

Radiotelegraph service, and to provide for the building and maintenance of wireless stations and the general administration of radiotelegraphy throughout the Dominion, \$440,400.

Mr. GUTHRIE: How much of the vote of last year was spent?

Mr. GRAHAM: \$436,741.75.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Have we any stations in the interior part of Canada—I know we have them on the seaboards—which could be used in case of interruption of telegraphic service? I understand there was a proposal to establish some stations in Ontario and some in the midwest, as well as one on the eastern side of the Rockies. Has any advance been made in that direction?

Mr. GRAHAM: The Marconi Company have the right under their contract to establish cross-country stations. They are now building one at Montreal.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Is that the first one?

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Where are the stations located on the Pacific coast?

Mr. GRAHAM: Prince Rupert, Dead Tree Point, Alert Bay, Bull harbour, Estevan, Cape Lazo, Vancouver and Victoria.

Mr. STEVENS: Has the department in contemplation the extension of this service on the Pacific coast—for instance, to connect the coast service with the Yukon?

Mr. GRAHAM: It has not been considered as yet. Eventually it will have to be done.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I suggest that the Government consider the question of cost. The cost of maintaining the telegraphic land line to the Yukon is, I always did think, prodigious. I remember bringing the matter up more than once and asking the officials to go thoroughly into it with the view of determining the possibility of establishing wireless stations. The cost of upkeep would surely be infinitely less than the cost of the upkeep of a land line.

Mr. GRAHAM: The department has discussed that with the Public Works Department on more than one occasion. I think they have a scheme practically worked out, but it has never been consummated. I agree with my right hon. friend that it would be cheaper to maintain a radio service than to meet the annual cost of repairs and upkeep of the telegraph line.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I may say for the benefit of the minister that the strongest

pressure will have to be brought to bear upon the officials of the Public Works Department. They have had it under consideration—and I kept prodding their consideration—for a long while, and that under a live minister. The minister will have to keep very busy indeed if he is going to get any results there.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): In connection with the suggestion that the radio be substituted for the present land line to the Yukon, known as the Yukon telegraph line, I think myself that the Government might very well seriously consider such a proposal, but not with the view of altogether scrapping or abandoning the Yukon line, because in the Yukon territory its operation and maintenance is economical. That part of it is not subject to the heavy storms or weight of snow with which the part of the line in northern British Columbia has to contend. An examination of the accounts and expenses of upkeep will show that fully eighty-five per cent of the cost occurs south of the Yukon boundary in northern British Columbia. I think it would be altogether in the interests of economy if that Yukon telegraph line could be disconnected from its southern connection at, say, the new mining camp of Atlin in British Columbia, or at White Horse in the Yukon Territory. The line from there south to the National Transcontinental is practically of no use except as a connecting link, and on that portion of the line the greatest part of the expense occurs. There is practically no revenue from it. The stations are isolated; supplies for upkeep of service and maintenance of operators have to be carried over hundreds of miles on pack-horses, with consequent high cost for both maintenance and repairs. Double shifts have to be maintained at these stations, they are so isolated; it is not safe to have only one man, as is done in the Yukon. Now, from the National Transcontinental west to Prince Rupert that government telegraph line is duplicated by the National Railway telegraph line. There is no need whatever for two lines from that point of contact west to Prince Rupert. If the Government would establish one radio station either at the mining town of Atlin, British Columbia, or at the mining town of White Horse in southern Yukon, they could cut out all that expensive stretch of land line. The sooner this is done, the sooner they will commence to save money and bring about greater efficiency. For weeks at a