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*Freight ship in the Welland Canal, St. Lawrence Seaway.*

### St. Lawrence Seaway banner year

At mid-season, all indications pointed towards new traffic records in both sections of the St. Lawrence Seaway. At the end of July, tonnage surpassed the 1972 figures by 3.8 million tons in the Montreal-Lake Ontario section and 3.9 million tons in the Welland section. Should this pattern continue until the end of the season, last year's levels of 53.7 million and 64.2 million tons on the two sections will be surpassed and new records established for the fourth consecutive year.

Major gains have been registered in most of the categories that represent the mainstay of Seaway operations. Of particular significance is that traffic in iron ore and grain, which usually accounts for over 70 per cent of the total traffic, is much greater this year. Increases of 30 per cent in the former category and an increase of about 20 per cent in grain traffic indicate the growing importance of the Seaway system to the North American economy.

The year 1973, which is the fifteenth year of operation of the deep waterway, will go down in history as the year of the opening of the Welland By-Pass. At the opening ceremony on July 14, John Munro, the Minister of Labour, paid tribute to the men who made possible the successful completion of the By-Pass which, he said, "represented another remarkable engineering feat designed to meet the needs of our changing times".

The 1973 season was also the earliest opening in the St. Lawrence Seaway since its inception in 1959. The *David, Marquess of Milford*, a British vessel, locked through at St. Lambert on March 28, setting the pace for what appears to be the busiest season in Seaway history.

### Beef tariff reimposed

The Federal Government reimposed a tariff on beef and live cattle moving into Canada, effective September 21.

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan said that the move was in response to a flood of United States cattle and beef coming into Canada that threatened to seriously disrupt the Canadian cattle industry.

"When we removed the tariff following the budget in February, we stated

### Consumer price indexes

Spurred by a 3.2 percent surge in food prices, the consumer price index (1961=100) advanced 1.3 per cent in August to 153.0 from 151.0 in July. Nearly two-thirds of the advance was owing to increased food prices.

Price levels for all items other than food rose 0.5 per cent in the latest month, mainly because of increases of 1.5 per cent in the transportation index and 0.5 per cent in the housing index. The health-and-personal-care index rose 0.8 per cent and the clothing and tobacco and alcohol indexes each advanced 0.1 per cent. There was no change in the index for recreation, education and reading.

In the latest 12 months, the all-items index has increased 8.3 per cent.

The 3.2 percent jump in the food index put it at 168.7 in August compared to 163.5 in July. Cost of food consumed at home increased 3.2 per cent, that for food in restaurants increased 2.7 per cent.

Sharply increased meat, poultry and egg prices at the beginning of August were major contributors to the considerably larger-than-usual rise in the latest month's index. But all other main elements, except fresh produce, also moved up. Led by a rise of 15.4 per cent in the retail price of pork, the meat, fish and poultry in-

dex climbed 7.9 per cent between July and August and stood 28.3 percent above its level of 12 months earlier. Beef prices, higher by 5.3 per cent in the latest month, were up 26.5 per cent from August 1972 levels. Poultry prices climbed 7.6 per cent from July to August and nearly 40 per cent over the year. Canned salmon and tuna quotations were about 6 percent higher in the latest month, registering increases of 15 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively, since a year earlier. In the latest month, eggs increased in price by 13.4 per cent to register their sharpest rise in five consecutive months of advance. The fresh fruit index levelled off in August and fresh vegetable prices, which normally decline at this time of year, averaged nearly 8 percent lower than the prices a month earlier, though they were still 37 percent higher than in August 1972. In the 12 months to August 1973, the food index moved up 15.8 per cent, with the price of food consumed at home rising 16.2 per cent and that for restaurant food 13.2 per cent.

From August 1972 to August 1973, the housing index advanced 6.8 per cent, the clothing index 5.4 per cent, the transportation index 3.3 per cent, the health-and-personal-care index 5.0 per cent, the recreation, education and reading index 4.6 per cent and the tobacco-and-alcohol index 2.7 per cent.