

MONTREAL, OTTAWA AND GEORGIAN BAY CANAL FREIGHT RATES ON WHEAT
FROM FORT WILLIAM AND PORT ARTHUR TO MONTREAL VIA EXISTING
ROUTES AND VIA THE GEORGIAN BAY CANAL

Distances

Fort William-Port Arthur to Montreal:

Via Lake Erie and St. Lawrence River,	1216 Statute miles
Via the Georgian Bay Canal	934 Statute Miles
Saving in Distance via the Georgian Bay Canal	282 Statute Miles

Note:—The above distances are as recorded on the charts of the Great Lakes and from the Georgian Bay Canal surveys.

Time of Transit

The average time of transit from Fort William-Port Arthur by the existing all water route to Montreal via Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence River is 150 hours, equal to 6 days 6 hours. This is a matter of record. During the season of navigation many vessels are making this through trip and 150 hours is their average time of transit. One instance may be given:—on 17th of July, 1923, the Edwin T. Douglas of the Eastern Steamship Company arrived in Montreal with the largest cargo of grain ever carried down up to that date, namely 93,187 bushels. The time of transit was 6 days 3 hours equal to 147 hours.

The time of transit from Fort William-Port Arthur to Montreal via the Georgian Bay Canal must necessarily be estimated but data available from existing conditions is so complete that such an estimate may be accepted as accurate for this route.

This time of transit is estimated at 113 hours which gives practically the same average rate of speed as on the existing all water route.

Average time of transit on existing all water route,	150 hours
Estimated average time of transit on Georgian Bay Canal	113 hours
Saving in time of transit via the Georgian Bay Canal	37 hours

Freight Rates

Ignoring the all rail route, grain is now carried from Fort William-Port Arthur to Montreal by the two following routes:

- The all water route via Lake Erie and St. Lawrence River.
- By lake to Georgian Bay Ports and rail from those ports to Montreal.

The report on the Grain Trade of Canada, issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce gives the following average freight rates on wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur to Montreal for the season of navigation of 1925 by the above two routes.

- All water route, 9.03 cents per bushel.
- Lake and rail route, 11.80 cents per bushel.

What Will the Freight on Wheat be via The Georgian Bay Canal?

Grain via the Georgian Bay Canal will be carried in 10,000 ton lake vessels similar to those now operating on the Great Lakes.

The longest distance on which these vessels now operate from Fort William-Port Arthur is to Buffalo a distance of 863 miles with a time of transit of 3½ days or 84 hours.

The average freight on wheat from Fort William—Port Arthur to Buffalo in the season of navigation of 1925 as given in the Government Report already mentioned was 2.76 cents per bushel.

[Mr. Winfield Sifton.]