

wages as already stated at six dollars per day. Contractor also carried out considerable additional work. Work completed thoroughly satisfactory manner.

My hon. friend stated that he had been in communication with the minister since October last without receiving any reply or any satisfaction. As a matter of fact, he had been in communication with my assistant deputy minister since last October and he received an answer to every letter he wrote, obtaining every possible detail with regard to the contract.

I do not want to take up the time of the house giving full details, but I can assure the house that the hon. gentleman was treated in the fairest possible manner by my department. I can also assure the house that my instructions to my officials are to be considerate to every member of this house whether on the other side or on this side, and if there is one instance in which those instructions have been carried out to the limit it is on this occasion. They even sent my hon. friend the tender for these works, not only the details but even the tender, and he received every explanation.

There was absolutely nothing wrong in this matter. It was a small contract of \$1,000. The hon. gentleman said that they should have asked for tenders. Well, he was told why tenders were not called for by my department. It was suggested by our agent at Victoria, Colonel Wilby, that no tender should be called for in order that local labour only be employed. That was the information given my hon. friend by the department. The works had been estimated by one official of my department to cost \$1,300, and they were estimated by Colonel Wilby himself, who is an engineer, to cost \$1,220.

Mr. NEILL: Was he on the ground?

Mr. DURANLEAU: That is the information I received. As a matter of fact, the total work cost \$1,189.72.

Mr. NEILL: More than the contract.

Mr. DURANLEAU: —and the profit of the contractor, according to the information I have received, was exactly \$162, that is, his wages for 27 days at \$6 a day.

Mr. NEILL: How did it come to \$189 more than the contract?

Mr. DURANLEAU: The contract was for \$1,000 plus certain materials to be supplied by the department. We supplied lumber to the value of \$154.35, hardware to the value of \$35.37, and the contractors supplied the rest

to the value of \$42. I claim that my hon. friend was absolutely unfair to the minister and to this house when he represented the facts in the manner he did. There was nothing in this contract that was at all reprehensible. I thought it was only fair to the house and to the officials in my department that I should give this explanation.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. Sullivan in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

Salaries, \$865,692; contingencies, \$40,000.

Mr. RALSTON: What is the reason for the increase?

Mr. RYCKMAN: The increase is very small.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I think it would be well to ask the minister to have this item stand. The right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has suggested that all items dealing with salaries should stand until the legislation in connection with the salary deduction is passed.

Mr. RYCKMAN: I think that position is quite fair. Perhaps we could take up the contingencies.

Mr. NEILL: I do not see how we could pass one portion of the vote and not the other.

Mr. CASGRAIN: What is this vote for?

Mr. RYCKMAN: The amount is arrived at by taking the average for the six months in the current year. The amount is split up as follows:

Clerical and other assistance, \$15,000.
Printing and stationery, \$9,500.
Sundries, \$15,500.

This is \$2,000 less than last year.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Perhaps this part of the item should also stand.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE

Lighthouse and coast service — amount required to pay compassionate allowance to John Davidson, formerly lightkeeper at Cape Mudge, B.C., \$500.

Mr. CASGRAIN: What is this vote for?

Mr. DURANLEAU: This is a compassionate allowance to John Davidson, former lightkeeper at Cape Mudge. The same vote has been in the estimates for years.