

The road problem for many years to come will continue to be one of our chief practical problems. The Liberal party holds that the Government should continue to lend assistance in the building of main roads leading to market towns. Owing to war conditions the assistance given during the past two or three years has been less than in former years, but when conditions again become normal the most generous policy of assisting in road construction should be resumed. The Liberal party by this plank in its platform recognizes that conditions are changed. A great many of our rural municipalities are now so fully developed and organized that it is felt the time has arrived when they can be safely intrusted with the task of expending such Government moneys as are available for constructing roads. Liberalism approves the principle of municipal expenditures under Government supervision in all cases where the municipalities are sufficiently organized and equipped to do the work satisfactorily and economically.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

(a) The early extension of the provincial telephone system to all urban communities, thereby encouraging the more rapid development of rural systems and at the same time increasing the usefulness of the entire telephone system to all subscribers.

The telephone today is regarded as a necessity. It is no longer looked upon as a luxury. No business man, no farmer, no house can afford to be without one. It is one of the greatest conveniences produced by modern science. Recognizing these facts, the Liberal party hold that the Government should continue the rapid extension of its telephone system. It is proposed, therefore, that the Government long distance lines shall without delay be carried to every village and town thereby further encouraging the construction of rural lines and affording the means of communication to all parts of the province.

(b) A further expansion of the educational work recently inaugurated by the Telephone Department to assist local companies to maintain and operate their rural systems at the lowest cost and with the greatest degree of efficiency.

Under the telephone policy of the Government there have been established in the province no fewer than 800 rural telephone companies. These now have within their systems over 24,000 subscribers and they are maintaining and operating over 25,000 pole miles and 68,000 wire miles of telephone lines. In order that these companies may be enabled to maintain and operate their systems with the greatest efficiency and at the lowest cost the Telephone Department recently established a school to train young men for this work. Splendid progress has already been made and it is now proposed by the Liberal party that this work should be continued and extended so as to render the fullest possible assistance