

be made available in order to make this service efficient and ensure communications between the North Shore and the South Shore throughout the year.

B. *Recommendations*

Your Committee believes that the representations made by the organizations that have appeared before it certainly are in favour of an improvement of the existing situation. Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government study the opportunity of putting into effect the following recommendations:

- a) The establishing of an all-year-round ferryboat service between the North Shore and the South Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and this, for the transportation of passengers, automobiles and trucks.
- b) The establishing of an all-year-round ferryboat service between the North Shore and the South Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in order to establish a rail link for freight cars between the North Shore and the existing railway lines on the South Shore. The establishing of this new ferryboat service would necessitate the construction of a platform on the two shores in order to enable trains to get on and off the ferryboats.

III. *THE PORT OF SEPT-ILES*

Due to its geographical location, the port of Sept-Iles is bound to play a considerable role in regional development, as well as in the expansion of the mining cities in the hinterland and on the lower North Shore. A statistical survey shows that the port of Sept-Iles is of major importance from a point of view of tonnage.

Port facilities must normally be in direct relation to the volume handled. However, in the port of Sept-Iles, traffic greatly exceeds the handling capacity, thus causing an alarming and costly situation. It has also been proven that such a congestion causes safety problems of all sorts.

In order to complete the building of the Churchill Falls Hydroelectrical plant, the erection of a giant crane with a capacity of 250 tons is necessary. That crane would be erected in the center of the Pointe-aux-Basques pier, because no other place would be better suited for a project of this nature.

The setting up of that crane will considerably reduce the space presently used for the handling of general cargo which is now paralyzing the operations of that pier.

The use of the Pointe-aux-Basques pier for the handling of general cargo is at present and will in future be even more hindered by the unloading of bulk cargo (cement, grinding balls, bentonite, calcium, iron scrap, etc. . . .).

The deficiencies of the Pointe-aux-Basques pier cannot be offset by the use of the Mgr. Blanche pier, which is already congested, and no longer meets the requirements of modern maritime transportation and constitutes a menace to safety due to its deficient construction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee is of the opinion that the representations of the various organizations are justified and that new port facilities must be constructed to meet the present and future needs of the port of Sept-Iles.