

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The large telescope that is installed at Victoria can be used more advantageously there than here on account of atmospheric conditions. But for general observations, the smaller instruments are very valuable and useful at this point. Personally, I had never heard of any intention of establishing an observatory at one point alone in Canada. My right hon. friend is aware that in the United States observations are located at many points. True, their population is much larger than ours.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How many have they?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Twenty or thirty, I understand. The one I was thinking of from records published and the one from which I see, perhaps, the most authentic reports, is the one on the coast located in California.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Lick Observatory?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN. I do not think the United States have as many government observatories as that.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There are two government observatories. The others are private and university observatories.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is what I thought. I do not like to speak against the maintenance of two observatories in Canada. When men of scientific training are engaged, they have a right to expect reasonable treatment at the hands of their employers, but I hardly think we should be maintaining as many observatories as the United States. I presume the cost to the country is in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 a year, perhaps more than that.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Is it not more than that?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is the \$18,000 and the \$50,000, plus the salaries of the twenty-one men.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would not think those would run over \$80,000.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The amount does not come to \$150,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have not overestimated, have I?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think the right hon. member has.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. member for Bow River thought I was away under, so on the government's reasoning I must be right.

Under their policy they find what one extreme wants and another wants, and their own intelligence leads them to go half way between. I, however, have not done that. I think I was about right in my estimate. The eminence of both gentlemen at the head of those institutions is well known. Dr. Plaskett I have known the best and he has certainly done excellent work. There might be economy in using the institution that is best adapted for the purpose and, as vacancies occur, concentrating appointments. I do not say that I feel very keenly on the question. I would not like to see the government go out of the enterprise altogether. We cannot afford to do that. We must hold up our end of the astronomical work of the world. But we ought to do it on as economical a basis as possible.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I agree fully as to the value of the institution. I frankly confess that I am not in a position to explain all the value of the scientific work done. But I have been looking into the total cost and I find it is about \$130,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is about \$70,000 apart from the salaries of eighteen men on the permanent staff here and, I should think, about ten on the permanent staff at Victoria.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There are four on the staff at Victoria.

Mr. MEIGHEN: All that will run a good deal over \$30,000. It is absurd to think that men of the type employed here could be employed at that figure. There are in the institution here in certain lines of mathematics men who are perhaps as good as any on the continent or better.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Strange to say however their salaries are by no means unreasonable in comparison with those paid in other scientific work.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think the salaries are at all high.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I feel much as the leader of the opposition does; I have no desire to curtail scientific work of this character. I suggest however that the minister might give us the details of such items as automobile maintenance and expenses, and that sort of thing. There are a number of places where he might adopt the policy of Mr. Coolidge. I was very much flattered when the leader of the opposition represented himself as being at one extreme and myself at the other; if I am at the opposite pole to my right hon. friend I am all right.