

## RAILWAY POLICY.

Then we are told that enormous railway corporations have been encouraged. Individuals do not build railways. Corporations cannot do so in comparatively young countries like Canada, unless they have Government aid. When a railway develops a new stretch of country, no matter how highly subsidized it may be, it may look for many lean years. But when a new railway opens up new and fruitful areas for the tiller of the soil, and at the same time relieves a large population from the onerous burdens that corporate monopoly have placed upon it, the Government that brings it into existence may well claim to be the friend of the people and not of the corporation. Judge by this test the Canadian Northern Railway. The people of Manitoba may be called as witnesses. And in a greater degree the National Transcontinental Railway will justify the far-sightedness and patriotic spirit of our great leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is himself erecting a popular and lasting monument which the people of Canada may look upon while he is still with us, guiding the destinies and protecting the rights of the people whose interest and welfare are his first, most constant and most sincere consideration.

## THE TELEPHONE COMMITTEE.

There are other matters to which I have only time to very briefly refer. One is the Telephone question. We hear from time to time from the advocates of public ownership with reference to the nationalization of great franchises. The first step that must be taken by any Government is to institute an enquiry into the conditions that exist and bring together all the information that may enable such a subject to be fairly and fully dealt with. The appointment of the Telephone Committee during the Session of 1905 is the first practical step that has ever been taken by any Government in Canada that may result in a National Telegraph and Telephone system. Whether the evidence brought forward before that Committee, which will no doubt resume its sittings during the coming Session, shall result in the adoption of any large scheme for Government ownership or not, the work of that Committee in bringing out all the facts is a matter of the utmost importance so far as the whole question of independent telephone service is concerned, and instead of being blamed because it is not going further and faster the Government should receive credit for the first move that has ever been made in this important direction.

## THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

Another matter in regard to which the Government is intitled to credit is for the way in which it has treated the revision of the tariff during the past year. There have been no Star