

11 GEORGE V, A. 1921

*Improvement of the St. Lawrence River.*

In accordance with a provision contained in the Rivers and Harbours Act of the United States Congress of the 2nd March, 1919, the United States Government proposed to the Canadian Government that the question of the improvement of the St. Lawrence river between Montreal and lake Ontario to make it navigable for ocean-going vessels should be referred to the International Joint Commission for investigation. The Canadian Government agreeing, the reference was formally made on the 21st January, 1920, under article 9 of the Boundary Waters Treaty, for the necessary examination and report; it was agreed that each Government should appoint an engineer and that the engineers so appointed should prepare plans and estimates for four general schemes to be submitted to the Joint Commission, who are invited to answer a series of questions framed with the object of obtaining their judgment as to the best method for effecting the desired improvement. The Government appointed for this purpose as its engineer, Mr. W. A. Bowden, the United States Government, Col. W. P. Wooten.

*Application of Canadian Cottons Limited.*

The United States Government in March, 1919, referred to the commission an application from Canadian Cottons Limited, a Canadian corporation conducting its operations on both sides of the St. Croix river near Milltown, N.B., for permission to make changes in its power dam across that river. A statement was submitted by the Canadian Government in response to this application agreeing to the proposed changes, provided that the diversion of water through the new plant on the American side were limited to one-half of the flow of the river and that the power plants on the Canadian side were not abandoned.

The application was subsequently withdrawn by the corporation.

*St. Mary and Milk Rivers.*

The commission, under the powers conferred upon it by article 6 of the Boundary Waters Treaty, issued an order directing the measurement and apportionment of the waters of the St. Mary and Milk rivers by the appropriate officers of the two Governments for the season 1919, and the United States Government took occasion to address to the commission a letter explaining its attitude with regard to the authority of that body in this matter. While contending that the commission had no power to make an interpretation of article 6 binding upon the Governments it recognized its duty to determine as an administrative measure the waters to be measured and apportioned.

The business of the Passport office continues in undiminished volume.

It only remains for me to record my appreciation of the zeal and efficiency in the despatch of their duties displayed by the various members of the staff.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,-

JOSEPH POPE,

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.*

OTTAWA, March 31, 1920.