

see it in daily use on your savings or current account cheques and on certain cheques issued by the Government. The letters and figures used for this purpose are the peculiarly shaped ones you find along the bottom of your cheques. They indicate the bank and the branch. The date and amount and any other variable data are added by an encoder after the cheques are cashed. When run through a machine they are sorted by bank and branch, the amounts are totalled and the bank clearing figures are prepared. All of this equipment is self-proving and self-checking.

Cathode Ray Viewing Screens - In October 1965 the Canadian General Electric Company exhibited a cathode ray viewing screen at the National Business Show in Montreal. These screens look like the T.V. screens you see at the airports containing lists of flight schedules but they are not the same. The flight schedules are shown merely as pictures of printed forms. The cathode ray viewing screen presents information obtained direct from the computer. When a computer is requested to supply information, it seeks it from one of the memories where it will be stored in code on magnetic tape, disk, drum or core as the case may be. The computer, when properly instructed, will send the video counterpart of this coding along the wire for presentation to you on your screen, where it may be read. Some day it may be possible to go a step farther and make instant copies of what appears on the screens.

Similar developments are already with us or coming soon in connection with the following: add-punches developed from adding machines, data processing machines with paper-tape output possibility, such as Flexowriters, omputypers, Mercators and other forms of calculators and billing units; other machines capable of paper tape input and output, magnetic tape and optical scanning.

Not all of these instruments will be in the modern executive offices or will be of interest to senior members of government departments. However, you will certainly have a telephone and it will probably be characterized by interesting changes. It will become what is known as "touch-tone" with a ten-button keyboard for speed and simplicity of dialing. It will be capable of direct access to the computer; if you dial certain numbers, you will get certain information. It will be equipped with a card reader for identification purposes and for transmitting fixed data. Teletypewriters, telegraph and Telex will advance similarly and will become more flexible through micro-wave relay systems.

The telephone will be so constructed that you will be able to reach frequently used numbers by pressing only three or four digits. This will be possible through what is called an "electronic switching system." You will also be able to hook up by telephone a conference arrangement using the telephone alone or, if you wish, using closed circuit television.