



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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NO. 51/51 BOUNDARY WATERS AND WATERS CROSSING THE
BOUNDARY BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

Text of an address by General A.G.L. McNaughton, Chairman, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission, to the Empire Club of Canada, made in Toronto, on December 6, 1951.

Today I am very pleased indeed to have the opportunity to talk to you about our problems in relation to "Boundary Waters and Waters which Cross the Boundary". These problems are difficult, not only because of the technical considerations relating to the use of water but they are complex because they involve matters which are of concern both within Canada, between the Federal Authority and the particular province affected, and also externally in the conduct by the Federal Authority of our affairs with the United States.

Questions which are at issue in "Boundary Waters" come under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission and in dealing with certain of the more important of these questions which are, or have been, before the Commission, I propose to mention more specifically those which are of current interest to the people of this part of Canada by reason of the fact that they relate to the use of the waters of the rivers and lakes along our southern boundary from the Lake of the Woods which lies between Manitoba and Ontario, eastward through the Great Lakes and their connecting channels, and down the St. Lawrence River to Lake St. Francis where Ontario joins Quebec and thence continuing on down the national section of the St. Lawrence to the sea.

The questions under consideration in this vast region involve every aspect in the use of these waters for navigation, for the generation of power, for domestic and sanitary purposes; questions also arise concerning the conservation of these waters and of measures to prevent their pollution and in many of these matters, both along the boundary and in waters flowing out of boundary waters, the Commission is closely involved.

Along other portions of our boundary with the United States, the Commission is likewise deeply concerned with problems of the same character and also with other aspects of the use of water. On the border between Alberta and Montana, for example, the use of water for irrigation has for many years been a primary consideration, and one of the earliest tasks assigned to the Commission was the measurement and apportionment of the waters of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers, both of which rise in Montana and flow across the international boundary. The waters of the St. Mary flow into the