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power, the Dominion Government still maintain their attitude of opposition as already explained to the United States Government in Sir Auckland Geddes' note No. 285 of April 22nd, 1921, and previous correspondence.

In these circumstances, the Governor-General of Canada has asked me to enquire the present status of the legal proceedings instituted by the Government of the United States with a view to preventing any increase in the diversion of water from Lake Michigan, and to add that the Dominion Government confidently hope that these legal proceedings will be vigorously pressed by the United States Government.

I have, etc.,

H. G. CHILTON.

The Honourable  
CHARLES E. HUGHES,  
Secretary of State of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.

No. 42.

From the Agent of the Department of External Affairs at Washington to  
the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, March 20, 1924.

DEAR SIR JOSEPH POPE.—In response to your letter of the 18th instant, I have the honour to enclose six additional copies of press release by the Department of State, covering correspondence exchanged between the Canadian Government and the United States Government, concerning project for the improvement of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Lake Ontario.

Yours faithfully,

M. M. MAHONEY.

SIR JOSEPH POPE, K.C.M.G.,  
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
Ottawa, Canada.

ENCLOSURE IN No. 42  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

For the Press:

March 14, 1924.

Confidential Release for Publication in the Morning Newspapers of  
Saturday, March 15, 1924, and not to be Previously Published,  
Quoted from or Used in Any Way.

The State Department has sent to the British Chargé d'Affaires at Washington a note, dated February 27, 1924, in reply to a note from the British Embassy, dated January 30, 1924, and has received a further reply from the British Ambassador, dated March 12, 1924, concerning the project for the improvement of the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Lake Ontario for navigation and water supply. The text of the notes of February 27, 1924, and March 12, 1924, follows:

February 27, 1924.

"SIR:

"In your note of January 30, 1924, in regard to the project for joint action by the United States and Canada for the improvement of the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Lake Ontario for

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navigation and the development of water power, you informed me that while the Government of the Dominion of Canada desires to give further consideration to the suggestions brought forward in my note of May 17, 1922, to Sir Auckland Geddes with a view to carrying out the recommendations made by the International Joint Commission, the Dominion Government is nevertheless prepared to act without delay on the recommendation for the enlargement of the Joint Engineering Board which assisted the Commission in making the investigation of the project and to appoint additional engineers to the Board with a view to having it undertake the preparation of a final report covering the engineering features of the whole project, including its cost.

"You informed me also that the Government of Canada intends to form a committee which will in consultation with the Canadian members of the Joint Engineering Board, inquire fully from a national standpoint into the wide questions involved in the project.

"In reply permit me to say that this Government is gratified to learn that the Canadian Government hopes shortly to be in a position to take further action on the proposals made in my note of May 17, 1922, and meanwhile is especially pleased to be advised that the Government of Canada intends to create a committee for the purpose described in your note. This Government, similarly, will immediately constitute a national committee which will in consultation with the American members of the Joint Engineering Board make adequate inquiry from a national standpoint into the questions involved to the end that the project for the improvement of the St. Lawrence River for navigation and the development of its water power may be carried forward as speedily as possible.

"This Government is glad to give its assent to the suggestion that the Joint Engineering Board should be enlarged and, in response to the request of the Canadian Government for its view as to the number of additional engineers which should be appointed, suggests that two engineers be added to the Board by each Government, the membership of the Board thus being increased to six, three of whom would be representatives of the United States and three would be representatives of Canada. In connection with this enlargement of the Board it may be noted that the first of the recommendations made by the International Joint Commission was that the Governments of the United States and Canada enter into an arrangement by way of treaty for a scheme of improvement of the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Lake Ontario. It would appear that the Commission did not contemplate that negotiations for a treaty should be postponed until after a report should be made by an enlarged board of engineers but that negotiations should forthwith be opened, that the proposed works between Montreal and Lake Ontario should be based upon the report of the Engineering Board accompanying the report of the Commission, and that the Governments should have the benefit of the advice of an enlarged Board of Engineers before a 'final decision' should be reached.

"This Government would propose that the instructions to the enlarged Engineering Board should be prepared in joint conference by the two advisory committees which the Governments of Canada and the United States intend to establish, as indicated in your note and this reply, and that the two committees should accordingly be empowered to meet in joint conference for the purpose of formulating such instructions. However, the instructions would be given to the Board of Engineers by the Governments and the report of the engineers would be made to the Governments.

"As it appears that the report of the Board of Engineers of June 24, 1921, while of a preliminary character, as contemplated in

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers  
Memoranda & Notes

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