

IV. America and the Far East

United States

St. Lawrence Deep Waterway and Power Project

The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Basin Agreement between the United States and Canada, which was signed in 1941 and provides for the joint development of the St. Lawrence system for deep-water navigation and power, failed to come to a vote in the United States Congress in 1950.

The Interdepartmental Committee continued to study the procedure which would have to be followed if it should be decided to proceed with joint development by New York State and the Province of Ontario of the potential power resources of the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River. The Committee also studied the possibility of developing an all-Canadian Deep Waterway as far as Lake Erie.

Diversion of Water at Niagara Falls for Power

A Treaty governing the uses of the waters of the Niagara River was signed by Canada and the United States in Washington on February 27, 1950. This Treaty provides for the use of additional water for power purposes in both countries and contains provisions designed to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of the Falls and River.

The Niagara Treaty was approved by the Canadian House of Commons on June 14 and by the Canadian Senate on June 19. On August 9 the United States Senate agreed to its ratification, subject to a reservation affecting the use of the United States share of the water.

The instruments of ratification were exchanged in Ottawa on October 10, leaving the way clear for the development of urgently needed additional power.

Fisheries

Canada and the United States continued to co-operate in fisheries conservation on the Pacific Coast, through the International Fisheries Commission (for Halibut) and the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission.

For a number of years the United States and Canada have made provision each year to exchange port privileges for halibut fishing vessels on the Pacific coasts of the two countries. This exchange was put on a permanent basis in 1950 by a Convention which was signed in Ottawa on March