A Permanent and Continuous Policy Necessary

Apart from managers, superintendents, draughtsmen, clerks, etc., the staff of foremen for the ship-fitters, pipe-fitters, plumbers, coppersmiths, boilermakers, sheet iron workers, rivetters, moulders, patternmakers, machinists, blacksmiths, carpenters, joiners, painters, mould loftsmen, riggers, pneumatic tool men, helpers, etc., is very large; and these men must be permanently employed, carefully selected and gradually picked up. It takes about seven years to build up a good organization. This last-named consideration makes it apparent that any scheme of aid, once embarked upon, should be guaranteed for a fixed period long enough to enable yards to get their organization established and then to show results. A period of ten or fifteen years is indicated.

Develop Subsidiary Industries

Government assistance, it is apparent, might take one of two or three forms, such as free raw materials, direct aid, or some combination of these.

With regard to free raw materials, it is fair to argue that if ships made by competitors are to be admitted free, at least all the materials used by Canadian builders should be admitted free. Your memorialists would observe in this connection, however, that such a course would prevent or at least delay and discourage the development of the numerous subsidiary industries which depend upon a shipbuilding industry. If, however, protection is to be extended to all of the various materials which Canadian shipbuilders use, it should also be extended to the ships which they manufacture.

The Case for Direct Aid

The case, however, goes farther. Canada did not content herself with tariff protection in building up her system of land transportation; she gave direct aid, on a far more generous scale than has been vouchsafed to water transportation.

It is to be noted in this connection that our national system of railway transportation, although so much more heavily subsidized, has enjoyed two great advantages over our national system of water-transportation. A Canadian railway