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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WATERS

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1.

P.C. 2539

The following is a true copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 5th January, 1924.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a Report, dated 20th December, 1923, from the Minister of the Interior, referring to a Minute of Council dated 13th April, 1923,¹ which set out the position of the Canadian Government respecting questions at issue concerning the Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake and other upper waters in the Lake of the Woods watershed, and suggested, for the consideration of the Government of the United States, certain procedure looking to their final settlement.

The Minister observes, as the procedure suggested was in agreement with the result of informal conferences both at Washington and Ottawa, when the appropriate technical officers of the two Governments prepared the formal documents necessary to give early effect to the declared views of both Governments, that it was confidently felt that the Government of the United States would find it possible to take early action, with a view to the completion of the convention and the accompanying protocol regarding the Lake of the Woods, and concurrent with such completion, the signing of identical letters of reference to the International Joint Commission regarding Rainy Lake and other upper waters of the Lake of the Woods watershed.

As both Governments have already expressed a desire to have these matters concluded, and as they are in agreement regarding the manner and method of such conclusion, and as the Government of Canada is being urged to undertake extensive improvement works in the Lake of the Woods district involving considerable expenditure of public funds, the Minister recommends that enquiry be made as to the present status of these proceedings.

The Committee, concurring, advise that Your Excellency may be pleased to request His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to make appropriate enquiries regarding the present status of the proceedings referred to in the aforementioned Minute of Council, and at the same time, to assure the Government of the United States that the Government of Canada is still desirous of facilitating an early settlement of the Lake of the Woods questions.

All of which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

E. J. LEMAIRE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

¹ No. 155, Vol. IV, p. 153.

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