

a new type of passenger equipment, which has been ordered for delivery in 1967. These new trains will provide improved schedules and more convenient and comfortable travel.

Preparations also proceeded vigorously during 1966 for the advent of the Turbo trains, which will begin operating between Montreal and Toronto during the summer of 1967. Designed along aerodynamic lines and powered by gas-turbines, the Turbo represents a new idea in railway-passenger equipment and has been described as the greatest leap forward in railway technology in the past 100 years.

Telecommunications

In an era of exciting technological advance and increasing demand for fast and versatile telecommunications facilities, CN continued to expand all its services in this field.

The electronic switching-system, Data Central, in Toronto, handled an average of one million messages a month. New telex exchanges have brought the total to 87, serving 1,031 communities and 12,150 subscribers. Construction of a pole-line between Hay River and Inuvik was completed, bringing telex, telephone, broadcast and other services to Inuvik and the communities of the Mackenzie Valley in the Northwest Territories. In Newfoundland, expansion of CNT services included the addition of 4,000 new subscribers.

Hotels

CN's nine hotels continued to make important contributions to income and to the prestige of the company. A five-year renovation and modernization programme for CN-operated hotels approached the final stages in 1966.

Real Estate

The railway has valuable real-estate holdings in the centres of many Canadian cities, which it continues to develop in co-operation with private enterprise.

The most spectacular of these land-development projects is in Montreal, where there are now eight large office buildings, including the 42-storey Royal Bank of Canada Building, the 1,200-room Queen Elizabeth Hotel, and the latest addition, the Place Bonaventure. The last-named building is a great trade and exhibition centre, with the largest facilities of its kind in Canada, as well as a 400-room penthouse hotel built round an enclosed roof-garden.

Other development projects on CN real estate are also under way in Campbellton, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

Today, a new era confronts the Canadian transportation industry, through the enactment in 1967 of the National Transportation Act. This legislation formulates, for the first time in Canadian history, a comprehensive national transportation policy aimed at developing a truly national system, "making the best use of all available modes of transportation at the lowest possible cost".