

Shipbuilding and ship repair could not be increased advantageously in the relatively well protected Great Lakes shipyards and no relief could be afforded in times of emergency to land transportation between Montreal and the head of the Lakes.

Look at the map of North America, and you will find that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway lies almost in the centre of the five physiographic regions of the North American Continent. The upper end of the seaway links the Canadian West to the Atlantic seaboard and the American West to the Port of New York. It joins the wheat fields of Western Canada to the United Kingdom market.

When one realizes that more yearly tonnage passes through one of the bottlenecks in the Upper Lakes region, namely the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, than through the Panama, Suez, Manchester and Kiel Canals put together, this gives some idea of the tonnage that is likely to come through when the development is completed. The building of the Panama Canal through the Isthmus of Panama, the construction of the Suez canal linking the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, were logical projects. They were the inevitable and the right thing to do, no matter at what cost. On the proposal to construct the deep waterway in the St. Lawrence River to link the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, the verdict will be the same. If you were to draw a circle having a radius of 75 miles around the Long Sault Rapids, you would have within this circle no less than 6 million horsepower of electrical energy, most of which has been undeveloped. What this will mean to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the State of New York, I need hardly explain to an audience such as this.

We are indeed a fortunate country. Not only have we vast natural resources but nature has given us great rivers and streams surging with undeveloped water power. We have in Canada a potential of 55 million horsepower. About one-third of this is to be found in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin and 6 million of it is within this radius of 75 miles. The production of electrical energy is not an end in itself. But it is a means to an end. It supplies services and facilitates production. The true significance of electric power lies in its relationship to the general economy of Canada. Some two-thirds of the total national production of electricity is absorbed by our manufacturing industries and of these, five major industries use over half of the total power generated for consumption. These are pulp and paper, primary iron and steel, abrasives, electrochemicals and the smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals. When one realizes that these five industries are both directly and indirectly responsible for approximately one-third of the gross value of our manufactured goods, then the importance of low-cost power to an industrial machine is clearly evident.

The prosperity of Canada is to a very large extent dependent upon industrial production and the latter is impossible without power. Hence, the benefits of this great project to both Canada and the United States, are incalculable.