

on October 1, 1942; in the third place, it will be subject to the provisions of article IX of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin development.

11. It will also be observed that the agreement enables the engineers of the two countries to proceed at once with the program for remedial works.

12. When this proposal was first made to the Canadian government, the temporary Canadian Great Lakes-St. Lawrence basin committee was asked to report upon the question as to whether immediate increases in diversions of 5,000 cubic feet per second to the United States and 3,000 cubic feet per second to Canada would be detrimental or harmful to Canadian interests.

This committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Guy A. Lindsay of the Department of Transport, and including in its membership the chairman and chief engineer of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the vice-chairman of the Quebec Streams Commission and the legal adviser of the Department of External Affairs, has advised the government that such diversions would not be detrimental or harmful to Canadian interests. The committee studied, amongst other things, the possible effect of proposed diversions (including a total of 15,500 cubic feet per second) upon the Niagara falls and river, and have submitted the following statement:

Although it is assumed that the construction of these remedial works will be proceeded with immediately, if the diversions are authorized there will be a period during which the flow over the falls is depleted before the effect of the remedial works is felt. The committee does not think this is a serious matter however, because with flow conditions in the Niagara river approximately those of 1940, the diversions of an additional 15,500 cubic feet per second for power purposes would still leave a more satisfactory scenic spectacle at the falls than that which existed in the recent low water years of 1934, 1935 and 1936. In reaching this conclusion no account has been taken of any betterment of conditions which may have been brought about at the Canadian flank of the Horseshoe falls due to the recent construction of the gathering weir of the Canadian Niagara Power Company.

The government, therefore, reached the conclusion that the proposals submitted by the United States government, having regard for lake levels and for the paramount need for preserving the scenic beauty of the Niagara falls and river, would not be detrimental to this country. I do not suggest that if the diversions had been likely to affect the scenic beauty the government would have refused to go on with the agreement. The urgent need for power for vital war production is a paramount consideration. It is, however, satisfactory to know that this additional power can be developed without prejudice to the beauty of the falls.