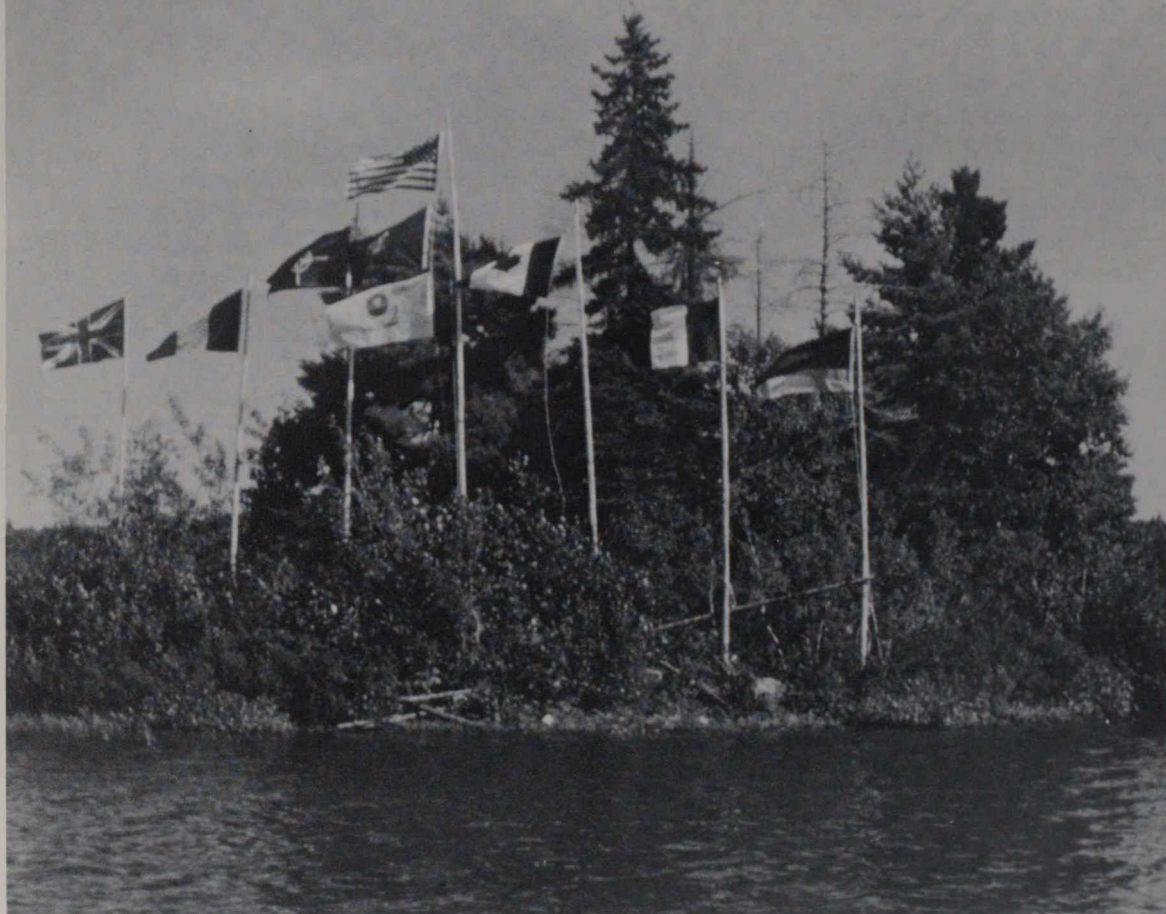


Points of Interest



Points of international contact often become points of international difference. The International Joint Commission, formed in 1909, has recognized, discussed, compromised and resolved scores. Recently pollution has become a recognized problem; and since nothing runs across borders as easily as water, the contamination of rivers, lakes and oceans has concerned the IJC and other international agencies. Each of the three cases below is technical and complex.

We have ruined ours in the States with our growth of population so that the great, beautiful rivers that flow into the Atlantic and down through the Mississippi Valley are contaminated. You should remember this, that really great water is one of your greatest assets.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER in conversation with Ontario Premier Leslie Frost in 1953.

[THE RIVER]

The Saint John River flows in both Maine and New Brunswick, and its pollution problems have concerned many people and several governments. There has been little laying of blame and much co-operation.

The original causes of concern were a potato and sugar-beet complex at Easton Station, Maine, and two mills owned by the Fraser Company. The first dumped pollutants into a tributary of the Saint John in the late 1960s and killed all the fish. The Fraser Company paper mill in Madawaska, Maine, and its pulp mill at Edmundston, New Brunswick, also contributed for many years.

The Canadian federal government and the government of New Brunswick began a joint study on the management of the Saint John basin in 1969, and in the early 1970s Canada suggested that it could serve as a demonstration project for the