

THE CABLE COMES TO LIFE

Part of the conversation over the new line between the Queen and Prime Minister Diefenbaker is reprinted below:

The Queen: I am delighted to be able to speak to you on this new cable from my house in London. I am sure that this new link across the Atlantic is going to bring the peoples of Canada and Britain still closer together. It has been a skillful and highly imaginative enterprise and a splendid example of co-operation between Commonwealth countries.

Prime Minister: Yes, Your Majesty, this day marks an achievement. In Britain and in Canada there is pride based on ownership and on manufacture. In addition we can take pride, together with other members of the Commonwealth, in the completion of the first section of a round-the-world cable in which other members of the Commonwealth will ultimately take a more active role.

The Queen: Some of those responsible for the construction and laying of the cable are now listening to our conversation. I congratulate them on the great success which they have achieved. I am proud of the fact that the Commonwealth leads the world in its telecommunications system and I look forward to the day when the cable will be extended to other countries in the Commonwealth.

Prime Minister: As you know, Your Majesty, the next overseas link spans the Pacific Ocean to connect Canada with Australia and New Zealand and is to be completed before the end of 1964. In this connection we are very pleased to have with us today Mr. J.R. Marshall, Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, who is visiting Ottawa at the moment.

The Queen: How, then, will the cable cross Canada itself? One of the things which has always impressed me on my visits to Canada is the vast distance between St. John's and Vancouver.

Prime Minister: Instead of laying a land line across Canada, a special wireless link will be used to connect the trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific cables.

The Queen: I hope that, despite all the difficulties which will have to be surmounted in completing a scheme stretching round the world, work on the further stages will go steadily forward to forge these new and vital links between Commonwealth countries.

Prime Minister: It is most important for Commonwealth countries to have the quickest and most reliable means of communication with one another. These new cables will enable us at all times to talk to each other and will strengthen the bonds within our family of nations which bind us together. The cable being inaugurated is an admirable example of a truly Commonwealth venture. It shows how well the members can work together in a practical and constructive way to the general advantage through Commonwealth meetings, such as in the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held in Montreal in September 1958, at which agreement in principle was reached for a Commonwealth round-the-world telephone-cable system....

The Queen: ...I now declare open this telephone cable linking Britain and Canada. I feel sure that it will help to strengthen the ties between the peoples of the Commonwealth and will lead to even closer understanding. May it be used at all times to promote peace, happiness and prosperity.

NEW REHABILITATION ACT

The new act dealing with the vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons passed at the last session of Parliament was proclaimed at the beginning of December. Commenting on it, Mr. Michael Starr, the Minister of Labour, said: "This act is the result of many years of Canadian experience in the rehabilitation of the disabled. It is another step towards our goal of providing help for every man, woman and child in Canada who needs rehabilitation".

Vocational rehabilitation includes all the services needed to help a disabled person become vocationally useful in a job or at home.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATION

Canada's national programme of rehabilitation for the civilian disabled is based on co-operation between the Federal Government, the provincial governments, and the private voluntary agencies. The Federal Government provides co-ordination and financial help through the Department of Labour and the Department of National Health and Welfare. Employment placement services are provided by the National Employment Service.

The new act clarifies and broadens the responsibilities of the Government of Canada in the vocational rehabilitation field. At present, new agreements under the act are being worked out with all the provinces, according to Mr. Starr.

SHIFT WORK IN MANUFACTURING

Although there has been a steady increase in recent years in the number of Canadian firms that have regular shift work, only about one-third of the 7,900 manufacturing plants covered in a Labour Department survey have reported regular shift operations. This is one of the findings revealed in a publication entitled "Shift Work and Shift Differentials in Canadian Manufacturing Industries", recently released by Mr. Michael Starr, the Minister of Labour. The booklet is the second in a series of monographs dealing with a variety of topics of specific interests to labour and management.

In each of the surveys carried out since 1953, there have been slight increases in the percentage of firms involved in shift work, ranging from about 24 per cent in 1953 to almost 32 per cent in 1959.

REGULAR SHIFT OPERATIONS

The 1959 survey showed that regular shift operations are not carried on in a majority of Canadian manufacturing industries. Those firms reporting