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ment of Canada proposes to the United States for the purpose of settling certain questions of difference between the two Governments relating to the regulation of the levels of Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, and other waters of Lake of the Woods watershed.

I have the honour to inform you that consideration will be given to the proposals of the Government of Canada and that I shall inform you at the earliest date practicable of the views of this Government in regard to signing the proposed documents.

Accept, etc.,

CHARLES E. HUGHES.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Ambassador of Great Britain.

No. 7.

P.C. 132

CERTIFIED copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 23rd January, 1924.

The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom was referred a despatch, dated 19th November, 1923,¹ from His Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* at Washington, submit for approval the attached draft reply thereto, and advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to communicate the same through the usual channels to the Government of the United States.

E. J. LEMAIRE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

¹ No. 182, Vol. IV, p. 211.

ENCLOSURE IN No. 7

Draft Despatch

1. My Government has had under consideration the note of the Secretary of State of the United States transmitted on the 17th day of November last which refers to an earlier note transmitted on May 22nd, 1922. It is observed that the Secretary of State in the latter suggests either the immediate conclusion of a treaty looking to the development of the St. Lawrence waterway along the lines recommended by the International Joint Commission in its report and providing for the constitution of a joint commission (doubtless a special one) charged with the formulation of a complete plan which would be subject to the approval of the two Governments, or, alternatively, the constitution of a joint commission of experts to make preliminary studies and investigations and frame a *projet* of a treaty.

2. The report of the International Joint Commission recommended that, before any work was gone on with, the joint engineering board, whose proposals it generally approved, should be enlarged and that, as so enlarged, it should further consider the technical aspects of the problems in detail and decide upon the plan which should be adopted.

3. My Government is still considering the suggestions made by the Secretary of State of the United States but considers that, without awaiting a decision upon them, the proposal made by the International Joint

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Commission might be acted upon. It is accordingly prepared to appoint additional engineers to enlarge the joint engineering board with a view of having the Board, so enlarged, prepare a final report covering the engineering features of the whole project, including its cost. My Government intends to constitute a committee which will, in consultation with the Canadian members of the joint engineering board, enquire fully from a national standpoint into the wide questions involved, and hopes shortly to be able to take further action on the proposals made by the Secretary of State.

4. Upon the question of the number of additional engineers who should be appointed by each Government to the joint engineering board my Government would welcome a suggestion from the Government of the United States and would also be ready to nominate one or more technical officers to discuss with technical officers of the United States the terms in which they would recommend that the instructions to the enlarged joint engineering board should be couched and the time within which it should be directed to report.

5. My Government trusts that these proposals will receive the favourable consideration of the Government of the United States.

No. 8.

From the Governor General to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington

Telegram

6 A.

OTTAWA, January 23, 1924.

Referring to your despatch No. 413 of the 19 Nov.¹ Minute of Council approved to-day submitting reply to above despatch, substance of which is as follows, begins:

My Government has had under consideration the note of the Secretary of State of the United States transmitted on the 17th day of November last which refers to an earlier note submitted on May 22nd, 1922. It is observed that the Secretary of State in the latter suggests either the immediate conclusion of a treaty looking to the development of the St. Lawrence waterway along the lines recommended by the International Joint Commission in its report and providing for the constitution of a Joint Commission (doubtless a special one) charged with the formulation of a complete plan which would be subject to the approval of the two Governments, or, alternatively, the constitution of a Joint Commission of experts to make preliminary studies and investigations and frame a *projet* of a treaty.

The Report of the International Joint Commission recommended that, before any work was gone on with, the Joint Engineering Board, whose proposals it generally approved, should be enlarged and that, as so enlarged, it should further consider the technical aspects of the problems in detail and decide upon the plan which should be adopted.

My Government is still considering the suggestions made by the Secretary of State of the United States but considers that, without awaiting a decision upon them, the proposal made by the International Joint Commission might be acted upon. It is accordingly prepared to appoint additional engineers to enlarge the joint engineering Board with a view of having the Board, so enlarged, prepare a final report covering the engineering features of the whole project, including its cost. My Government intends to constitute a Committee which will, in consultation with the Canadian members of the Joint Engineering Board, enquire fully from a national standpoint into the wide questions involved, and hopes shortly to be able to take further action on the proposals made by the Secretary of State.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
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