

To the Government of the United States of America
and the Government of the Dominion of Canada:

The International Joint Commission respectfully
presents the following interim report upon the matters referred
to it under the terms of Article IX of the Treaty of January
11th, 1909, between the United States and Great Britain embodied
in the following questions:

1. In order to insure the most advantageous development of lands in the State of Minnesota and the Province of Manitoba affected by the waters of Roseau River and its tributaries, and to provide for the control of the flood waters of the Roseau River and its tributaries, is it practicable and desirable to co-ordinate projects for the control of the waters of Roseau River and its tributaries on both sides of the Boundary? If so, what are the controlling features of such co-ordinated projects, what measures are recommended in order to insure them and in what way should these measures be made effective?
2. Will the protective works adjoining Roseau River in Manitoba as now projected by the Government of the Dominion of Canada have the effect of raising the natural level of the river on the United States side of the Boundary? If so, what changes or modifications are recommended? Do these works constitute a unit of a co-ordinated system contemplated by question 1?
3. What has been the effect, if any, of drainage and other works designed to control the waters of Roseau River and its tributaries in Manitoba and Minnesota on flood flows of Roseau and Red Rivers? If remedial or protective structures and/or measures are found by the Commission to be, or to have been necessary to provide for any change in flood flow caused by such works, on what basis should the costs incident to such structures and/or measures be apportioned between the United States and Canada? What additional remedial or protective structures, and/or measures, if any, will be required to provide for changes in flood flows of Roseau and Red Rivers attributable to

future works designed to control the waters of Roseau River and on what basis should the costs of such structures and/or measures be apportioned between the two countries?

1. The Commission met in the City of Washington on the 21st and 22nd February, 1929, for the purpose of considering the questions referred to it and determining the best method of obtaining the necessary information to enable it to answer the same, at which meeting the following persons appeared:

Mr J.A. Metzger, representing the Department of State of the United States; Mr N. Marr, representing the Water Power and Reclamation Service of the Dominion Government; Mr R. de B. Corriveau, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works of Canada; Mr N.C. Grover, Chief Hydraulic Engineer of the United States Geological Survey.

2. After careful consideration of the questions of the reference, and of the representations of the above-mentioned officers of the two governments, the Commission decided to hold hearings at points that would permit of the private parties interested in the subject matter of the investigation appearing before it with the least inconvenience and expense to themselves, and, pursuant to that decision, public hearings were held, after due notice, at Roseau in the State of Minnesota, on Thursday, June 6th, 1929, and at Vita in the Province of Manitoba, on Friday, June 7th, 1929.

3. The following parties appeared before the Commission at the town of Roseau:

by Messrs Metzger, Grover, Willard, Youngquist, Stebbins and Hugland. Several settlers were called and gave the Commission particulars of damages caused by flooding from Roseau River. Statements were also made by Messrs Read, Major and Preudhomme, and by S.S.Scovil and D.L.McLean, Counsel and technical experts respectively of the Dominion and Manitoba governments. Briefs were filed on behalf of the Government of Canada, and Department of the Interior of Canada, the Department of Public Works of Canada, the Government of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. The members of the Commission made a close personal inspection of the Roseau River at and near the town of Roseau and the surrounding country.

5. The following parties appeared before the Commission at its hearing in the village of Vita, Manitoba:

J.E.Read, representing the Government of Canada; Hon. Wm.J.Major and Wilson McLean, representing the Government of Manitoba; Chester S.Wilson, representing the Government of Minnesota; A.L.Beaubien, M.P. and R.F.Curran, M.L.A., representing the Manitoba farmers in the Roseau river basin; E.V.Willard, Commissioner of Drainage and Waters of Minnesota; N.C.Grover and R.W.Davenport of the United States Geological Survey; C.H.Attwood and T.L.Cory of the Department of the Interior of Canada; F.G.Goodspeed of the Department of Public Works of Canada; S.S.Scovil, technical expert of the Canadian Government and D.L.McLean,

