

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/49      An Address by Mr. Lionel Chevrier,  
Minister of Transport, delivered over  
the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
network on November 21, 1950.

Tonight I would like to speak to you on a subject which in recent months has again come to the fore and which should be of interest to all Canadians - the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway.

The deepening of the St. Lawrence waterway is by no means a new question. It is one that has been agitating public opinion for at least a century. During the last half-century it has been the subject of negotiations between Canada and the United States. These negotiations culminated in the signing of an Agreement between the two countries in 1941.

The project must be envisaged from two angles - that of power and that of navigation.

### What is the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway

It is a 2,000-mile channel, 27 feet in depth, joining the Atlantic Ocean to the heart of the North American continent. Its proponents seek the deepening of the present channel in order to allow ocean freighters to carry their cargoes through the St. Lawrence River up to the Great Lakes and conversely to permit our large Great Lakes freighters to reach Montreal. Coupled with this is the development on a joint basis of 2,200,000 H.P. in the international section of the St. Lawrence River with the power equally divided between the two countries.

### What does the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway consist of?

It consists of five steps which are its chief assets and its chief liabilities - assets because of its potential power development; liabilities because these steps must be levelled out if the seaway is to be opened to deep-water navigation.

The five steps consist of -

1. St. Mary's Falls lying between Lake Superior and Lake Huron - where there is a drop of 21 feet.
2. The St. Clair - Detroit passage joining Lake Huron and Lake Erie - where there is a drop of 8 feet.
3. Niagara Falls which separates Lake Erie from Lake Ontario and which has a drop of 326 feet.