

Personnel

The airline's staff numbered 8,503 at year end. This was an increase of 6 per cent, comparing favourably with the 28 per cent increase in the airline's output measured in available ton miles. The TCA employee body, although consisting largely of young men and women, is experienced and able. At December 31st, 446 employees had been with the Company over fifteen years; another 1,233 had completed ten years of service; and an additional 2,010 had served the airline over five years. The level of technical and other specialized skills remained high.

The Company's extensive program of personnel development was continued, including the initial indoctrination of new staff, on-the-job training, technical instruction, and management training.

Harmonious relations continued between the Company and its organized labour groups.

Development

The continued expansion of air transportation throughout the world seems assured and particularly should this be the case in a country of increasing wealth and of the geographic immensity of Canada.

The airline will undertake further service expansion in 1956. For the most part, this will take the form of greater flight frequency, with no major route additions being contemplated at present. The delivery of more aircraft will permit a substantial increase in available accommodation for all types of traffic. The cost of the new equipment to enter service in 1956 will be \$8,250,000.

During the past year, TCA extended its equipment planning even further into the future to keep step with the increasing time intervals between airline orders and manufacturers' deliveries of the new aircraft types. Detailed investigation is continuing into the technical potentialities of both the larger turbine-propeller and jet aircraft now being developed. The most skilled analysis by the Company's technical staff is called for in this time of rapid advances in power-plant design and soaring prices of flight equipment.

In this regard, the airline's experience with the Viscounts will be invaluable to it when new types of turbine-powered aircraft are added to the fleet. TCA is today one of the two North American airlines having operational familiarity with turbine-propeller equipment.

In addition to the eleven Viscounts on order as of December 31st, an order for a further eleven aircraft has now been placed. This will bring the Company's Viscount fleet to thirty-six by the spring of 1958. They will be progressively extended to more medium-range domestic routes. In addition, two more Super Constellations will be placed in service this year, strengthening both trans-continental and Atlantic services.

The financial outlook justifies some concern. The relatively high cost of air transport operations in Canada and the mounting price of both labour and equipment is giving rise to a problem of some magnitude. The airline will endeavour, as in the past, to secure maximum efficiency of both staff and equipment and to take advantage of the economies inherent in the greater traffic volume.