

IROQUOIS LOCK COMPLETE

The last mass concrete pour has been placed at the Iroquois Lock, marking completion of the first major structure on the St. Lawrence Seaway, Charles Gavsie, President of The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, announced August 28.

The Iroquois Lock will provide access between the power pool in the International Rapids Section and the stretch of river leading through the Thousand Islands to Lake Ontario. It is the most westerly of the seven new locks being built for the Seaway. The Authority's engineers are looking forward to the possibility of passing ships through this lock before the end of November.

First concrete was placed at the lock just a year and two months ago. Now some 660,000 tons have gone into the 1200 foot-long main lock structure and its upper and lower approach walls. On the North side the Upper approach wall is 3200 feet long, 47 feet high and 34 feet broad at the base. The downstream approach wall on this side is 1700 feet in length, making a continuous concrete structure 6100 feet in length.

TAXING TASK

Five hundred men have been working around the clock, Winter and Summer, to rush this important Seaway structure to completion. The final concrete placement was tripped from eight-ton buckets into monoliths Lower 28 S. and Lower 42 N. meaning these monoliths (or great concrete cubes) are in the south portion and the north portion respectively, of the lower approach wall. Both these monoliths are curved, requiring great care in their building.

Inside dimensions of the lock are 768 feet useable length, 80 feet width and 30 feet over locks sills.

Dredging of the approaches upstream and downstream of the lock is proceeding under Authority contract. The upper approach area to the lock proper which had been cofferdammed

since Summer 1955, is now being flooded. Cofferdams are being removed and gates and fenders are receiving a long series of tests.

The two sets of sector gates at the upper end of the lock are already installed and have been operated "in the dry"--for stop logs are still in place protecting the lock chamber from the water upstream.

Seaway Authority engineers, Mr. Gavsie said, expect to have the lower two sets of sector gates installed by October 15 and that the testing programme will be completed by early November.

Contractors for the Iroquois Lock are Iroquois Constructors Limited. The contract was awarded early in 1955 and is due for completion November 30 this year.

F.M. Corneil is Division Engineer for the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority in the construction of the lock. Douglas Cameron is the resident engineer and John Bruce is division administration officer.

1959 OPENING

The St. Lawrence Seaway will be open with a depth of 27 feet from Montreal Harbour to Lake Erie with the beginning of the navigation season in 1959, Mr. Gavsie explained. However, the International Rapids Section will be flooded by mid-Summer, next year, and the St. Lawrence canals here--Cornwall Canal, Morrisburg, Farran Point and Galop canals--will be unuseable. Consequently ships, although still proceeding at the present canal draft of 14 feet, will have to use the Iroquois Lock for entry into the power pool from upstream and the two United States locks to leave it and continue on to Montreal via the Soulanges and Lachine Canals for 1958 only.

In 1959 ships will be using the four other new Canadian Seaway locks at Beauharnois, Cote Ste. Catherine and St. Lambert.

HOSPITAL GRANT: The Manitoba School for Mentally Defective Persons, Portage la Prairie, has been awarded a federal hospital construction grant of more than \$57,300, Hon. J. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare, has announced.

The grant will be used to help meet the costs of additions to and alterations in the present accommodation to increase the institution's bed capacity by 95. Cost of construction not covered by the federal grant will be met by the Province of Manitoba which operates the school as part of its psychiatric services.

The Manitoba School, founded in 1890, is one of the oldest of its kind in Western Canada. When the current building programme is completed later this year, it will have a bed capacity of more than 900.

WHEAT SALES UP: Overseas export clearances of wheat in the week ending August 14 increased to 6,456,000 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 4,790,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Barley clearances fell sharply to 47,000 bushels from 1,617,000 but flaxseed less steeply to 201,000 bushels from 225,000.

Prairie farmers marketed substantially larger quantities of the three grains in the week, wheat rising to 1,632,000 bushels from 827,000 last year, barley to 257,000 bushels from 218,000 and flaxseed to 32,000 bushels from 2,000. Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America totalled 404,115,000 bushels at August 14, slightly below the week-earlier total of 407,519,000 bushels but substantially above the year-earlier total of 360,309,000 bushels.