

bills paid within thirty days of 12 per cent if the transformer in the building is owned by the company, and 15 per cent where the transformer is owned by the Government.

Mr. MEIGHEN: As I know that hon. members could not hear the minister, I will simply say that the bargain made last October appears to be a very provident one and I hope it will not be altered for the worse by the Government.

Item agreed to.

Heating, including salaries of engineers, firemen and watchmen, \$385,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is a decrease which, I presume, is owing to the reduction in the price of coal. To what else is it to be attributed?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): There has been a marked reduction in the price of coal.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What else accounts for the reduction?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): That is all.

Item agreed to.

Departments generally—char service, including \$100 to E. Snowdon for firing noon gun, \$385,000.

Mr. JOHNSON (Moosejaw): There should be something more descriptive than the mere word "generally".

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This amount is required for char service in the cleaning of offices in government owned and rented buildings in Ottawa for the year 1922-23. It also includes \$100 to E. Snowdon for firing the noon gun. The details of the expenditure are: supervision, \$1,920; Foremen, \$7,420; charmen \$47,120; charwomen, \$307,767, and contingencies, \$20,772, making a total of \$385,000.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton): Are these people under the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Yes.

Item agreed to.

Repairs, furniture, grounds, street cleaning and maintenance, \$700,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What accounts for the reduction here? I presume it is mainly because the furniture is new.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Apparently \$700,000 was the amount expended last year, and that is what we are asking this year.

[Mr. J. H. King.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does not the minister hope to secure a reduction? I would think there might be a reduction, due to the lesser amount of repairs required now.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I imagine the repairs would be the same from year to year. There may be some decrease in wages.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Repairs to good new furniture will not be as extensive as repairs to furniture many years old.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): There is also the supply of new furniture.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But the new furniture is all supplied.

Mr. GUTHRIE: It is not supplied in my room yet.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): It is supplied from this vote.

Item agreed to.

Rideau Hall (including grounds)—improvements, furniture, maintenance, etc., \$60,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How much was spent last year?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The amount spent last year was \$58,000.

Item agreed to.

Rideau Hall—allowance for fuel and light, \$19,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why is this more than last year with the price of coal going down?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The vote of \$19,000 is for the payment of the annual amount to His Excellency the Governor General for fuel and light required at Rideau Hall, including the military secretary's cottage. The \$19,000 is paid directly to His Excellency in four payments. The increase in this appropriation was made upon receipt of representations from His Excellency that the sum of \$17,000 was inadequate. The matter was referred to the chief architect, who on the 9th February, 1922, submitted the following report to the deputy minister:

Replying to your memo of January 12th with regard to the increase of the fuel and light allowance for Rideau Hall, I attach a report from Mr. Croll, in which he states the cost for the year ending April 30th, 1921, to be as follows: Coal, \$15,379; wood, \$512; gas, \$1,553; light, \$1,622; electric bulbs, \$225, making a total of \$19,292.