

once what it is costing to run this department or that department. There is absolutely nothing in the accounts to tell us today. I do not wonder at the minister not knowing anything about his department.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend is usually fair. He has had some experience in administration.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That is one reason why I say this should be done.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend could never tell what the cost of the Finance department would be, and that would not be difficult to estimate. But that statement was properly prepared and sent to the House two years ago, and I will also say that the statement at that time, if carried out to date, would show an improvement and a decrease in cost, and I will produce that statement. I think the suggestion of my hon. friend that the minister should carry these things around in his head is not really what he intends or what he would do himself. I do not intend to do it. It is a large department, and it would be absurd to burden oneself with all these things. We have an idea of the expenditure, but to estimate offhand and put on Hansard a statement as to the cost is something I do not intend to do and could not possibly remember.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I am not expecting my hon. friend to remember, but I am expecting that he would have it under his hand where he could get at it, and that he would have statements carried out in such a way that he would know something about it.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend never did.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My hon. friend is entirely wrong. I did it every morning.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend did it?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If you run an office on a system it is easy to run it, and I had every single day the results as shown by the totals.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Did my hon. friend have the amounts paid every civil servant every day? Be reasonable and fair.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No, but I had the annual expenditure every year, amounts paid out and the balances.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Every day?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Yes.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Well, that was to be expected of the Finance department.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That was the proper thing to do. But I say it is not much use getting out these statements one year if we are not going to have them again, and I should not have thought it was necessary to go to the trouble of employing experts to get out a particular statement of that kind.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): A statement every day in the Public Works department? Impossible.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No, I have not asked that and you know it.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): It is impossible and you know it.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: There is no use getting down to childishness. It suits my hon. friend well. He can take to the bib as soon as he likes, but I am asking him what it will cost per annum in salaries to run the department.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend has it in the estimates. It is there.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Yes.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I will ask the minister what his salaries are costing him.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I will be glad to give the information.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: He said a moment ago that he could not tell. I would have thought, Mr. Chairman, that there should not have been much trouble getting this information.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): No trouble.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is the point?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): We will have the information and there is no occasion for making such a fuss over a thing of this kind.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): We are in a terrible hurry. May I suggest to the minister that, not only would the ex-Minister of Finance possibly be glad of the information, but other members would appreciate it. Do not supply it to him alone, but let us all have it. I want to get the total salaries.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I will be glad to give it at the next sitting.

Item agreed to.