

(Mr. Sifton) on several official matters, the most important of which was the proposed site on Parliament Hill for the observatory. An emphatic protest was entered against the contemplated site as unsuitable and wholly inadequate for the national observatory of Canada. Cogent and unanswerable reasons were advanced against the site. The Minister gave a sympathetic hearing.

On January 10, 1900, the Chief Astronomer submitted to the Deputy a memorandum stating that the plans were in preparation, but were for a much more expensive building than contemplated, and hence a larger and more expensive instrument was required to lessen the disproportion in cost. About the site—Parliament Hill—the Chief Astronomer said "it would be difficult to get another so suitable astronomically and so convenient for office purposes" (as it is essential that the Chief Astronomer's office should be in the building). A decision by the Minister was requested.

On January 13, 1900, an officer of the Chief Architect's office brought an architecturally elaborate and colored plan of the proposed observatory to King (and me) for him to make suggestions, but only with reference to the interior, as the Chief Architect desired no change in the exterior. This plan was essentially for an architectural monument. By this plan the equatorial would be about 48 ft. above the ground floor, and nearly 60 ft. from the basement for a 10 or 12-inch glass.

On January 17, 1900, the writer called on the Deputy re observatory. The Deputy had the plan, and said, "It looks pretty, but I told the Minister if a \$50,000 or \$60,000 building was to be put up, provision must be made in the estimates for instruments fitting such a building; if the Government wants to spend \$50,000 or \$60,000 on a building, I don't care." "For my part," I added, "if that sum of money is to be spent, I prefer to have a suitable site bought and have a less ornamental, yet fully as—yes, more so—useful, building erected." I explained the scope our work must necessarily eventually take, and that the proposed 100-foot "knoll" was wholly unsuitable. The Deputy said, "I guess you are right." "I know I am right," was my reply.