

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER JOINT BOARD: The Department of External Affairs announced on November 12 that the Governments of the United States of America and of Canada have concluded an agreement for the establishment of the St. Lawrence River Joint Board of Engineers.

The purpose of this four-man Board is to review, coordinate and approve the detailed plans and specifications of the power works and the programme for their construction in the International Rapids section of the St. Lawrence River. The Board is also to ensure that the construction of the power project is in accordance with the requirements already approved by both Governments and the International Joint Commission.

The Agreement, which is now in force, is contained in an Exchange of Notes signed at Washington on November 12 by General Bedell Smith, Under-Secretary of State, and by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. A.D.P. Heeney.

In anticipation of this Exchange of Notes, the Canadian Government appointed on November 10 the Honourable Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, and Mr. R.A.C. Henry, Consulting Engineer, to be the representatives of Canada on this Board. On November 4, 1953, President Eisenhower appointed the United States Secretary of the Army and the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission to represent the United States. Members of the Board may be represented by alternates.

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11 NATIONS' GRADUATES: The 1953 graduating class from the Canadian Army Staff College at Kingston, Ont., will comprise a total of 86 officers representing 11 different nations, it was announced on November 9 at Army Headquarters. Of that total, 73 are Canadians including two members of the Royal Canadian Air Force. In addition, there are 13 officers from Commonwealth and NATO countries completing the course.

Two were sent each by the United Kingdom, United States and Turkey. Australia, India, Pakistan, Italy, France, Norway and Belgium each were represented by a single candidate.

RADIATION DETECTION EXERCISE: The Canadian Army's No. 1 Radiation Detection Unit, a force of specialist members of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers trained in the detection, plotting and control of radioactive contaminated areas, will embark on another training exercise later this month.

The scheme, named "Exercise Hope 11", and designed to test the operational and administrative efficiency of the unit, will be conducted at the waste disposal area of the Eldorado Mining and Refining Company plant, near Port Hope, Ont.

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MARINE INSURANCE: The Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, announced on November 9 that marine underwriters in London, England, abolished additional marine insurance premiums on ships trading to ports on the mainland of the coast of British Columbia, between 50° and 54°30' north latitude. This follows representations made to the Commonwealth Shipping Committee, London, England, by the Department of Transport and the Vancouver Chamber of Shipping, and of a survey made in British Columbia in June, 1953, by Sir Clement Jones, C.B., Chairman of the Committee.

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SAVINGS BOND RECORD: The Bank of Canada threw away the form book as sales of Series 8 Canada Savings Bonds crowded the half billion mark. More than 900,000 orders, as of November 6, rang up a total of \$492,822,350 in a splurge without precedent in Canada Savings Bond records. Bank officials said that it was probable that final campaign figures would cross \$600 million - double the amount of \$307 million recorded at the end of the active selling period in 1952.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics consumer price index advanced from 116.2 to 116.7 between September 1 and October 1 for a gain of 0.4 per cent. All group indexes except clothing were higher.