

is so fine, that the Minister of Militia has been obliged to share this luxury with his colleagues of the Government. The item reads: 'for use of members of the Government.' But I am told it is pretty hard for other members of the Government to gain entrance to this car,—they have to be very nice to the Minister of Militia and Defence. What about the cuisine in the car? How many men are employed?

Mr. HUGHES: None.

Mr. LEMIEUX: The hon. gentleman runs the car alone?

Mr. HUGHES: There is no cost outside of the car. When I take the car, messengers of my department accompany me. I therefore save the country that much money. I noticed my hon. friend gave a significant look towards the vacant seat near him when he spoke of the repairs to the car. I hope he will go on and ask questions about that, as I am anxious to give the information.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Is it the same car the hon. gentleman is speaking of?

Mr. HUGHES: The electric installation was furnished and guaranteed by Mr. Murphy, brother of the hon. member for Russell, at a cost of \$200, making the total cost \$11,800. The mistake I made was in not charging \$25,000 for the car.

Mr. MACDONALD: Where did the hon. gentleman buy it?

Mr. HUGHES: Through Mr. Hanna of the Canadian Northern railway.

Mr. LEMIEUX: We suspected that.

Mr. HUGHES: I could have bought it in the open market and paid two prices for it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: So, I suppose the hon. gentleman takes his private car when he goes to witness the manoeuvres of troops here and there. In addition to the car, the hon. gentleman has six automobiles. Has he these at the different places to which the car is to run?

Mr. HUGHES: Unlike the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lemieux) I have never ridden in one of the Government cars except on Government business. When he was Postmaster General, I understood that he rode everywhere in the car that he had purchased for the Post Office Department. Only that the hour is so late, I could entertain the committee with the adventures of the hon. gentleman riding about in his palatial car or going about in motor cars, running them onto steamers at the various stations to the delight of the people up and down the river St. Lawrence. I can assure the hon. gentleman, without apology,

Mr. LEMIEUX.

that so long as I am Minister of Militia, when I travel on Government business, I am not going to ride in second-class cars and stand at junctions, while subordinates of the various departments ride in the Government cars at Government expense. I have no apology to make for this car, and the only thing remarkable about it is that I did not charge the country twice as much for it

Mr. PROULX: How many private cars are there for the use of the Government?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know; ask the Minister of Railways and Canals.

Civil Government—Departments generally—contingencies required, \$5,000.

Mr. LEMIEUX: This is a very mysterious item. I call the attention of the Prime Minister to it. I am credibly informed that it is out of this amount that Emile Bourassa expects to be paid.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. LEMIEUX: There is no use quibbling about this. Emile Bourassa has not passed the Civil Service examination, and he was told that he would get his salary out of this \$5,000 which we are asked to vote. I impart this information to the right hon. Prime Minister, so that he may have an opportunity to make good his statement that Emile Bourassa never, never should receive a cent.

Mr. BORDEN: I shall keep my eye on that item.

Mr. WHITE (Minister of Finance): I cannot understand the conduct of my hon. friend in talking that way. I have here a full explanation of this item, which I am prepared to read to the House. The allegation of my hon. friend is entirely unfounded. The explanation furnished to me is as follows:

In the main estimates for 1912-13, \$98,000 was asked for an increased wage from 75 cents to \$1 per diem for the women and from \$400 to \$500 per annum for the charmen.

The \$98,000 was made up as follows:—
Sundries, supplies, &c., \$4,680 and char service staff \$93,320—

A comparison of the staff estimated for 1912-1913 as it stands to-day, 19th March, 1913. is given hereunder.

Staff Estimated and Amount, 1912-1913.	
1 Superintendent and 2 assistants.	\$2,600 00
5 Foremen at \$600..	3,000 00
31 Charmen at \$500..	15,500 00
230 Charwomen at \$314 each.. . . .	72,220 00
—	—
267 Estimated staff for 1912-13.. . .	\$93,320 00