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ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

With its wide significance in the fields of water transportation and low-cost hydro power, "the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power project is the greatest vehicle of natural resource development presently before us," said Mr. Chevrier. "Its completion is a matter of urgent necessity if Canada is to realize the full promise of the future. We in the Government believe not merely that it can pay its own way, but that the benefits to this country will far outweigh its original cost."

The Minister indicated that the most recent estimate of cost for the whole scheme is about \$900,000,000. Of this amount, the cost of power development was placed at \$600,000,000 to be equally divided between Ontario Hydro Commission and the Power Authority of the State of New York. He added that "my own Department estimates that all-Canadian navigation facilities from Montreal to Lake Erie would cost in the neighbourhood of \$300,000,000". The amounts quoted would, Mr. Chevrier said, be self-liquidating through sale of electricity and by levying tolls on shipping.

Savings which would be occasioned by the Seaway in the shipment of grain, coal and other commodities were estimated by Mr. Chevrier to amount "to at least \$30,000,000 a year, after paying any likely level of tolls".

Stating that the Seaway "promises to be the key that will unlock the future for the iron ore fields of Quebec and Labrador," Mr. Chevrier pointed out also that it would "give the interior steel mills the best new source of ore at the lowest cost, a matter of serious concern at the moment". He warned that without the Seaway, these steel mills would within a few years, be required to pay around \$2 a ton more for their supplies of iron ore, or a total in excess of \$250,000,000 a year.

AID FOR NATO NATIONS: Two armies at opposite ends of Europe are receiving additional Canadian military equipment under the Mutual Aid Agreement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it was announced on February 27 by Army Headquarters at Ottawa.

The European forces to benefit in this movement of military supplies are those of Denmark and Turkey. The shipment for Turkey is to leave from Saint John, New Brunswick, early in March. The 212-ton consignment will consist of 122 jeeps and batteries and several hundred cases of vehicle kits and spare parts.

About 33 tons of ammunition for the Danish Army was shipped from the Port of Halifax in February.

Only 80 out of every thousand motor vehicles shipped by Canadian factories last year were for export as compared with 185 out of every thousand shipped in 1952.

POPULATION 15,035,000: During December Canada had a gain in population of 30,000, bringing it to 15,035,000 at January 1 this year, according to an estimate by the Bureau to provide first of the year and mid-year figures in addition to the estimates for three-month periods from the June 1 census date.

During the second half of 1953 the population rose by 214,000 from 14,821,000 at July 1, or at a rate of 2.9% a year, the Bureau calculates. In the first half of the year there was a smaller increase of 172,000 from 14,649,000 on January 1, a rate of 2.3%. The total gain for the year was thus 386,000 and the rate of increase 2.6%.

In comparison, the Bureau estimates show an increase in the second half of 1952 of 182,000 or 2.5% from 14,467,000 at July 1, and a larger gain in the first half of 206,000 or 2.9% from 14,261,000 at January 1, 1952. The estimated increase for the year 1952 was thus slightly larger than for 1953 at 388,000 or 2.7%. Estimates are not available for these periods for earlier years.

PETROLEUM JUMP: Total production of crude petroleum in Canada during last November amounted to 7,594,406 barrels, an increase of 36% compared with 5,578,575 barrels for the corresponding month of 1952, making an eleven months total of 82,816,438 barrels, somewhat more than 31% greater than the total of 55,421,023 barrels for the January-November period of 1952.

Crude output was larger in the eleven months last year than in 1952 in all producing regions. Production rose in Alberta to 69,202,289 barrels compared to 55,335,251; in Saskatchewan to 2,500,889 (1,522,465); Manitoba to 534,872 (75,680); Northwest Territories to 305,014 (297,949).

LUMBER PRODUCTION UP: Canadian production and shipments of sawn lumber both were moderately higher in 1953 than in the preceding year while year-end stocks were substantially larger, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The year's output of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled an estimated 3,807,262,000 feet board measure as compared with 3,696,629,000 in 1952, shipments amounted to 3,574,766,000 board feet compared with 3,302,880,000, and year-end stocks totalled 501,617,000 board feet compared with 415,799,000.

East of the Rockies, the year's production of sawn lumber by all operators amounted to an estimated 3,301,371,000 board feet as compared with 3,136,719,000 the year before.

Food chain stores sold \$770,953,000 worth of products last year, \$67,696,000 or nearly 10% more than in 1952.