

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have been somewhat amazed at the interest taken in this work. Mr. Plaskett, as hon. gentlemen know, is an authority on astronomical questions, and his publications are very widely read. I believe, too, that he has had the honour of making some interesting discoveries. I do not say that the publications which emanate from the Victoria observatory are any more important than those issued at the Central observatory here. At the same time I do not think that for an institution of this kind, in view of the importance of the work carried on, the sum of \$1,400 is too large for the purpose of printing publications.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I should like to know a little more about it; I am not quite sure that the minister's explanation is satisfactory.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is the intention, I presume, to continue the Victoria observatory work?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The vote for the Ottawa observatory used to run to about \$35,000 or \$36,000 up to 1921, I think it was, when it was increased. There was some special cause for the increase, I forget just what it was. Since then it has been maintained at the high figure. One year it was as high as \$58,000; it is now down to \$50,000. Does the number of employees run about the same as during those years? Why is it impossible to get back to the old regular figure of about \$36,000?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am sorry but I have not at present before me the detailed statement of expenditure.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How many employees are there now?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I will give the names: Messrs. Hodgson, Henroteau, McClenahan, Henderson, Madill, Dier, Walker, Bird, O'Connor, Shore, Rochester, Williams, Dolan, Dickson and Hackett. There are two assistant astronomers and a messenger clerk.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is Mr. DeLury not there?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am told that Mr. DeLury appears in the civil government votes with Mr. Stewart.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Who is the head of the observatory since the death of Dr. Klotz.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Mr. R. M. Stewart, who was his assistant up to the time of his death.

[Mr. E. J. Garland.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: How many are in the civil government vote?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is a staff of thirty-nine there and twenty-one are under the civil government vote. I will give the details of the expenditure:

Caretaker's supplies..	\$ 100
Charwomen's wages..	1,570
Carpenter shop..	450
Machine shop	500
Printing and stationery et cetera.. . . .	700
Printing publications..	2,500
Photographic supplies..	400
Groceries and provisions..	250
Laundry..	75
Furniture and fittings..	25
Express..	100
Freight..	50
Street car tickets..	100
Telegrams..	50
Miscellaneous..	100

Mr. MEIGHEN: What are the street car tickets for?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I understand that street car tickets have always been furnished to the staff for night work and special duty on account of their being out at the experimental farm.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Are any new instruments being installed?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes. There is a new instrument on order from Paris—a photographic photometer.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Have there been any discoveries of importance of late years showing the practical value of the institution? And how did the instruments and the general records give account of themselves in connection with the late earthquake in Ottawa?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The instruments registered in the last earthquake more quickly than at distant points. They were accurate. An interim report has already been published with regard to the recent earthquake as it affected eastern Canada, and a further more detailed report will follow.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is the government still impressed with the wisdom of maintaining the second observatory? I was not responsible for its institution, but I understood there were at Victoria certain advantages, for instance climatic, and I do not know what the other advantages claimed were. By "climatic," I mean the nature of the atmosphere was such as to facilitate observations. Is the government convinced that this has been vindicated by experience, and if so, has the government considered removing all the instruments to Victoria and utilizing the one observatory alone?