

for private wire and other services. A semi-automatic message switching system was placed in operation at Montreal, eliminating the need for manual relay of messages and effecting substantial economies besides speed of service.

Jointly with Canadian Pacific, CNT established a nation-wide telephone service for the Department of Transport, CNT providing the service east of Winnipeg. The network connects all airports and provides what is known as Air Movement Information Service.

Progress continues on establishment of a microwave system between Sydney, N.S. and St. John's Nfld., for television and general communication service. These facilities will be ready in mid-1959. Television service for the CBC was extended to Three Rivers, Que., and a further extension will be made from Rimouski, Que., to New Carlisle.

* * * *

POLISH ART TREASURES

The depositors of the two trunks containing Polish art treasures, which had been on deposit in the Bank of Montreal in Ottawa, have signified their willingness that the two trunks be delivered to a representative of the Polish institutions to which they belong for return to Poland.

These two trunks form part of a collection of Polish State art treasures. They were brought to Canada for safekeeping in 1940. At the conclusion of the war, the newly established Government of Poland learned that two trunks containing manuscripts and treasures of the former Royal House of Poland had been deposited in the vaults of the Bank of Montreal on Wellington Street in Ottawa. The depositors were Mr. Swierz-Zaleski, formerly director of the state collection of the Wawel Palace in Cracow, and Mr. Polkowski.

Attempts during the following years by representatives of the Polish Government to secure the release of the two trunks were unsuccessful because the agreement of both depositors could not be secured. Mr. Swierz-Zaleski subsequently returned to Poland, where he died.

Last December four Polish professors representing Polish State museums and cultural organizations came to Ottawa to examine with the surviving co-depositor, Mr. Polkowski, the treasures in the bank vault in Ottawa to ascertain their state of preservation. One of the four professors, Dr. Szablowski, had the necessary powers of attorney. On examination of the treasures it was found that, while they had suffered no serious damage, they were in need of expert attention. In order to make possible the necessary preservation, Mr. Polkowski and Dr. Szablowski agreed that the two trunks should be withdrawn from the bank's vaults and returned to Poland.

Successive Canadian Governments have taken the view at all times that in admitting the treasures to Canada, they assumed no responsibility for them. The difficulty concerning their withdrawal was essentially one of establishing legal title, and not one to which the Canadian Government was a party.

* * * *

WREN TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

A Wren petty officer of the Royal Canadian Navy will join the Royal Household Staff at Buckingham Palace this month.

Petty Officer Rosalee Auger, 25, of Port Arthur and Winnipeg, has been appointed to the staff of Esmond Butler, assistant press secretary to Her Majesty The Queen, for duties in connection with the Royal Visit to Canada this summer.

PO Auger, who has been serving in HMCS Naden, RCN training establishment at Esquimalt, B.C., will assume the duties of private secretary to Mr. Butler and will travel with the official party during the Royal Visit. As a member of the Royal Household Staff, PO Auger will work at Buckingham Palace. Her tour of duty will last for approximately one year.

PO Auger was selected by the Navy from the Wrens on the basis of stenographic and organizational ability, tact, reliability, capacity for work and appearance.

* * * *

LEGISLATORS IN WASHINGTON

For the first time in the post-war history of the United States and Canada, legislators of the two countries met together in Washington on January 9 and 10 to discuss their common interests, areas of co-operation, and problems of mutual concern. This first meeting grew out of a suggestion by the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Diefenbaker, in a speech at Wesleyan University last summer and preliminary arrangements for it were made during the course of visits to Canada in the fall of 1958 by several members of the Congress. Senators Aiken and Capehart visited Canada in support of this mission pursuant to Senate resolution 359. Representatives Brooks Hays and Frank M. Coffin had similar discussions in Ottawa later in the fall.

After the first business meeting on January 9, chaired by Representative Edna F. Kelly of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the delegations announced that they had made substantial progress toward working out arrangements for further periodic meetings of groups of legislators of the two countries with the object of further cementing relations between Canada and the United States.

The two delegations met with the President of the United States on the morning of January 9 and afterwards expressed their pleasure over