

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 230

## APPENDIX.

## I.

WAR INDUSTRIES BOARD,

WASHINGTON, August 8, 1918.

The Chairman,  
International Joint Commission,  
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR SIR,—The War Industries Board is apprehensive that the supply of aluminum may not be adequate to the demands of the Allied Governments, and is therefore particularly desirous that any opportunity for increasing the output be taken advantage of. While there is at present just about a balance between the demand and the supply of aluminum, it would be a great advantage to increase the output, especially as the demand is likely to be increased, while the output cannot be increased except by new construction. Such an increase would be an insurance against fire, strikes, and other causes.

In addition I may state that there is practically no available stock of aluminum on hand. During the winter we expect not only interruptions in transportation but also interferences in power, and especially at Niagara Falls, New York.

We therefore recommend that the application of the Aluminum Company of America, for which permit was received from the United States Government, to build a submerged weir in the St. Lawrence river near Massena, New York, be granted. As this weir is in a boundary stream the permit has also to be approved by the International Joint Commission and we therefore beg that you approve this application.

The construction of the weir will increase the horse-power at Massena by some few horse-power all the time, but its object is the remedial effect on ice conditions. The plant now produces 80,000 horse-power for nine months in the year, but is reduced by from 5,000 to 15,000 horse-power during the months of January, February and March. The construction of a weir will substantially relieve that condition and if work can be permitted on the construction of the weir a large increase in output for the first three months in 1919 will be effected,—the time when we most need this increase in output, especially in the production under the Aircraft program.

It is believed that there will be absolutely no disadvantage to Canadian navigation, and for reasons given above we beg that you approve the application for the submerged weir on the St. Lawrence river at Massena, N.Y., asked for in the application.

Yours very truly,

B. M. BARUCH,  
*Chairman War Industries Board.*