

perhaps not proceed with it to-day but give a little more time and I think probably it would be the wish of the House to meet him in that regard; that is, we could take up that bill to-morrow, and perhaps now go into Supply.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In view of the amendments suggested to-day, a day's notice is necessary.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The amendments are just an amplification of what is there.

SUPPLY

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

The House in committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Expenses connected with the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, \$50,000; Expenses connected with the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B.C., \$18,500.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Before the item carries would the minister give some of the details in connection with the expenditures of the Victoria observatory? I do not think we have ever had any detailed list of those expenditures. How much was spent last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The vote was the same as for this year, \$18,500.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What are the details of the expenditure?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The details are as follows:

Astronomer, H. H. Plaskett..	\$2,640
Assistant Astronomer..	1,800
Secretary..	1,440
Instrument maker foreman..	1,860
Part-time Chauffeur..	720
House allowance—	
Mr. Harper..	600
Mr. Young..	600
Mr. Plaskett..	600
Assistant astronomer..	480
Temporary assistance..	2,280
Total..	\$11,340
Printing and Stationery—	
Printing publications..	\$1,460
Books, periodicals and binding..	600
Stationery..	400
	2,460
Supplies and maintenance—	
Instruments and apparatus..	\$1,200
Photographic supplies..	500
Machine and instrument work..	500
Hardware and chemicals..	400
Automobile maintenance..	600
Postage, freight, telegraph..	1,100
Contingencies..	400
	4,700
Grand total..	\$18,500

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): For whom is the automobile maintained, the cost of operating it, and what it costs to maintain the chauffeur? Is that all government work, and what is the expenditure for?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The observatory I am informed, is seven miles from the town, and an automobile has been supplied for the purposes of transportation back and forth.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What is the annual cost of the upkeep of the auto?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Six hundred dollars.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That seems very high. What is the nature of the car? You could buy a new Ford car every year for that cost.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I cannot give my hon. friend that information.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The minister should ask his department a few questions about that, because it seems to me to be quite a sum of money for the annual maintenance of an automobile. It must be a very expensive car and used quite a lot. The minister says the observatory is only seven miles from town, but if the purpose of the car is to get the astronomers out there and back again it seems to me they must be running to and fro every day to cause such an amount of wear and tear.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The car is used for the benefit of the institution; it is not intended for the benefit of any particular member of the staff.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think the minister might look that matter up. What is the nature of the publications in question, and are they available to the general public?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes, they are. They are the same as are got out here and relate to various subjects of public interest, that is of interest to the scientific public. To be frank, I have never read these publications myself, therefore I cannot speak with first-hand knowledge.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Then there is the item for publishing stationery and so on, amounting to \$2,460. I am not sure to what extent publicity of the articles prepared is given, or how widespread the publication is, but it seems a large sum of money to spend on astronomical matters.