

A prototype of the transactor was shown in Toronto and tests are continuing to determine whether it will be entirely suitable for TCA's vast reservations system which handles annually some three and one half million transactions.

A total of 209 new stewardesses and 118 new pilots were graduated during the year and TCA also maintained an active training programme in all departments. The TCA staff numbered 9,800 at the end of 1957.

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CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

Five hundred delegates of national organizations representing two million Canadians in all walks of life will attend the Canadian Conference on Education to be held in Ottawa on February 17-20. They will study the objectives and needs of Canadian education in the next decade and seek ways and means to meet these needs.

Preparatory work by provincial committees and eight programme commissions will form the basis of study in workshops concerned respectively with organization and curricula; teaching personnel; financing education; higher education; the role of the home, agriculture, business, industry and organized labour in education; physical and mental needs; education for leisure; and buildings and equipment.

Nineteen major organizations are sponsoring the Conference, which has the financial support of large industries and associations. Dr. Wilder G. Penfield, of the Montreal Neurological Institute, will be the Conference Chairman.

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SMALL HOMES PROGRAMME

Public Works Minister Howard Green has announced that the Government of Canada small homes loans programme to encourage low-cost housing for lower-income borrowers under the National Housing Act passed the \$150,000,000 mark in fifteen weeks of lending activity.

Mr. Green said that in the fifteenth week, ended December 20, 288 loans for 434 units and an amount of \$4,642,545 were approved to bring the programme total to 12,236 loans for 15,900 units and an amount of \$150,714,884.

The special programme was announced by Prime Minister Diefenbaker on August 21. By the second week of September, meetings had been held between representatives of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and approved lenders, and technical details completed. Lending activity reached its peak towards the end of October with weekly loan approvals amounting to more than \$15,000,000.

Applications in process at the end of the 15-week period could result in another 1,940 units with an estimated loan potential of \$19,400,000, Mr. Green noted.

EXPEDITION TO NEW GUINEA

Canada's status as one of the leading countries of the world in the scientific study of insect classification has been further enhanced by a two-man scientific field trip to New Guinea. G.P. Holland and Dr. E.G. Munroe, of the Science Service Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture, recently completed the largest collection of insects ever made in that country. Hundreds of thousands of specimens were procured including representatives of about 2,000 species of one important family of moths (Pyralidae), of which several hundred are new to science.

Insect classification is of tremendous importance to practical field studies in entomology research because these studies are based on the correct identification of the pests concerned. Although Pyralidae, a large group containing several thousand species is under investigation on a world basis by Dr. Munroe, and collections have been made available to him through the co-operation of the Entomological museums of the world, many species in the group are poorly understood. For this reason steps were taken to collect specimens from New Guinea, a country noted for its rich and varied animal and insect life. Study material from this area is expected to prove extremely valuable in establishing the status of species occurring in many countries of the world.

Co-operation in this scientific venture was provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization of Australia, a country much interested in the outcome of the ensuing studies.

At the termination of the expedition, Dr. Munroe proceeded to Bangkok, Thailand, to represent the Canada Department of Agriculture at the 9th Pacific Science Congress. Mr. Holland returned to Canada to resume duties as Head of the Insect Systematics and Biological Control Unit with the Entomology Division of Science Service in Ottawa.

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UNEF AIR TRANSPORT

A reorganization of Canada's contribution of aerial transport support to the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East will bring approximately 150 personnel and four C-119 Flying Boxcar aircraft back to Canada by next February, it has been announced by Air Force Headquarters.

The personnel and aircraft based at Capodichino military airport at Naples, Italy, will be phased back into Nos. 435 and 436 Transport Squadrons, located at Namao, Alta., and Downsview, Ontario, respectively.

The reorganization of the transport elements in the Middle East has been made possible by the completion of the major transportation requirements of UNEF from Naples to El Arish