

business and are most expensive to maintain. The government could improve the service and save money. I would suggest that the government would be well advised in combining or co-ordinating the government services of communication, that is, telegraph, telephone and radio, and getting them all under one management. At present the Departments of Public Works, National Defence, Marine and Fisheries, Interior and Railways are all in the telegraph, telephone and radio business, each running a show of its own.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): My hon. friend is not quite correct. We did vote the money for the Yukon service, that is, for construction of the radio equipment, but it is operated by the Defence department.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): The Department of the Interior is in the telegraph business, it is true, to a less extent than the Departments of Public Works, Defence, Marine, and Fisheries or Railways. But these departments are all in it in an extensive way and there is duplication of effort, duplication of expense and overlapping of service which results in huge unnecessary expenditure. Up in the Yukon Territory the Public Works department are running a land line, and the Department of the Interior find the money with which the Department of National Defence operates the wireless. The wireless in the Yukon is a boon to the people up there, but even it is unnecessarily expensive. A return to the House shows that to establish those two stations, one at Dawson and one at Mayo, the cost was \$11,438 for the Dawson station and for the little temporary station at Mayo, \$8,621. At Dawson they have four men running that little wireless station, a superintendent, two operators and an engineer, and at Mayo they have two operators and an engineer, whereas one man in each station would be quite sufficient. At present in Dawson City they are maintaining both wireless and telegraph stations and a duplicate staff. There is no reason why employees of the wireless service cannot handle the telegraph offices as well. Thousands of dollars could be saved on that one item alone. The through business could all be handled by wireless; there is no need for duplicate staffs at Dawson for the local business. They could discontinue the land line north of Forty mile in Yukon and use the wireless at Dawson for Alaska business. Turn that northern telegraph line from Dawson to Forty mile into a telephone line and hand it over to the mounted police to be used in connection with their detachment.

[Mr. Black.]

I understand that the Department of National Defence or the Department of Marine and Fisheries are installing a continuous wave set at Prince Rupert which can reach Dawson, and Dawson has power enough to reach Prince Rupert. If they have not, then build another wireless station at Whitehorse. The government is installing wireless stations throughout the Northwest Territories and Dawson and Mayo will be in communication with them. With wireless to Prince Rupert and through the Northwest stations to Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg they will have a splendid service. They do not get good service at present from the land line. For instance, on one stretch of that land line last winter, from Telegraph Creek to Hazleton, the wire was down in December for 25 whole days, which means that it was out of business continuously during that period. In January it was down 13 days and in February, 6—and that does not include the days it was down and up. The government should abandon that stretch through the wilderness which is so expensive to maintain and earns no revenue. Turn the line over, if you like, to local people for a telephone system and use the wire in the Yukon for local service, with a mileage of less than 600 miles and use the wireless for through business, thus effecting a saving of upwards of \$200,000 per annum. The average cost to the country at present is \$275,000. If that was done you would have more money for legitimate grants. Reduce this unnecessary expenditure on the telegraph line and put the money into roads to the mines, which are the greatest aids to development in that country.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): My hon. friend complains of the wording of this item—"Yukon system, Ashcroft-Dawson." That phraseology has been used from the time of the establishment of this line and I do not think there is anything offensive about it. It is known as the Yukon system starting from Ashcroft and going north. However, if it would please my hon. friend to have it read "British Columbia and Yukon system" next year, we could put it that way. In regard to the co-ordination of the service I may say that a committee of the Departments of Public Works, National Defence, Railways and Marine have gone very carefully into the matters of duplication and their report has been filed. With one or two exceptions it was found inadvisable to combine the services of these departments. The militia service is for militia purposes. I do not think we would be wise in handing the system over to the