

STATEMENT ON SEAWAY

Mr. Charles Gavsie, President of The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, stated last week that "it is fully expected that 27-foot channels being dredged under contracts awarded by The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority will have been completed by the opening of navigation in 1959 to a stage that Seaway shipping will be accommodated safely".

The President of the Authority made it clear that such work as will remain to be done during the 1959 season of navigation would not unduly restrict or be hazardous to shipping. The expectations are that at the opening of navigation in 1959: -

"The Seaway channel will be fully completed from the entrance at Montreal Harbour through the Laprairie Basin, Lake St. Louis, Beauharis Canal and Lake St. Francis.

"The Authority portion of the Cornwall

Channel will be dredged to full depth for a minimum width of 450 feet.

"The Seaway Development Corporation has advised the Authority that its portion of the South Cornwall Channel will be dredged to full depth for a minimum of 400 feet prior to the opening of navigation in 1959.

"The channel approaches above and below the Iroquois Lock will be fully completed.

"The improvement of the Thousand Islands Section by removal of scattered shoals will be completed to a minimum width of 400 feet.

"The deepening of the Welland Ship Canal will be completed.

"The turning basin at the entrance of Montreal Harbour will not be completed during 1958. This may necessitate the turning of large vessels further downstream, within the harbour."

BUFFALO IN ALBERTA'S PARK AREAS

Elk Island National Park, some 30 miles east of Edmonton, boasts one of North America's few remaining buffalo herds. Less than 100 years ago millions of these shaggy beasts roamed the prairies at will. During Settlement of the west the animals were mercilessly slaughtered. The last wild survivors, a group of eleven, were spotted in the Hand Hills area of central Alberta in 1880. Six were hurriedly hunted down, the other five disappeared.

Concerned with the possible extinction of the buffalo the Canadian Government took steps to re-establish the animals in Western Canada. Early in the century a greater part of the only remaining herd on the Continent was purchased from two Montana ranchers who had reared the herd in captivity. A great deal of difficulty was experienced in shipping the buffalo but by 1914 some 700 animals were located at the newly-established Buffalo National Park at Wainwright, and also at Elk Island Park.

Reproducing rapidly in the protected areas the herd soon numbered in the thousands. Between 1925 and 1928 several thousand selected members were transported by rail and river barges to Wood Buffalo Park, located in far northern Alberta. Number of buffalo now in the park, accessible only by air, is estimated at more than 10,000. Established primarily for the protection of the buffalo, the park now forms a vast preserve for many other species of big game and fur bearing animals.

In 1940 Buffalo National Park at Wainwright was closed, the land being turned over to the Canadian Army. Buffalo located there were transferred to Elk Island Park. Each year thousands of visitors flock to the area to catch a glimpse of the large herd, reputed to be finest on the North American Continent. A

small exhibition herd may also be seen at Banff National Park.

The North American buffalo is actually a wild-ox or bison and is larger in size than the true African or Asian buffalo. The American species is believed to have migrated from Asia during the ice age when a land bridge connected Alaska and Siberia.

TEST MISSILES IN NORTH

Canadian Army Headquarters and the United States Department of the Army have announced that a series of cold weather trials of United States Army Guided Missiles will be conducted at Fort Churchill, Manitoba.

Missile systems being tested are the United States Army's supersonic surface-to-air NIKE Hercules continental and field army air defence missile which is capable of carrying an atomic warhead and the LACROSSE surface-to-surface field army missile system which is being fitted with a variety of warheads. Test missiles fired in Canada will not be fitted with atomic warheads.

Selected Canadian and United States Army personnel trained at the United States Army Guided Missile Centres at Fort Bliss, Texas and Fort Sill, Oklahoma will man the weapons and will carry out the trials on a joint basis. Trials will begin towards the end of this year, with firings scheduled through the months of January, February and March 1959.

The scheduled tests are designed not only to test-fire the missiles but to demonstrate the field operation of complete missile systems under arctic conditions.

Detailed arrangements for the provision and movement of equipment and missiles, composition and intensive training of the test teams, provision of launching areas and ranges are now being worked out by the respective armies.