Mr J.A.Metzger, Assistant Solicitor of the Department of State of the United States; Mr N.C.Grover, Chief Hydraulic Engineer of the United States Geological Survey; Mr R.W. Davenport of the United States Geological Survey; Mr E.V. Willard, Commissioner of Drainage and Waters of Minnesota; Hon. G.A.Youngquist, Attorney General of Minnesota; Chester S.Wilson, Assistant Attorney General of Minnesota; H.H. Flowers, Secretary of the Rural Credit Board of Minnesota; George M.Stebbins and M.J.Hugland, representing interested settlers in Roseau County: A.D.Borneman representing Kittson County, Minnesota, and the Two Rivers interests; J.E.Read, representing the Government of the Dominion of Canada; N.Marr, of the Water Power and Reclamation Service of the Department of the Interior of Canada, the technical officer designated by the Government of Canada to assist the Commission in the investigation; C.H.Attwood and T.L.Cory, representing the Department of the Interior of Canada: F.G.Goodspeed, representing the Department of Public Works of Canada; Hon. W.R.Clubb, Minister of Public Works of Manitoba; Hon. Wm. J.Major, Attorney General of Manitoba; J.Preudhomme and Walter M.Scott, representing the City of Winnipeg; A.L.Beaubien, M.P., and R.F.Curran, M.L.A., representing the interests of the farmers on the Manitoba side of the Roseau river basin.

4. Statements were made on behalf of the United States, the State of Minnesota and the Counties of Roseau and Kittson,

8. The protective works adjoining the Roseau River in the Province of Manitoba comprise a system of dykes with a minimum flood channel one thousand feet wide and a river control dam two miles below the international boundary whereby the flood waters will be carried in the dyked channel and the flow in the natural river bed below the control dam will be limited to an amount of seven hundred cubic feet per second or the bank full stage of that portion of the river. The control dam will consist of a structure with two sluice openings permitting the free discharge of bank full capacity in the reach of the river below the dam. From the control dam to the boundary the dyke system is two miles in width converging to a width of one thousand feet at a point some three miles north of the boundary. From the boundary to the control dam, the surface gradient is much steeper than in the reach to the south of the boundary, the total drop being six feet. The elevation at the boundary is 1008 feet and at the dam site 1002. From the control dam to the beginning of the thousand foot channel section there is a surface drop of six feet. In the next five miles to the lower end of the dyked system, where the flood waters will be again discharged into the Roseau River, there is a further drop of nine feet.

9. The maximum recorded flood flow of the river at the boundary is 3160 second feet, while the discharge capacity of the flood channel is estimated to be 5300 second feet, which together with the flow in the natural river channel of 700 second feet gives an estimated capacity of 6000 second feet.

In addition a ditch with an estimated capacity of 300 second feet is being provided adjacent to each dyke, making in all a total estimated capacity for the flood way of more than double the recorded maximum flood. This flood way is of such a character that its capacity can be easily enlarged to 10,000 second feet, or to any capacity that may be required to carry the flow that it might be called upon to carry under any overall system for the two countries.

10. From the evidence and data submitted to the Commission and the knowledge gained from an inspection of the said projected works and the territory adjacent thereto, in the Province of Manitoba, the Commission is of the opinion that the said works will not have the effect of raising the natural level of the river on the United States side of the boundary, or of being the cause of any injurious effect in the State of Minnesota. The answer of the Commission to the first question in paragraph two of the reference above quoted is therefore "No". We are of the opinion that the said works, with such enlargements, alterations and improvements as circumstances may demand, will fit in with and form a unit of any co-ordinated system of improvements that may eventually be decided upon, and the answer to the last question in said paragraph, subject to the qualifications herein contained, is therefore, "Yes".

11. Having regard to the following facts:

(a) That large numbers of settlers both in Minnesota and Manitoba are abandoning their farms by reason of the damage

sustained by floods from said river and its tributaries;
and

(b) That the said works in Manitoba are designed to protect, and will in the opinion of the Commission protect, many settlers from the consequences of such floods; and

(c) That the Commission after careful consideration of all the evidence submitted to it, and with the knowledge acquired by the personal examinations above referred to, has come to the conclusion that the works in question can cause no injury to any interests in the State of Minnesota, and

(d) That the settlers in Manitoba will sustain great damage in the case of another flood unless the said works are completed this year, and

(e) That the completion of the said works at an early date will facilitate the completion of co-ordinated projects for the control of the Roseau River and its tributaries in both countries necessary for the relief of settlers in Minnesota, and

(f) That the knowledge that will be gained from the construction and operation of these works will greatly assist in formulating plans for complete co-ordinated projects for the two countries, and hasten the time when relief will be obtained by settlers in Minnesota. The Commission is of the opinion that further delay in the completion of the projected works in Manitoba is not required.

The Commission respectfully suggests that every effort be made by the two countries to have the works of their engineers and technical advisors completed and submitted to the Commission at the earliest date possible so that the Commission may be able to make a final and complete report upon all the questions submitted to it.

Dated this 8th June, 1929.

[Signature]

Fred J Dubois

H. H. Hearsh

P. M. Chamber

G. W. N. Neph

John H. Bartlett