

C 69836

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No. 184.

*From the Governor General to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires
at Washington*

Secret.

No. 170.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA, December 19, 1923.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that numerous communications have been received by the Canadian Government from various interests and corporate bodies directly concerned, protesting vigorously against the diversion of water from lake Michigan. The position of the Government of Canada in opposition to and in protest of the injurious effects of this diversion, both to navigation and water power, has been fully declared in representations which have been made to the Government of the United States. The attitude of the Canadian Government was clearly made known in a brief filed with the Secretary of War of the United States on the 27th March, 1912, and in Governor General's despatches No. 145 of the 23rd November, 1912,¹ No. 16 of the 25th February, 1913,² telegram of the 8th of June, 1916,³ No. 135 of the 9th June, 1916,⁴ and secret telegram of the 15th April, 1921,⁵ to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington for transmission to the Government of the United States.

In connection with the aforementioned representations it has been brought to the attention of the Canadian Government that on or about the month of June, 1923, the Government of the United States was granted an injunction restraining the Sanitary District of Chicago from diverting water from lake Michigan and, further, that this injunction would not become active for a period of six months, to permit the Sanitary District time in which to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

I shall be grateful if you will inform the Government of the United States that the declared attitude of the Government of Canada in the above matter is unchanged.

My Government request that appropriate enquiries may be made regarding the legal proceedings undertaken by the Government of the United States, which the Canadian Government confidently trusts will be vigorously pressed.

I have, etc.,

BYNG OF VIMY.

His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires,
British Embassy,
Washington.

¹ No. 312, Vol. 1, Page 292.

² No. 7, Vol. II, Page 13.

³ See note to No. 32.

⁴ See note to No. 32.

⁵ No. 32.

C 69837

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No. 185.

*From the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Mayor of
Collingwood*

OTTAWA, December 20, 1923.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo,¹ addressed to the Rt. Hon. W. S. Fielding, at that time Acting Prime Minister, regarding the diversion of the waters of lake Michigan by the Chicago Drainage Canal, I beg to say that this question is now engaging the attention of the Government.

I have, etc.,

JOSEPH POPE,
Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

His Worship the Mayor,
Collingwood, Ontario.

¹ No. 182.

No. 186.

*From His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Washington to the Governor
General*

No. 447.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C., December 21, 1923.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to report that during the last session of Congress a special Senate Committee was appointed by the Vice-President to investigate the problem of a nine-foot channel in the waterway from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and to enquire into the navigability of the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri rivers, with a view presumably, to exploring the possibility of establishing direct maritime communication between the Great Lakes and the south Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

This project continues to interest the Senate, and a sum of \$10,000 has now been allotted to the committee, which consists of five Senators and seven Representatives, for expenses connected with the calling of witnesses, the collection of relevant data, etc., in connection with their investigations.

I understand that the proposals mentioned above have long been of considerable interest to the Dominion Government since, if carried into effect, they must necessarily entail the use of large volumes of water drained from the Great Lakes. I shall not fail, therefore, to keep Your Excellency informed of all further developments in the matter.

A copy of this despatch is being communicated to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, etc.,

H. G. CHILTON.

His Excellency
The Lord BYNG OF VIMY, G.C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Ottawa, Canada.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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