

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 51/8

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

An address by General A.G.L. McNaughton on the International Joint Commission, with particular reference to the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project, delivered to the Electric Club of Toronto on February 28, 1951.

...The subject which I have chosen is "The International Joint Commission" and in dealing with some of the more important questions and projects which are, or have been, before the Commission I propose to mention more especially those which are of current interest to the people of Ontario, by reason of the fact that they relate to the use of the waters of the rivers and lakes along the southern boundary of the Province from the Lake of the Woods on the boundary with Manitoba, eastward through the Great Lakes and their connecting channels, and down the St. Lawrence River to Lake St. Francis where Ontario joins Quebec.

The questions at issue in this vast region involve every aspect in the use of these waters for navigation, for the generation of power, and for domestic and sanitary purposes, and in many of these matters the Commission is closely engaged.

I am happy to say that there has always been the closest and most cordial relations between the International Joint Commission and those in Ontario charged with responsibility for the development of power; in fact for a number of years the Chairmanship of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission and the International Joint Commission were held by the same person, the late Mr. Charles Magrath, who made a very eminent contribution to the work of both bodies.

Along the rivers and through the lakes along the Boundary there have already been created and there are now in existence and continued use, very extensive systems of canals and locks and dredged channels. These facilities, in their day, were fully adequate for the passage of the then existing traffic and commerce of the two nations, but today, with the march of time and the progress of invention and the growth of our economy, these facilities have become outmoded and they are no longer adequate to carry the ships which it is desired to move through them in the service of our expanding industry even in peace; and certainly these navigational facilities have been proved, by the most careful analysis, not to have the capacity to measure up to the requirements which are necessary for defence in the very anxious times and uncertain conditions through which we pass.