

*Lake of the Woods Control Board*

Board Act, 1921. These amendments are to provide authority for the control of waters diverted from lake St. Joseph in the Albany river system to lac Seul in the English river system by the Lake of the Woods control board which was established by the act of 1921, and also to provide for representation from the province of Manitoba on that board.

In view of the fact that the Lake of the Woods control board has been functioning in an administrative capacity for over 30 years, I will outline only briefly the circumstances which led to the original formation of the board and point out the additional responsibilities which have been vested in the board in the intervening years. This background material, I believe, may assist the members in grasping the salient features of one of the latest developments in regard to the supply of energy in this area and also give a broader understanding of the factors which necessitate amendments to the existing legislation.

The Lake of the Woods Control Board Act, 1921 established the Lake of the Woods control board to regulate the storage in and outflow from the Lake of the Woods. At that time the natural resources of Manitoba were administered by the government of Canada which also had an interest in the navigation and international aspects of the Lake of the Woods storage. The board, as established, consisted of two members for Canada and two members for Ontario. In 1930 administration of the natural resources of Manitoba was transferred to the government of that province, but the significance to Canada of the international and navigational features of this storage has continued and will do so in the foreseeable future.

The international feature continues to be of primary importance to the government of Canada, which has obligations under the Lake of the Woods treaty of 1925 for regulation of Lake of the Woods levels within carefully defined limits. The navigational feature has become secondary in importance as navigation on the lake is limited to tugs and other relatively small commercial and pleasure craft. The storage in the Lake of the Woods has continued to increase in importance to the province of Manitoba which has developed for power production almost the entire reach of the Winnipeg river in Manitoba downstream from the Lake of the Woods.

In 1928 the responsibility for regulation of storage in and outflow from lac Seul on the English river was assigned to this board by provincial and federal concurrent legislation, namely the Lac Seul Conservation Act, 1928.

In 1957 the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario constructed works to

divert water from lake St. Joseph in the upper Albany river basin to lac Seul through the Root river. In order that the board might continue to regulate effectively the storage in and the outflow from lac Seul it is necessary that the act be amended to give the board authority to regulate the operation of the lake St. Joseph diversion works when the level of lac Seul rises above certain fixed elevations during particular months of the year.

Storage from the Lake of the Woods and lac Seul provides the water essential to the development of hydroelectric power on the Winnipeg and English rivers in northwestern Ontario and on the Winnipeg river in southeastern Manitoba. This river system supplies a very substantial portion of the hydroelectric power required by this area for the extensive mineral and timber industries in Ontario and the bulk of the industries and population of Manitoba, particularly the city of Winnipeg and vicinity. The additional water made available by diversion from lake St. Joseph is of substantial value both to Ontario and to Manitoba by the provision of greater amounts of hydroelectric power.

Ontario and Manitoba have agreed upon the division of power generated from the diverted waters and have interconnected their transmission networks for most effective operation. This changing pattern of storage makes it most desirable that Manitoba have official representation on the Lake of the Woods control board which necessitates the amendment of section 2 of the act to alter the board membership by the replacement of one of the two representatives for Canada and by one representative for Manitoba, with Ontario continuing to have two representatives.

The location of all of the reservoirs in Ontario makes this proportioned membership most appropriate. The amendment required to Section 3 (b) of this act now new subsection (c) will give the board authority over the lake St. Joseph diversion works so that if lac Seul is above certain fixed elevations during particular months of the year it will permit the board to regulate the storage in and outflow from lac Seul in the best interests of both provinces.

Other amendments required in the act cover minor changes caused by the amendment to Section 2.

I have been very precise in my statement of the historical background of this amendment to the Lake of the Woods Control Board Act. I would like, if I may, to make the house aware of the significance of what has happened between the two provinces, Manitoba and Ontario. Here we have the