BRITISH EMBASSY
Kineo, Maine, June 27, 1912.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that at the request of the Government of the United States and of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, under the provisions of Article IX of the treaty of January 11, 1909, between the United States and Great Britain, the questions or matters of difference set forth below, which have arisen between them involving the rights, obligations, or interests of each in relation to the other, or to the inhabitants of the other, along their common frontier between the United States and the Dominion of Canada, are hereby referred to the International Joint Commission for examination and report upon the facts and circumstances of the particular questions and matters referred together with such conclusions and recommendations as may be appropriate.

The questions so referred are as follows, namely:

(1) In order to secure the most advantageous use of the waters of the Lake of the Woods and of the waters flowing into and from the Lake on each side of the boundary for domestic and sanitary purposes, for navigation and transportation purposes, for fishing purposes and for power and irrigation purposes, and also in order to secure the most advantageous use of the shores and harbours of the Lake and of the waters flowing into and from the Lake, is it practicable and desirable to maintain the surface of the Lake during the different seasons of the year at a certain stated level, and if so at what level?

(2) If a certain stated level is recommended in answer to question No. 1, and if such level is higher than the normal or natural level of the Lake, to what extent, if at all, would the Lake, when maintained at such level, overflow the low lands upon its southern border, or elsewhere on its border, and what is the value of the lands which would be submerged?

(3) In what way or manner, including the construction and operation of dams or other works at the outlets and inlets of the Lake, or in the waters which are directly or indirectly tributary to the lake or otherwise is it possible and advisable to regulate the volume, use and outflow of the waters of the Lake so as to maintain the level recommended in answer to question 1, and by what means or arrangement can the proper construction and operation of regulating works, or a system or method of regulation, be best secured and maintained in order to insure the adequate protection and development of all the interests involved on both sides of the boundary, with the least possible damage to all rights and interests, both public and private, which may be affected by maintaining the proposed level?

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

The Secretary,

The International Joint Commission.

A. Mitchell-Innes.