

sharing means that a small business can avail itself of these facilities just as readily as a large business. For example, it is quite conceivable that a dentist in Moose Jaw might use a computer in Regina to maintain his records and send out his bills. Electronic reference libraries will not only provide information, they will also ascertain the inquirer's current level of knowledge and then select the additional information he needs. In other words, the equivalent of the capable assistance of a professional librarian in a large library could be available to a person in a small remote community.

Although it is not possible here to more than suggest some of the effects of the new technology, there is a growing belief that the advances in communications are changing basic living patterns. Professor McLuhan, Director of the University of Toronto's Centre for Culture and Technology, has already attained an international reputation for his analysis and observations on these basic changes. We are all aware that, through television and telecommunications, we are more up to date on events in distant parts of the world, that we are members of a wider community which McLuhan calls living in an "Electronic Village". His epigram that "the medium is the message" is intended to focus attention on the media used for the origination, transmission and display of information in which telecommunications plays an important part.

This closer relationship between the new telecommunications and other technologies and disciplines is most significant. The boundaries between telecommunications and computers and information handling, etc., will become less clearly defined and new companies will challenge the established telecommunication manufacturing and operating companies. The rate of technological advance should further increase as developments in one area of communications stimulate developments elsewhere and the main problem may well be to remain the masters of what we can create.

Subsection 1.—Government Control over Telecommunications Agencies

Telephone and telegraph companies incorporated under the Federal Parliament are subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Transport Commissioners in the matter of rates and practices under the provisions of the Railway Act (see pp. 786-787); other companies are responsible to provincial regulatory bodies. International telegraph and telephone communications are handled subject to the International Telecommunication Convention and the Regulations thereunder and/or under regional agreements. Tolls charged to the public for radio communication service are subject to the provisions of the Regulations made under the Radio Act. Overseas cables landed in Canada are subject to the External Submarine Cable Regulations under the Telegraphs Act.

Radio communications in Canada, except for those matters covered by the Broadcasting Act, are regulated under the Radio Act and Regulations and also under the Canada Shipping Act and Ship Station Radio Regulations. In addition, radio communication matters are administered in accordance with the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations annexed thereto; the International Civil Aviation Convention; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea; the Inter-American Telecommunication Convention and the Convention between Canada and the United States of America relating to the operation by citizens of either country of certain radio equipment or stations in the other country; and also in accordance with such regional agreements as the Agreement between Canada and the United States for the Promotion of Safety on the Great Lakes by Means of Radio, the Agreement between Canada and the United States relating to the Co-ordination and Use of Radio Frequencies Above Thirty Megacycles per Second, the Inter-American Radio Agreement, the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement, the Canada-USA Television Agreement and the Canada-USA FM Agreement (see also p. 876).