

BOOKLET ON GREAT LAKES LEVELS

Solving the problem of fluctuating water levels in the Great Lakes would be "an achievement in the world-wonder class", Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, recently told a press conference called for the purpose of launching a new booklet concerning the acute problem of water shortage in the Great Lakes. The text of the Minister's statement was as follows:

I am particularly happy to be able today to introduce to the general public a new publication produced by my Department and entitled "Great Lakes Water Levels". While I realize that during the past months there has been considerable discussion about this topic (indeed, it is of very great and very direct interest to Central Canada in particular), I feel that this present contribution will fill an important information gap.

All Canadians have a general mental picture of the configuration of the Great Lakes, but we easily forget that they represent the largest supply of fresh water in the world. Because of their tremendous size, one must guard against the easy assumption that their fluctuations can be controlled in the same manner as the gigantic rivers of our country are tamed.

A UNIQUE PROBLEM

The Lakes represent control problems which are unique; we are talking about 95,000 square miles of water, which is equivalent to approximately the total combined area of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and the island of Newfoundland. For example, to raise the level of Lake Superior by one foot would require the addition of 5,000 cubic feet of water per second for five and a half years, without spilling a drop, through the Saint Mary's River. To lower the Lake one foot would require a corresponding increase in its outflow over a similar length of time. I believe we can say without hesitation that the solution of the Great Lakes water levels problem will be an achievement in the world-wonder class.

I can well understand the private citizen who is suffering from the dramatic rises or falls of the Lake levels, and who firmly believes that the engi-

neering community is hiding behind what may appear to be elaborately-written mumbo-jumbo. This is not surprising, when one tries to get one's mind around the great geographic realities involved. It is for this reason that, in preparing this booklet, we have paid particular attention to presenting the basic facts of the problem in a language that we hope will appeal to all readers. We are proud of this effort, and it is my hope that Canadians reading it will get a better appreciation of the many honest and successful efforts being expended by those agencies concerned with solving this problem.

PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS

I should also like to mention the very important hearings being conducted by the House's Standing Committee on Mines, Forests and Waters. These hearings are affording the opportunity for our scientists, engineers, and administrators, to let the legislators know the scope and depth of the problem in greater detail. I expect that the hearings will also provide a forum for other interested parties to shed light on the matter.

This information effort is extremely important, especially at this time, to provide the public with the proper perspective to understand the work of the International Joint Commission, which as you know, has been requested by the Government of the United States and our own Government to examine the general problems of further Great Lake level regulation. I appreciate very much the lively interest shown the press in publicizing the many aspects of the Great Lakes discussion. I hope that this publicity will continue since, as I remarked before the House Committee, the basic requirement in this matter is the need to learn to live with a natural resource as rich, as powerful, and as gigantic as the Great Lakes system. This problem concerns the whole fabric of human activity, and the more all inhabitants of all shores of the Great Lakes know of the scientific and engineering realities involved, the closer we will come to maximum beneficial utilization of this great international asset....

CANADA UPS UN AID PLEDGES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced recently that the Canadian Government intended to make contributions in 1965 totalling \$7,325,000 to the United Nations Special Fund and the United Nations Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance. The pledges were made in New York by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Canada, which played a leading part in the establishment of the Special Fund, has been a member of the Fund's Governing Council since its inception. The annual Canadian contribution was increased

last year to \$5 million. Canada has again pledged \$5 million for 1965.

EPTA PLEDGE

Canada's contribution to the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance serves to complement Canadian bilateral-aid programmes, such as that carried out under the Colombo Plan. Canada, which has consistently been one of the leading supporters of the EPTA, has pledged \$2,325,000 for 1965, as in 1963 and 1964. This represents approximately 4.16 percent of all contributions, which amount to \$51.6 million (U.S.). Canada ranks fifth in total contributions to the Special Fund and EPTA.