

*Supply—Public Works*

Mr. THURSTON: Are these subsidized lines self-supporting?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): In this case you would have seven per cent on the outlay.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What about the cost of maintenance though?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): There would be no increase practically on account of this; there might be some in material, but in the administration it would be only incidental.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: How many subscribers will there be on this line, and what are they to be charged?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Five subscribers at \$30 a year.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Does the minister think that will bring in anything worth while?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Oh yes, I think so.

Item agreed to.

Hudson's Hope—construction of telegraph office building, \$1,800.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is the necessity of this?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Up in that country it is necessary to provide the operator with living quarters. The telegraph office at Hudson's Hope is located in a building owned by our lineman and we have been paying \$20 a month rent for it. There is no doubt that the operator has cause for complaint as the place is, to say the least, most unsanitary. To remedy matters it will be necessary to erect a building at Hudson's Hope for the purposes of a telegraph office and living quarters for the operator. The cost will be approximately \$1,800 for the building and lot.

Item agreed to.

Telephone line, Houston to Ootsa Lake, Francois Lake, and Burn's Lake, \$970.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is the mileage, and what is the number of subscribers?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Altogether it will be about 113 miles. It has been under construction since 1920-21, and this is to complete it. The estimated revenue is \$1,500 a year. I have not the number of subscribers, but there is a fairly good population there.

Item agreed to.

Vancouver island district—Campbell river—Gasoline launch—further amount required, \$815.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): We had an item in the estimates last year for the purchase of

[Mr. J. H. King.]

a launch for the use of the lineman, and this amount is required to complete payment of the purchase price.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I suppose what really happened was that the launch was found to cost \$815 more than was provided for last year?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): The estimate was too low and we decided to expend a larger amount and get a good boat.

Mr. KELLNER: Is that a pleasure launch?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): No. It is for the use of the lineman along the coast.

Mr. KELLNER: Does this telephone line run on the water?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): In many of these places there are no roads or trails, and the only means of getting to the line is to use the water route along the coast. That is what the boat is for.

Item agreed to.

Yahk-Creston telephone line—installation of metallic circuit, \$8,000.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is this for?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): This amount is required for the purpose of installing a metallic circuit on the Yahk-Creston telephone line, a distance of approximately 30 miles. It will give to the people of this district direct connection with their markets in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and so on.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is the present revenue?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I am sorry I have not that information. It is not very great, but still it is sufficient, I think, to maintain the service.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not know how we can consider these things unless we know what the revenues are. I asked the

minister to give us a statement as 11 p.m. to the position of the telephone companies, and he said he could not do so then, but he thought he would have it in a little while. Has he got it now?

Mr. KING (Kootenay): I quite agree that my hon. friend is entitled to more information and I am sorry I do not happen to have it before me. This, I may say from local knowledge, is one of the best telephone sections that is being served. The district which includes Creston, Kitchener, Castlegar, Yahk, the old town of Moyie and the section about