

TWO METHODS OF REGULATING RAINY LAKE

SHOULD STORAGE BE REGULATED TO AUGMENT FLOW OVER EXTREME LOW-WATER PERIOD OF POSSIBLY FEW YEARS, OR ONLY TO AUGMENT TO GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT THE ANNUAL LOW-WATER FLOW?—ONE OF THE ENGINEERING QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN LAKE OF THE WOODS INVESTIGATION.

TO most people the Lake of the Woods district is a comparatively unknown region, and the popular impression probably is that it is of little or no importance to the inhabitants of either the United States or Canada other than those who live in or own interests in the immediate vicinity. That is not the case.

"The investigation which the International Joint Committee has carried out in regard to regulating the levels and outflow of the Lake of the Woods," said Lawrence J. Burpee, Canadian secretary of the International Joint Commission, in a recent article in the *American Review of Reviews*, "shows among other things that the navigation, power and other interests that will be affected by the Commission's decision, have invested something over one hundred million dollars in the Lake of the Woods district; that the natural resources of the region are enormous and only beginning to be developed; and that communities so far apart as Duluth and Winnipeg are more or less directly interested in the fixing of a level on this lake that will give the maximum benefit to the people on both sides of the boundary."

In speaking of the importance of the interests involved in the regulation of matters in general pertaining to boundary waters, Mr. Burpee says that "when it is remembered that these boundary waters support a population of over seven million people, American and Canadian; that the navigation interests alone of the Great Lakes represent an enormous investment; that approximately ninety-five million tons of freight, valued at more than eight hundred million dollars and carried by twenty-six thousand vessels, are transported on these waters annually—more than three times the volume of freight taken through the Suez Canal; when you add to this the rapidly increasing power interests along these waters, and all that depend upon them, and the vital uses of the Great Lakes and their connecting waterways for domestic and sanitary pur-

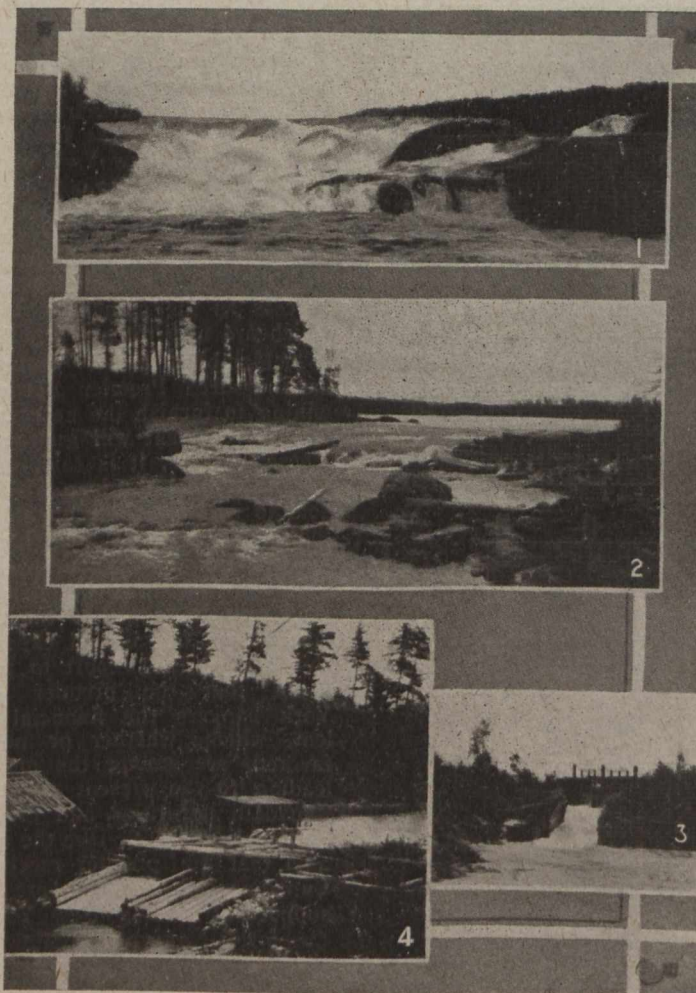
poses, it is not very difficult to appreciate the opportunities for usefulness that lie before the International Joint Commission. * * *

"Of the questions that have already been referred to the Commission by the governments of the United States and Canada for investigation and report, two are of

special importance. The first requires the Commission to report what levels of water in the Lake of the Woods can be maintained which will best meet the needs of the various interests on both sides of the boundary: navigation, agriculture, fishing, lumbering and power."

The Lake of the Woods and its tributaries derive their water supply from an area of 26,750 square miles, almost equally divided between the United States and Canada; an area that is greater than New England, exclusive of Maine. "For almost twenty years the obstruction and use of these waters at the outlet of the lake for power purposes, which outlet is wholly in Canada, some seventy-five miles from the boundary, have been a source of a great deal of irritation and complaint upon the part of the people, whose land on its south shore, it is claimed, has been injuriously affected by this obstruction at the lake's outlet," said Charles A. Magrath, chairman of the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission, in a speech before the Canadian Club at Ottawa last fall.

"This dispute has been the source of ineffective diplomatic negotiations all these years. In 1912 the United States and Canada referred the whole question to the Commission. Since then the Commission has conducted a most extensive investigation into all questions involved into the controversy, and we have at this time every reason to believe that we will be able to submit to the two governments unanimous conclusions and written recommendations which they will accept and adopt, and thus secure for the people of both countries the most advantageous use of these boundary waters, which are so



1—Curtain Falls at Outlet of Crooked Lake; 2—Falls at Outlet of Basswood Lake; 3—Dam at Outlet of Birch Lake on International Boundary; 4—Dam at Outlet of Knife Lake.