

Public Ownership of Telephones.

Private enterprise has signally failed to deal with the telephone problem of British Columbia, and to-day we stand far behind most countries of the world in this respect. Our politicians have shielded themselves and their utter negligence of the public interests in this important matter behind the physical difficulties, and immense size of our country.

It is true that our Province is large and its population so scattered that the telephone problem, and the road problem, and the public school problem, and the railway problem, are all made intensely difficult.

We have adopted an absurd land system and have allowed speculators everywhere to tie up the country. We build our roads past lands that are lying idle, and our railroads are pushed all over the Province long before they are really needed. A wise Government would have insisted that before they opened up fresh sections of the country, the parts already occupied should be adequately peopled and developed.

As a result we maintain far too many railroads for the population, and because abundant freight is not forthcoming from such a scattered population, our