

Mr. BLAIN. In the Auditor General's Report it appears that Mr. Menzies, who works at the Toronto office, is the agent for it, and that the government rent a room in his house for this purpose.

Mr. BRODEUR. I see that we pay to Mr. William Menzies the rent of a house, so that I suppose we rent the whole house. However, I shall make inquiries and find out why observations have been carried out in that place. I suppose they could not be carried on in the city.

Mr. HUGHES. Would it not be well to find out the facts before passing the item?

Mr. BRODEUR. The whole responsibility lies with the director. He has been running this establishment many years, and I have every confidence in him. The director is Mr. Stupart, a very good man.

Mr. DANIEL. No doubt the matter is all right, but no one seems to know anything about it. In the Auditor General's Report I find that this item costs \$1,674. What is the reason for the increase?

Mr. BRODEUR. There is no increase. It is the same vote that we have always had.

Mr. DANIEL. You are asking more for the instruments.

Mr. BRODEUR. There is an item of \$1,100 for the instruments. I must admit that I have not looked very closely into this matter because I relied entirely on the report of the director, and I am sure he would not recommend anything which should not be accepted. However, I shall inquire and find out if there is anything not proper in this matter.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. minister might inquire at the same time how long this institution has been established. He says there was an observatory there in 1840, but at that time the place was practically a wilderness and Toronto only a very small town. I think he has made a mistake and should have said 1894 instead of 1840. I recollect something of a discussion about 18 years ago regarding the establishment of an observatory out there, but I think my hon. friend is about 40 years out in his date.

Mr. BRODEUR. The reason I gave that date is because the meteorological office was established in the 40's, and I thought that this magnetic observatory might have been established at the same time. It is possible, however, that the two were combined in Toronto, because Toronto was not then the big city it is to-day. No doubt these observations are better taken out in the country than in the city.

Mr. HENDERSON. Of course it is only reasonable that it should be away from the
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city where it would be subjected to electrical influences which might interfere with the correctness of the observations.

Mr. BLAIN. Will the minister bring the particulars with respect to William Menzies as to whether this is one and the same person or not?

Mr. BRODEUR. I have no doubt it is the same person. Mr. Menzies is one of the officers of the meteorological service, and I suppose that he makes observations at the magnetic observatory.

Mr. BLAIN. Where does he reside?

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not know, whether he resides at Agincourt or not.

Mr. HENDERSON. Perhaps he has his summer residence at Agincourt.

Mr. BRODEUR. He may have his summer residence at Agincourt.

Mr. BLAIN. If that is right surely my hon. friend would not tolerate this condition of things. At page O-109 of the Auditor General's Report he will find this entry:

Menzies, Wm., Agincourt, rent of hse., 9 m. to Mar. 31, 1910, at \$15, \$135.

Then the Auditor General gives the salary of William Menzies at the central office, Toronto, as \$1,420. Would my hon. friend think it a proper thing for an officer residing at Agincourt to rent his house to the department for \$135, or at the rate of \$15 per month?

Mr. BRODEUR. I do not think there would be a very serious objection to that. I remember that when I was practising my profession in Montreal I lived for years twenty-five miles from the city, and I could be at my office every morning earlier almost than all my confrères. So, I do not think it would be a very serious objection. He may live in the country and attend to his business in the city of Toronto.

Mr. BLAIN. That is not my point, and the minister knows it very well. I am not concerned whether Mr. Menzies should live in Agincourt or Toronto. The point is whether William Menzies is receiving this large salary at the central office in Toronto and whether he is renting his house to the government at \$15 a month or \$135 for nine months?

Mr. BRODEUR. The only question is whether the rent we are paying is too large or not. Fifteen dollars a month does not seem to me to be a very extravagant price.

Mr. BLAIN. What about the principle of his renting his house to the government?