

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The cost would be met by the Justice department.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Am I correct in drawing the inference from what the minister has said that the creation of this office of chief of Arctic expeditions involves an additional annual expenditure of \$8,000 for the chief's salary?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes, it will if we continue it.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): I understood the minister to say that he has no one in the service but Mr. Mackenzie who is qualified for this work.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I would not like that to be said. It is quite possible that we have others who could do this work, but I think Mr. Mackenzie can do it very well.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Does the minister say that Mr. Craig has had no northern experience? Was he not engaged on the boundary survey work and did he not visit these northern regions very frequently, spending summer after summer there?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes, but he is now Director General of Surveys, having succeeded Dr. Deville.

Mr. McTAGGART: Are the departmental officials in the north country taking steps to assist in the securing of information with regard to the Amunsden polar fliers?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The farthest north post we have is on the southern end of Ellesmere island, which is a very considerable distance from the scene of Amunsden's operations. If relief is sent to Amunsden by Canada it would have to go from here.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Is it a fact, then, that the chief of this expedition goes north as a novice in this sort of work?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): My hon. friend knows Mr. Mackenzie's northern experience probably better than I do. I have looked upon him as a valuable officer and a good administrator. I do not want to enter in the distressing details of the reports we have heard with regard to the conditions up there. The stories may not be true, but if they are not it is just as well that we should know it. We should be recreant in our duty if we did not get definite information as to what is happening among these people. It is our territory; it is our country, and we

have not been paying very much attention to the Eskimo. With reference to Mr. Mackenzie, I can only say that I think he is admirably fitted for this work. My hon. friend may think I have erred in judgment, because I know he knows him much better than I do.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): I want the minister to understand that I do not wish to be personal in the matter at all. It may be because I do know something about it that the present course of the government causes some surprise on my part. I am sure the minister could go to his department and find dozens of men with the experience and training and qualifications necessary for this northern work. Take, for instance, Mr. J. D. Craig, whom the minister referred to, to begin with; Doctor R. M. Anderson, chief of the biological division; Mr. D. Jenness, a man who has made practically a life study of the Eskimo, and who has written a book in the Eskimo language; Frank D. Henderson, who was in charge of the expedition last year; take the director, Mr. Finnie himself, a man with northern experience, and a great deal of experience as an administrator; take the Deputy Minister of the Interior, who has also had northern experience; take the chief of the Indian department; Mr. Maxwell Graham, chief of the wild life division, or Mr. H. Lloyd of the same division. I am sure the minister could get a committee composed of such men as those that would give him expert advice on what conditions are in that Arctic country, and what should be done. He is going to an expense that is unnecessary in connection with this expedition.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Following up the questions asked by the hon. member for Bow River, I would ask the minister if he has invited the Auditor General and the Audit Board to reorganize his department.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Has that invitation been accepted?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): It has not been acted upon.

Mr. McQUARRIE: They have not started the work yet?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Is it contemplated that they will shortly do that work?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): So I am informed, but all I can say is that they have not yet started. I think I made the first application.