

of the Western Union Telegraph Company, on the tapes of which the clock signals, sent by hand, were recorded. In 1885, besides occupying Seattle, the positions of Victoria, Port Moody and Kamloops were determined, and the azimuth survey carried from Port Moody to Farwell, now Revelstoke. In the following year Revelstoke, Field, Calgary and Winnipeg were occupied.

At Calgary a connection was made with the 5th Initial Meridian, and at Winnipeg subsequently with the Principal Meridian and with longitudes from the east for a comparison with the longitude brought across the continent through the United States and eastward again via Seattle and British Columbia.

The success of these two years of astronomic work in connection with the accurate determination of geographic positions for the Department of the Interior gave astronomic work a permanent footing in the Technical Branch under the Surveyor General, E. Deville, and this led to an extension of its application to a wider field, not only within the vast area of Dominion Lands in the Northwest, but also in other parts of Canada for cartographical and other purposes.

It was essential that the longitude of Winnipeg be well established by connection with the east (Harvard), as it was to serve as a base station. The adopted longitude of Winnipeg rested upon a rather unsatisfactory determination of West Lynne from Dearborn Observatory, Chicago. By linear measure from West Lynne along the 49th parallel, the international boundary line, the longitude of the Principal Meridian was established, and by triangulation from the latter to Winnipeg the longitude of Winnipeg was found.

On February 10, 1887, the Surveyor General, E. Deville, submits to the Deputy Minister a memorandum suggesting the establishment of an observatory at Ottawa in connection with the longitude work in the west. This was approved by the then Minister, the Hon. Thos. White, but nothing was done.

In March, 1887, W. F. King and the writer officially visited Boston, Cambridge, New York and Washington, with the object of inspecting, subsequently to purchase, a transit for the proposed