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Floods delayed the work and enhanced its cost. The Manchester Corporation, recognising that the enterprise bore upon the fortunes of every citizen, voted its aid and supported the justification of the work. Engineering difficulties were eventually overcome and the waterway opened to traffic in April, 1894, at a cost of £251 million. The official opening by Queen Victoria took place on 31st May of the same year. No. 9 Dock at Manchester, over half a mile long, was opened in 1905 by King Edward VII.

The Ship Canal route Manchester, an inland city, one of the foremost ports of the United Kingdom. While technically a canal, it is, in fact, an elongated harbour which provides the extensive facilities for shipping and the essential requirements of large-scale industry. The annual tonnage of exports and imports exceeds fifteen millions. Approximately 5,000 vessels traverse the Canal annually.

Recent developments to the Port have included the total electricalization of the terminal docks in Manchester and the construction of the great new “Chana Elizabeth J. Duke” at Eccles, which was opened in January, 1954. The Dock is able to accommodate four tankers of 30,000 tons and upwards at one time.

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