

21.—Seamen Engaged and Discharged at Canadian Ports, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1948-57

NOTE.—Figures from 1918 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1941 edition.

Year	Seamen Engaged	Seamen Discharged	Year	Seamen Engaged	Seamen Discharged
	No.	No.		No.	No.
1948.....	59,768	60,793	1953.....	42,723	36,610
1949 ¹	50,379	49,544	1954.....	42,837	43,142
1950.....	43,677	43,194	1955.....	43,292	41,030
1951.....	40,241	40,535	1956.....	44,142	44,333
1952.....	43,724	40,664	1957.....	39,717	40,347

¹ Newfoundland included from Apr. 1, 1949.

Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited.—In conformity with the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1926 (16-17 Geo. V, c. 16) the Federal Government has provided direct steamship services to the West Indies through the medium of Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited.

The eight vessels owned by the Company ceased active operations on July 4, 1957, as a result of a strike called by the Seafarers International Union. Prolonged negotiations failed to end the strike and it was decided to sell the fleet and wind up the affairs of the Company. The vessels were sold in August 1958 to the Banco Cubano del Comercio Exterior of Havana, Cuba.

22.—Financial Statistics of Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited, 1948-57

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1929-38 are given in the 1942 Year Book, p. 620; for 1939-44 in the 1950 edition, p. 777; and for 1945-47 in the 1956 Year Book, p. 844.

Year	Operating Revenues	Operating Expenses	Operating Profit or Loss	Other Income (net)	Interest	Income Surplus or Deficit
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1948.....	7,964,720	7,320,615	+644,105	85,733	563,794	+166,044
1949.....	6,595,007	6,582,608	+12,399	88,064	560,961	—460,498
1950.....	5,124,200	5,725,632	-601,432	133,127	560,462	-1,028,767
1951.....	6,808,478	6,840,054	-31,576	130,368	565,784	-466,992
1952.....	7,449,247	7,122,971	+326,276	145,065	475,250	-3,909
1953.....	4,509,342	5,331,788	-822,446	170,866	475,250	-1,126,830
1954.....	5,105,082	5,424,983	-319,901	166,741	475,250	-628,410
1955.....	5,946,605	5,995,684	-49,079	77,780	124,665	-95,964
1956.....	6,125,470	6,052,570	+72,900	—	49,619	+23,281
1957.....	4,012,162	4,617,526	-605,364	—	43,486	-648,850

Subsection 5.—The St. Lawrence Seaway

The St. Lawrence Seaway became a reality with the commencement of the navigation season in April of 1959. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, together with President Dwight D. Eisenhower of the United States of America, officiated at the formal inaugural ceremonies opening the new waterway on June 26, 1959.

The St. Lawrence Seaway, in its broadest sense, provides a deep waterway extending some 2,200 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Head of the Great Lakes. The waters of Lake Superior, seeking sea level, drop 602 feet through the lesser Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River on their way from the heart of the Continent to the Atlantic Ocean. The greater part of this drop takes place in the Niagara River—now overcome by the 27-mile-long Welland Ship Canal with its eight locks—and in the St. Lawrence River.

Before construction of the Seaway conditions for navigation were as follows: (1) from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Montreal, a distance of 1,000 miles, controlling navigation channels were 35 feet in depth; (2) from Montreal to Lake Ontario, a distance of 180 miles,