582 pairs in the first three quarters of 1953 from 27,334,335 pairs in 1952.

AMMUNITION FOR NATO: More than a million rounds of Canadian ammunition of various calibers will be shipped by Canada to the Portuguese Army later this month under terms of the Mutual Aid Agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The shipment - most of it classified as practice ammunition - is one of three the Canadian Army will despatch to NATO countries between now and the end of January.

Others include a smaller shipment of ammunition to the French Army and a quantity of spare parts and repair kits for vehicles and rifles to the Royal Danish Army.

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AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA: The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced on January 21 that Mr. John B.C. Watkins, who is at present Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland, will be transferred to Moscow with the rank of Ambassador. Mr. R.A.D. Ford, who is at present Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Moscow, will return for duty in the Department. Announcement was also made of the appointment of Mr. Chester A. Ronning as Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland to succeed Mr. Watkins.

John Benjamin Clark Watkins was born at Norval, Ontario, on December 3, 1902, and was educated at the University of Toronto and Cornell University. He was for several years Secretary of the American-Scandinavian Foundation in New York before joining the Department in 1946. Mr. Watkins served as Canadian Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow from 1948 to 1951. He then returned to the Department and served as Head of the European Division. He was appointed Canadian Minister to Norway and Iceland in October, 1952.

Chester Alvin Ronning was born in China on December 13, 1894. He was educated at the Universities of Alberta and Minnesota. After the First World War, during which he served with the Royal Flying Corps, Mr. Ronning held the positions of vice-principal in Edmonton Public Schools and principal of Camrose College, Alberta. He also taught at the Hung Wen Middle School in China. After serving with the RCAF during the Second World War, Mr. Ronning joined the Department in October, 1945, and was posted that year to the Canadian Embassy in Nanking. He served there for over five years, in the course of which he was Chargé d'Affaires a.i. for a period of two years. Mr. Ronning returned to Ottawa in April, 1951, and has recently been serving as Head of the Far Eastern and the Commonwealth Divisions.

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Pulp and paper led all industries in both gross output value (\$1,237,897,000) and net output value (\$679,258,000) in 1952, also had the largest payroll (\$213,170,000) and ranked second in number of employees (57,291).