

At the rapids and falls on both the Canadian and United States sides of the great waterways of the St. Lawrence system there have been created hydro-electric plants for the generation of power; these represent a very great continuing value, particularly on the Canadian side where the developments have been pressed, and continue to be pressed by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, to the limit of what is permitted by International Agreement. Nevertheless, as matters stand, not more than perhaps a third of the power potentially available from the falling waters on the St. Lawrence is being used. So both in respect to navigation and in respect to power there are projects of immense importance which need to be freed from the existing international inhibitions so that they can be undertaken at the earliest practicable date and carried out for the benefit and welfare of the peoples both of Canada and of the United States

So also in such matters as the stoppage of the pollution of these waters by sewage and by the discharge of the wastes of chemical and other industries; in the conservation of their scenic beauty; and in their use for recreational purposes, there are many problems of great concern to both nations which call urgently for solution.

In the considerations which must be taken into account in working forward to the solution of these many and varied and complex problems so that benefit and satisfaction may come to the people of Canada - and more especially as we are concerned, to the people of Ontario who live in the region we are never at liberty to forget that there is always another group of people, usually more numerous than ourselves, who have a like interest and equal right with us in the outcome. In fact, no solution for any major question arising in the use of "Boundary Waters" is possible except by agreement which respects the rights and interests of our neighbours; and certainly we have learned by long experience, which on occasion has been very painful, that progress with these matters only becomes possible when the views currently held on either side of the boundary and the wishes of the two peoples have come into full accord and have found expression in a unified purpose by Parliament and Congress.

Whether this takes the technical form of a "Treaty" or of an "Agreement" duly ratified or merely of an understanding, informal or otherwise, by which the matter may proceed without objection by either side, does not seem to matter very much because once great works have been created we can be quite certain, as a result of our long and friendly association, that no one in either country will interfere in their use to the detriment of the other party.

However, where new projects of great magnitude are under arrangement, and particularly in the case of those in which some outmoded facility or vested interest has to be displaced, it is seldom easy, even in one country, to effect progress, but where, as is the case in the regions along the St. Lawrence, the resources to be developed are shared by separate communities, then the difficulties presented to the inhabitants on either side in coming together and making effective arrangements for the development of their joint interests are almost insuperable if they have to proceed separately through the ordinary national, economic, legal and legislative systems of their respective countries.