

in the lower reaches unless there are control works down there. In other words, if they discharge water at the prescribed rate through the Chaudiere works, it means that a certain level would be reached at all stages of the river within a few days, and this might or might not be adverse to good fishing. It might mean that without control works the stabilized water level on the lower reaches would not affect it sufficiently as far as we are concerned; and it should be borne in mind that if there were works at Chaudière installed to control the lower levels of lake Nipissing and nothing else—of course there is nothing wrong with that—I think they should continue to control the works down the river.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Aiken.

Mr. AIKEN: You, I presume, have heard in general terms about the Grand Canal proposal.

Mr. WENBORNE: Yes.

Mr. AIKEN: It would use the French river as an outlet. Has your organization considered the effect of this Grand Canal system on you? Would it not aggravate considerably your present situation if you had fluctuating flows of water through the French river?

Mr. WENBORNE: I think probably the Grand Canal system or scheme is of such a nature or size that it would completely take it all out of present thinking altogether. We have not given it much serious thought simply because I have heard engineers from the Department of Public Works state that it would need 20 years of feasibility study before they could even institute it. We are concerned with the next 20 years.

Mr. AIKEN: And in fact such a scheme would probably see you all out of business.

Mr. WENBORNE: At least we would have to be relocated; and as I understand Mr. Kierans's program it means power supply, a ship canal, and that North Bay would theoretically become a lake port. I do not know just how much is involved in the over-all scheme. Certainly it cannot be of concern to us because if it is instituted we are all out of business in any event as we know it now; and if it is not, we are anxious to get on with what we have now over the next 20 years.

Mr. AIKEN: The level of Georgian bay would not affect you in any great measure. That is where your problem is.

Mr. WENBORNE: Only for the operators at the mouth of the river.

Mr. AIKEN: You say only for the operators at the mouth of the river. There is no great number of them as compared with those of you who are further up, and who are affected by the river.

Mr. WENBORNE: That is correct.

Mr. AIKEN: Your submission, after having heard Dr. Langford, really points up that you have more of a problem in a similar way.

Mr. WENBORNE: I think you could almost draw an exact parallel. We have upper reaches where some parts are controlled and some parts are not, and lower reaches which are in bad shape as a result. That is the way it would sound on the lakes with everything from the St. Mary's river down being in bad condition on the great lakes, and that is the way it works for us.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps I might be permitted to ask you one question. Do you think that the solution would be by works below the French river as it enters Georgian bay? Would that in itself appear to you to be the solution? I know that Dr. Langford indicated that something below Montreal would solve the problem at Montreal. But do you see it in the same fashion for the French river?