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2.

As regards your allusion to the circumstance that my letter to Mr. Nixon did not come to your attention until your first Council meeting after the provincial general election, I need only say that my letter was sent on September 7th last and was acknowledged on September 9th.

I am unable to understand your statement that my letter came to you as "a distinct shock". The international complications surrounding this problem of arranging to secure for Canada the benefits of such diverted waters were well known to the Government and power authorities of Ontario long ago. The problem was first raised by the Ontario Government in 1925, and discussions followed. It was dealt with in a well known provision of the unratified St. Lawrence Deep Waterway Treaty of 1932, which had been fully discussed with Ontario. In November, 1935, in connection with the Ogoki River diversion project, exactly the same problem was raised by the Ontario Power Commission with the Department of External Affairs, and in February, 1936, the Department replied reviewing the position and pointing out the international complications attending the matter. The fact that the United States Government were strongly emphasizing the desirability of treating as a whole all the particular questions affecting the Great Lakes - Niagara - St. Lawrence system had been made known in my letter to you of January 8, 1937, and had been more fully explained at conferences with representatives of your Government and of the Power Commission held in Ottawa on January 14th and February 24th, 1937.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
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