FIRST STEP IN SEAWAY CONSTRUCTION: The Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, announced on January 8 that the removal of the Gut Dam in the St. Lawrence River had been completed. "The removal of the dam," he said, "represents the first step in the actual construction of the St. Lawrence seaway and power project".

The Gut Dam had been located in the St. Lawrence River immediately upstream from the entrance to the Galop Canal and extended across the international boundary blocking the channel which separates Adams Island on the Canadian side from Galop Island on the United States side of the boundary.

The dam consisted of a rock-filled timber crib structure surmounted by a concrete slab two feet in thickness with a clay fill upstream and a broken rock fill downstream from the crib work. Total length of the dam was approximately 850 feet with total length of crib work being 755 feet.

Counsel for the Government of Canada stated at the hearing of the International Joint Commission at Albany, N.Y. on September 2 last that it was the intention of the Government of Canada, as soon as the proposed power works were approved by the Commission, to take steps for the early removal of Gut Dam when river conditions and the protection of down river and other interests that would be affected during removal would permit.

Following the Order of the International Joint Commission of October 29, 1952, approving the power project in the International Rapids Section of the St. Lawrence River, the Canadian Government took immediate action to remove the dam, and authority was given on October 31, 1952, to enter into a contract for the removal of the Gut Dam. The work progressed satisfactorily and the dam has been removed nine days before the time for completion specified in the contract.

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HARP SEAL INDUSTRY: The need for regulation of the harp seal fishery of the North Atlantic has been discussed during the past year by scientists, members of the Canadian sealing industry and representatives of Norway, Denmark and France.

A major part in these discussions was taken by members of the staff of the St. Andrews Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Reporting to the Board's annual meeting in Ottawa, Dr. A.W.H. Needler, director of the station, said that an exchange of information had been arranged with Norwegian and Danish investigators, and that the Board's Newfoundland Fisheries Research Station at St. John's had assisted in sampling and tagging seal stocks.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX: Wholesale prices were slightly firmer in November as indicated by a rise in the general wholesale price index from 221.0 for October to 221.9 for November. Only fractional changes were shown by any of the major group indexes, with six registering advances, while two worked lower.

Animal products moved up from 233.1 to 235.4, reflecting strength in live-stock, notably steers, meats, butter, cheese and hides, which outweighed decreases in eggs and fishery products. Firmer prices for newsprint and woodpulp, which reflected declining strength in the Canadian dollar, coupled with an increase in furniture prices, moved the index for wood, wood products and paper from 290.8 to 293.4.

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FEED GRAINS RECORD: Total supplies of Canadian feed grains in 1952-53 are at record levels as the result of above-average carry-over stocks and record or near-record outturns. In view of an increase of six per cent in the number of grain-consuming animal units over 1951-52, feed requirements will be somewhat higher during the current crop year. However, supplies are more than sufficient to meet the demand and, even after allowing for a larger export movement than last year's record, substantial stocks will be carried over at July 31, 1953.

Gross supplies of feed grain available in 1952-53 are estimated at 21,500,000 tons, compared with 19,700,000 in 1951-52 and the previous record of 20,900,000 in 1942-43.

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MORE ENGINEERS: The shortage of engineers in Canada's expanding industries may be partially relieved in a few years if the present trend toward engineering as a career, continues, stated the Minister of Labour, Mr. M. F. Gregg, on January 7. Mr. Gregg based his statement on a report of the Executive and Professional Division of the National Employment Service which showed that new registrations in engineering at Canadian universities in 1952, numbered 2,714 as compared with only 1,852 in 1951, and 1,649 in 1950.

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TEXTILES, 1950: Gross factory selling value of products manufactured by Canada's textile industries in 1950 rose eight per cent to $1,475,477,000 from $1,364,323,000 in the preceding year, according to the annual general review by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of employees rose to 196,576 from 195,525, and their salaries and wages advanced to $380,398,000 from $362,679,000.