

1924, there was spent the sum of \$25,940.88, made up as follows:

Salaries.. . . .	\$6,767 13
Printing and stationery.. . . .	7,995 28
Telegraph and cables.. . . .	3,999 22
Petty cash.. . . .	361 19
Telephones.. . . .	428 10
Travel.. . . .	1,802 42
Newspapers.. . . .	729 93
Prime Minister's cars—overhauling, etc..	2,281 80
Sundries.. . . .	1,103 85
Freight and customs on car brought in from Washington.. . . .	471 96

That is a car Sir Robert Borden had purchased in Washington and which was afterwards brought here, in expectation that it might be of service to the Department of External Affairs, but it was found to be of no value.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What does the Auditor General say to the spending on printing and stationery of \$7,900, when the vote was \$6,000?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Where do you get those figures?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Page 104. I think perhaps the Prime Minister read it wrongly.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am reading the figures given to me by the deputy minister of the department, \$7,995.28. It is evident that a certain amount has been available for printing and stationery, and some additional amount has been required and taken out of sundries to meet that amount.

I would ask permission of the House to make an amendment and to add to the vote for the External Affairs salaries. I move that the following be added after the word "salaries:"

Including a counsellor at an initial salary of \$5,000 to be appointed by the Governor in Council, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act or amendments thereto.

I think my right hon. friend will recall that in the Department of External Affairs there has been an officer known as the legal adviser, a position held formerly by Mr. Christie. That position has been vacant now for a year. The general counsel of the government has been assisting very helpfully and generously, in addition to his other duties; but I think it must be obvious to everyone that there is need to have that position filled by someone who has a knowledge of economic, constitutional and international questions, and I find that some of those who are available would not care to submit to an examination in order to qualify for the position. Indeed it is a kind of position for which the govern-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

ment has rather to go after the man and secure him, a position for which men are not easily obtainable. I think the appointment might well be left to the Governor in Council.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: There is one great difficulty. I am afraid my hon. friend is out of order. He can add this item to the supplementary estimates.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend has not observed that the estimates do provide an amount for the position. It is fixed at \$5,000, the amount paid Mr. Christie. I am asking that the position be filled by Governor in Council instead of by the Civil Service Commission. I think the commission would agree that it is a position which can be filled even more appropriately by the Governor in Council than by the commission.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If my hon. friend would stop saying so many things about the Civil Service Commission, I might be disposed to consent. If I consented I suppose it would be cited as a precedent, and I do not like starting any precedents now. I am rather in a quandary, and I would like to help my hon. friend out. I certainly do not want to open the door to further innovations, attacks or limitations upon the Civil Service Commission. What sort of an undertaking would the government make that this case would not be looked upon as a precedent?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I can assure my hon. friend that it will have to be a very exceptionable type of position to fall into the same class, and I do not think this will create a precedent.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: My right hon. friend wants more than consent. He has not the statutory right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This will give the statutory right, if the House will accept the amendment.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I suppose the mere consent would not give the statutory right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, that is why I am asking to make the amendment.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the Civil Service Commission give their consent and include this as one of the positions to be filled by the government without reference to them, then the power is theirs.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The chairman of the commission intimated to me that as the matter now stands it would not be possible