

the salary in connection with the old office from \$6,500 to \$8,000; and it has had two men on one job since October last, where only one man was needed, and this at a cost of approximately \$16,000 instead of \$6,500. If one turns to the public accounts and looks at the salary list he will find that the mining recorders in Yukon, who do as much work as this official, get along and raise families on salaries of \$2,800 a year. I cannot see therefore where the necessity is for such difference in pay between these officials. I do not think that the minister will argue that he has so far disclosed any real reason for the shuffle in offices. I have heard all sorts of reports, a good many of which I am inclined to discount. Mr. Reid, the gentleman sent into the Yukon, borrowed, as the minister puts it, from the Department of Immigration to act as gold commissioner, has had a long record as a civil servant, a record worth preserving unimpaired. I hope he is not going to be encouraged to jeopardize that record by indulging in political partisanship. And I am not making any charge of that sort against him. Some rather unpleasant rumours have however reached me along this line and I shall know more about them after my visit to Yukon this summer.

The expenditure of money in connection with various public works looking to the development of Yukon has for some years now been spent with a view to getting fully a dollar's worth for every dollar put out; and it has been spent without regard to political patronage, both under the late administration and under this government. There is a great expanse of very promising territory up there, rich in mineral deposits which are by degrees being developed, and the government is well advised in spending money on those natural resources. It has been the practice to put in charge of these modest expenditures men who are experts in the work, for instance, of road and bridge building; and the policy has been to employ returned soldiers and married men as far as possible. The results have been satisfactory and I trust that there will be no departure from that policy, although I have heard rumours to the contrary. If these rumours are well founded I do not think anyone could be blamed for considering such a change of policy as nothing more or less than political partisanship.

The necessity for this elaborate Arctic expedition has not yet been established. I think a number of hon. gentlemen agree with me that the best policy in dealing with the Eskimos is to leave them absolutely alone.

[Mr. George Black.]

They have been there longer than the white men have been on this continent and have not needed such nursing. Simply because reports have come to the minister that the Eskimo girls are dancing to jazz music is no reason why we should worry about them. Possibly they may be indulging in Eskimo Pie or dissipating in similar ways, but that is no reason why we should send expensive expeditions into that country to deal with them. The government would be well advised to get information from the officers now in the department who are fully qualified to inform them and whose advice would be valuable. This would be much better than any shuffle in offices such as was disclosed this afternoon. I hope that before the item passes the minister will give the real reason for this change in officials in the two northern territories.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I cannot add anything to what I said this afternoon with respect to the change in personnel. I regret that the hon. member does not agree with the policy of the minister and of the department in this matter. I think I know why he is anxious about the changes in the Yukon territory, but I can assure him that in the reports from Mr. Reid up to date there is no suggestion of any change in the personnel. I am informed that the official who has charge of the road work is a very good man, and some of the other officials against whom complaints were lodged have been given a very good recommendation so far as I have been able to ascertain. It is not my desire that the administration should undergo any change until we make up our minds whether or not an expenditure of a very large amount of money annually is to be made. As my hon. friend knows, the output from the mines at the moment is not bringing any return to the government of Canada by way of taxes or otherwise. I am advised that, all told, there are not more than 2,800 white people in the territory. My hon. friend seems to have examined the Auditor General's report pretty thoroughly, and I think he will agree with me that that is a pretty stiff expenditure for what would be a very small sized municipality in other parts of the Dominion. I need not discuss with him the probability of a very drastic reduction in expenditure. I would not suggest that there should be any reduction of expenditure on road making, because I think the industry must be looked after, and possibly at a later date it will become remunerative. But so far I felt I had to meet the requests of the mining companies