

the Civil Service Commission. Surely I am not to understand the minister to mean that the Civil Service Commission forced the government to pay this.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Oh no, I do not want my hon. friend to infer anything of the kind.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): After all it only means that the increase and the payment were made in the usual way.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): I was not attempting to criticize that for one moment; I merely say that it was unnecessary expenditure altogether and that no excuse could be conjured up for it. During the same year we find the gold commissioner making a trip to Dawson at an expense of \$447, and a trip from Ottawa to Washington and return for \$276, and at the same time there was an expenditure for board and room at Ottawa of \$832. In all there was paid out in connection with the office of gold commissioner of Yukon in that year \$14,047, less a refund of \$600, leaving \$13,447, as the amount paid, whereas, as a matter of fact the commissioner should only have been paid \$6,500 in that year. This means that the government paid out unnecessarily in the year 1923 no less than \$6,947. These figures are in the Auditor General's report; you cannot get away from them. What explanation can there be for bringing the gold commissioner to Ottawa? It was not necessary to have him here at all.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I must take issue with my hon. friend in respect to that. We had difficulty about the importation of liquor into the Yukon, and my hon. friend knows this source was fairly remunerative in the way of providing funds for the carrying on of the business of the country. Mr. Mackenzie was brought down here and sent to Washington to see whether an arrangement could not be made to get the liquor through United States territory into Yukon. My hon. friend takes upon himself a good deal of responsibility when he says there was no necessity for doing this or doing the other thing. That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): I am quite ready to take the responsibility for what I say.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am quite prepared to take the responsibility for my statements now—

[Mr. George Black.]

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Then we are agreed.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): —or at any time.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): I will give the minister ample reason for my statements before I get through.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): And the minister will give my hon. friend good reasons for his action when the proper time comes. I have always tried to treat Yukon decently, but my hon. friend does not seem to appreciate that fact.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): When the committee rose at six o'clock, I was endeavouring to show that in my opinion—of course, it is only my opinion and the minister is entitled to his—a considerable amount of money had been unnecessarily spent in connection with this interchange of officials between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories; that according to the Auditor General's report for the year ended 31st March, 1923, practically \$7,000 had been so unnecessarily spent. On referring to the Auditor General's report for the year ended 31st March, 1924, we find the salary of this official for twelve months, \$5,000, twelve months' living allowance, \$3,000, and expenses of a trip from Ottawa to Dawson, \$540, or a total on those three items of \$8,540. For some reason, probably best known to the minister, this official was before very long again summoned to Ottawa. The minister stated that he was summoned to Ottawa to assist in framing a policy in relation to the Northwest Territories along lines of the conservation of wild life and of protecting the natives. Using the items showing the expenses of similar trips to and from Ottawa, I estimate that the expenses of that trip from Dawson to Ottawa will be approximately \$450; that to keep this official at Ottawa for the period he was here will mean another expenditure of \$800. Having had him here to advise on the conservation of wild life and the natives, for some reason or another it was necessary to send him back to Dawson. Estimating the expenses of the return trip to Dawson in the same way, I submit it would mean