

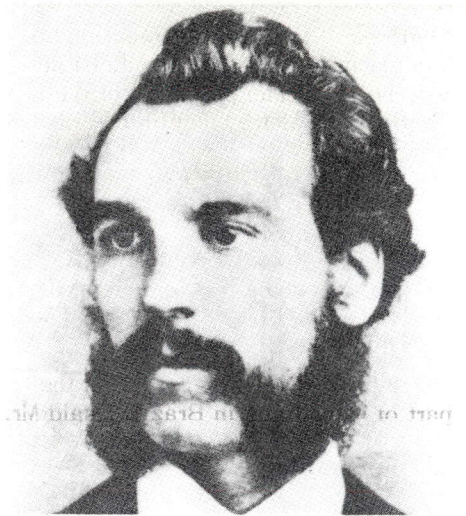
and is regarded by many as being symbolic of all telephones. The Contempra Phone was the first to be conceived, designed and manufactured entirely in Canada.

Recognition in Britain

A display to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the invention of the telephone in Canada opened in Canada House, London, on July 25.

The London display also features other aspects of Bell's work: experiments in the medical field (surgical probes and an early conception of the iron lung), his interest in aviation (he assisted in the first-heavier-than-air flight of an aircraft in the British Empire, in Baddeck, Nova Scotia), and his design for a hydrofoil.

Included in the display are models of the earliest telephones, as well as the actual telephones which Bell used to demonstrate his invention to Queen Victoria in 1878. The Queen subsequently described the process as



Inventor of the telephone Alexander Graham Bell as a young man.

"most extraordinary".

The display closes in London August 31, but plans are being considered for showings in Scotland and France in the autumn.

Women in the Canadian Forces

The recent admission of ten women to a seven-month metal technicians' training course at Camp Borden, Ontario, represents a symbolic first for women in the Canadian Forces.

The women, all graduates of the Forces training camp at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, are pioneering the entry of women into hitherto uncharted waters at the Canadian Forces School of Aerospace and Ordnance Engineering.

Their enrolment in metal technology illustrates the expanding role of women in the Canadian Forces. It's a role which as recently as the early 1960s was a very circumscribed one.

In 1965, for example, the Defence Council, in response to changing defence policy and the introduction of more sophisticated equipment, decreed that women would be retained in the Regular Force, but only in very small numbers — about 0.8 per cent of the total military force at that time.

The creation of a unified Canadian Armed Force in 1966 eliminated the WREns, CWACs and WDs (women's division of the RCAF) but otherwise left the status of servicewomen unchanged. They just became part of the unified force.

Influence of Royal Commission

Not until 1971, following the Royal Commission on the Status of Women's publication of six recommendations concerning women in the military did conditions of service for servicewomen begin to change significantly. As a result of the Commission's influence two important decisions were made:

— to increase the number of women in the armed forces to a total of between 8,000 and 10,000 by 1981 (between eight and 10 per cent of the total force); and

— to set "no limitation on the employment of women in the Canadian Forces other than within the primary combat roles, employment at remote locations and the seagoing service".

As a result of these developments there has been a significant increase in the number of women in the armed forces (as of March 1974 there were 2,373, that is, over 3 per cent of the total force of 81,000) and a commendable broadening of the areas of employment open to women.

Since 1971, women officers have been recruited into several new areas. These include the following classifications: aerospace engineer, communications/electronics engineer, dental, air-traffic control, air-weapons control, legal and logistics.

Non-commissioned service women have also moved into several new areas since 1971. These include the following classifications: photographic technician, air-traffic-control assistant, military police, cook, aero-engine technician, air-frame technician, metals technician, machinist and refinisher technician. Altogether 33 out of 95 trades are now open to women.

Qualifications

In line with recommendations made by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, the young lady who wishes to join the Canadian Forces must possess the same minimum qualifications as a male applicant. She must be between the ages of 17 and 29, have a minimum of a Grade 8 education (the average education of women recruits, however, is Grade 11 or three years of secondary school), meet the medical standards and pass prescribed selection tests.

To enrol as a commissioned officer, a woman must have a university degree or be a registered nurse and be under 35. She must also be medically fit and able to pass selection tests.

Women may now attend university at government expense to qualify themselves for professional duties within the Forces.

Women officers participating in officer development training now attend Canadian Forces Staff School courses and Canadian Forces Staff College courses with men. They are selected for training on the same basis as their male colleagues. Senior women non-commissioned officers attend the integrated Warrant Officer's Qualifying Course.

Parliament opens in September

Canada's Thirtieth Parliament will open on September 30, rather than on September 26, the Prime Minister announced recently.

Following Mr. Trudeau's announcement of the earlier date recently, it was realized that Yom Kippur, the important Jewish religious festival, occurs on September 26.

The session cannot open earlier in the week of September 23 because of conflict with other commitments, including a meeting in Ottawa of Commonwealth Ministers of Finance.