

Engineers Of Hydro-Quebec Clear Power Line Hurdle

MONTREAL (CP)—Hydro-Quebec engineers this summer are clearing the highest hurdle in construction of a 365-mile power line from Manicouagan to Montreal.

The line to carry 735,000 volts, is believed to be the highest-voltage power-line in the world.

Stringing of the entire line will be finished later this year, and power will surge from Hydro-Quebec's Manicouagan-Outardes development on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River 200 miles east of Quebec City.

Upon completion by 1974, the whole giant enterprise will have almost 6,000,000 kilowatts—about 7,000,000 horsepower—of installed capacity.

This will almost double Quebec's available power and will require three transmission lines like the one now under construction.

The big leap this summer covers 9,800 feet—almost two miles—across the St. Lawrence between towers on the Isle of Orleans, near Quebec City, and the south-shore mainland.

USFS TWO TOWERS The hurdle utilizes two suspension towers rising almost 600 feet above the river. They are to hold 12 aluminum power-conductors.

The construction feat is more difficult because of the continuous parade of shipping on this stretch of the river, one of the world's busiest sea-lanes.

The conductors must be kept under strong tension at all stages of the work so the lowest point will never be less than 190 feet above high tide—well above mast height of the tallest ships.

River traffic was slowed only once—50 minutes—while a motor launch laid a slim cable across the river. The cable was

threaded from a winch on one shore, through pulleys on the various anchor and suspension towers to a winch on the other shore.

By this means a stronger cable was pulled across. It in turn hauled across the large aluminum conductor.

The conductor was designed by engineers of Aluminum Co. of Canada Limited and made at Alcan's Shawinigan, Que., plant. The cable is only 11 inches in diameter but has a tensile strength of 107,500 pounds. The three-phase transmission line consists of 12 conductors strung in bundles of four.

REUSE WATERS The huge project embraces the repeated use of waters of the Manicouagan and Outardes rivers in a series of eight powerhouses which will generate 5,500,000 when completed nine years hence.

The watershed of these rivers, which annually empty 1,500,000,000,000 cubic feet of water into the St. Lawrence, is 25,060 square miles. The first new powerhouse, to become operational later this year, will be Manicouagan No. 2.

From an collector station near this site, 20 miles north of Baie Comeau, the power line is being built to connect with Boucherville, across the St. Lawrence from the eastern section of Montreal.

The present river crossing, when completed, will have used about 22½ miles of conductor, supplied in 12 reels with an unbroken length of 10,320 feet each.

All told, the various river crossings in the project will require more than 133 miles of a special river-crossing cable, in addition to 2,400 miles of over-land conductor.

Republicans Study Ending U.S. And Canadian Frictions

WASHINGTON (AP)—A study looking toward elimination of U.S.-Canadian frictions and expanding mutual understanding and co-operation is under way by a small group of Republican members of the House of Representatives.

The study group is made up of six members of the Wednesday Club, self-designated Republican moderates, and is headed by Representative Stanley Tupper of Maine. His interest in improved relations between the two countries is that of a neighbor and member of the U.S.-Canadian Interparliamentary conference.

Mr. Douglas Bailey, staff director for the study group, said Wednesday that "letters and questionnaires have been sent to more than 200 persons and organizations in Canada and the United States, asking for their views, specifically and generally, on means of improving relations."

ASK THREE QUESTIONS Three specific questions on which suggestions were asked were:

—Should the United States and Canada form a free trade area, and is the time ripe for the United States to initiate such a move?

—Would Canadian membership in the Organization of American States and more active participation in the inter-American system be to the common interest of Canada and the hemisphere? Are these specific means by which these new directions in Canadian foreign policy could be encouraged?

—Are new structures or policies warranted to improve joint consideration by the two countries of foreign policy and defence problems? Bailey said the group feels that there has been to great a

tendency to take Canadian support of U.S. policies for granted, without any common understanding.

He said the study is in its early stages and he could not predict what would evolve. He said this would depend largely on analysis of replies received and follow-up conferences with those evincing the greatest interest.

The informal congressional group includes, in addition to Tupper, representatives Robert Ellsworth, Kansas; Frank J. Horton, New York; Ogden Reid, New York; Charles McC. Mathias, Maryland and F. Bradford Morse, Massachusetts.

Construction Curbs Called Gov't Panic

OTTAWA (CP)—Claude Jodoin, president of the Canadian Labor Congress, has accused the federal government of panic in its efforts to slow down construction activity in Canada.

Mr. Jodoin said in a statement the government has failed to produce convincing evidence of the extraordinary pressures it has said are behind Prime Minister Pearson's policy statement.

"A few scattered indicators may point to cost pressures, but this does not warrant the strong restraining action taken by the government," said the CLC president.

Mr. Pearson announced Monday night that the government is postponing action on some \$70,000,000 worth of public works scheduled for the next 18 months. At the same time, he urged private industry to stretch out its capital spending plans to ease what he called "abnormal pressures on costs" within the construction industry.

CLAIM LOSS OF JOBS "This action will deprive thousands of Canadian workers of new job opportunities during the coming year and may restrict this country's continued economic growth," Mr. Jodoin said.

"Its impact will be felt throughout the economy."

"With 325,000 Canadians still unemployed, this is clearly not the time for introducing deflationary measures aimed at arresting the present phase of modest economic expansion."

Mr. Jodoin said the government's action is contrary to the advice of the Economic Council of Canada which has called for expansionary measures and emphasis on long-term goals rather than short-term economic fluctuations.

Opposition Conservative MP Lord Braye said in the House of Lords there is widespread public dissatisfaction over the Nazi emblem appearing on the stamps. His speech followed criticism in newspaper letter columns.

A Labor government spokesman, Lord Hobson, said the public is under no obligation to buy the stamps.

The stamps depict various aspects of the historic Battle of Britain. On one a broken swastika half-covered by the sea, is on the shattered tail of a German bomber. Another design shows a German cross on a fighter plane overlaid by the wing tip of a British Spitfire fighter.

Hobson added: "Since this is what the Battle of Britain was all about, we do not propose to withdraw the stamps."

An official of the board of deputies of British Jews said in a letter to Postmaster-General Anthony Wedgwood Benn:

"We are aware that the purpose of this stamp is to demonstrate the defeat of the evil forces which used this symbol. But we feel strongly that the illustration does not convey this impression."

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