

if he goes away, he is not able to turn that work over to somebody else. As the minister can see one break will destroy the value of the whole record. If the man was sick or away he would be responsible and would have to pay some one to keep the record?

Mr. BRODEUR. I think my hon. friend is right.

Mr. JAMESON. The minister has not given any explanation as to the increase of \$4,000.

Mr. BRODEUR. The increase of \$4,000 is largely to cover increases of salaries and I think it may cover the case to which my hon. friend has alluded. The salaries will be as follows:

Central office, \$35,928; chief stations, \$12,480; telegraph stations, \$14,275; special stations, \$7,849; temporary stations, \$6,536; miscellaneous stations, \$540. The telegraphic tolls amounted to \$36,000; instruments and apparatus, \$3,000; postage, \$800; printing and stationery, \$7,000, and then there are the other miscellaneous expenses. The entire increase of \$4,000 is for the purpose of giving increases of salary to these men. I think it may cover what my hon. friend (Mr. Burrell) has brought to my attention.

Mr. BURRELL. I hope the minister's assurance is satisfactory. It is very important in what we call the dry belt in British Columbia. While it is of importance everywhere it is vital where the rainfall is not sufficient because we are embarking millions of dollars in irrigation systems in that country. I suppose that \$3,000,000 have been spent for irrigation in the semi-arid belt in British Columbia.

Mr. BRODEUR. I realize how important it is and if this item is not sufficient I think I will ask the director to provide for a supplementary estimate.

Mr. JAMESON. Can the minister tell in what percentage of cases the forecasts have been correct?

Mr. BRODEUR. In 92 per cent.

Mr. JAMESON. I think that shows the value of this service to the country. The great difficulty of course is that many people who would be benefited by promptly receiving the information are not in a position to profit by it. A few evenings ago I pointed out to the minister that it would be a great advantage to our fishermen if when these forecasts are being telephoned to different stations they could be sent to all the fishing stations along the Atlantic coast, at least which have telephone communication.

Mr. BRODEUR. We are actually looking into the question the hon. member has raised.

Mr. JAMESON. I urged this on the minister last year and also this session and I hope he will do more than look into it. If he considers the large number of people who are every day at the mercy of wind, sea and weather he will see that he is not doing his full duty to the fishermen and others who would be benefited by this information if he withholds it from any section of the country, even if some trifling additional expense is entailed. I do not think people will cavil at the expenditure of a few thousand dollars so long as they get results and the money is honestly expended. No better result could be achieved by any expenditure than the placing of that information at the disposal of people on the coasts. It would really add little to the expense and it would round out the system and make it of use to those who would benefit most by it.

Mr. BRODEUR. We are increasing our service every year. Of course we cannot expect to cover all places at the same time, and I do not know if we will ever be able to establish these stations at all places. We are trying to take the most important places one after the other. This is rather a large amount we are spending, \$143,000, and proves the interest the government take in this question. Every year we open some new stations.

Mr. HENDERSON. Some years ago the morning trains running out of Toronto carried on the side of the car discs which indicated to the farmers the weather forecasts for the ensuing 24 hours. The information thus conveyed was of great value to the farmers, particularly during harvest time. I do not know whether that was done by the railway companies themselves or by the government. Has that service been discontinued?

Mr. BRODEUR. My impression is that this service was given by the railway companies themselves. Perhaps the railway companies might be induced to return to the system which supplied useful information to the farmers living along the railway.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). I can inform my hon. friend (Mr. Henderson) that it was not in 1840 that magnetic observatory was established, because I find no mention of it in the Auditor General's Report for 1896. In that year the expenditure on the Meteorological office was \$15,000, and now it has risen to \$27,900, or an increase of \$13,000.

Marine Hospitals and care of sick seamen, \$73,000.