

**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.****IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER POWER COMPANY FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A SUBMERGED WEIR IN THE SOUTH CHANNEL OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER NEAR THE MOUTH OF ITS POWER CANAL AT MASSENA, NEW YORK.****OPINION.**

This is an application by the St. Lawrence River Power Company, a corporation organized under the laws of the state of New York, having its principal office at Massena, New York, for the approval by this Commission of a submerged weir to be constructed in the south channel of the St. Lawrence river from the existing jetty of the company, below the intake of its power canal, to Long Sault island.

**THE APPLICATION.**

In its application the company alleges in substance that it is a subsidiary of the Aluminum Company of America, and has for many years developed hydro-electric power in its power-house at Massena, using water taken from the south channel of the St. Lawrence river immediately below Dodges shoal, via its power canal and Grasse river, through which the water is returned to the St. Lawrence river near Cornwall island; that this hydro-electric power is used mainly in the production of aluminum by the said Aluminum Company of America; that the demand on this company to supply aluminum is most urgent and insistent and practically the entire output is being taken by the United States and allied Governments for military purposes in the prosecution of the present war; that aluminum is smelted by electricity generated by water power, and the Massena plant of the Aluminum Company of America has a capacity of 85,000 horse-power generated from the water of the St. Lawrence river, but during the months of January, February, March and part of April in each year huge ice jams in the south channel cause practically a shut-down of the said plant and an actual reduction of the output amounting to over six million pounds, and that these serious ice difficulties can be remedied by the construction of the weir, that the company applied to the Secretary of War of the United States for permission to extend to Long Sault island by means of a submerged weir its jetty or deflecting dyke in the south channel, which permission was granted subject to the approval of the Commission, by permit dated September 10, 1917; that the jetty, the site of the proposed submerged weir, the south channel, Dodges shoal, the rapids, the power canal, power-house, Grasse river, and all the waterways constituting the power developments are within the United States and are all separated from the international boundary by Long Sault island, which is also a part of the United States; that the effect of the proposed improvement in conjunction with the existing development will be to improve winter conditions, increase the output of aluminum, maintain public service and establish navigation to the town of Massena, without making diversion of water materially different from what it has been in the past and without materially affecting the level of the boundary waters on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence river; and the applicant therefore prayed that the Commission approve of the construction of the said submerged weir.