

THE DOMINION ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY AT OTTAWA

By OTTO KLOTZ

THE Observatory at Ottawa to-day is an evolution of the astronomic work inaugurated in 1885 in connection with the Railway Belt in British Columbia.

British Columbia entered Confederation, became part of the Dominion of Canada, on July 20, 1871.

One of the conditions upon which British Columbia entered the Dominion was the speedy construction of a trans-continental railway, and in this connection, by the Imperial Order in Council of the 16th May, 1871, British Columbia conveyed in trust of her Crown Lands to the Dominion ". . . not to exceed twenty miles on each side of the said line" (railway). These twenty miles on each side of the railway are known as the Railway Belt, and became Dominion Lands, to be administered by the Department of the Interior, and furthermore, to be correlated with the Dominion Lands survey system of the Northwest, a system based on geographic co-ordinates.

The mountainous character of British Columbia precluded projecting and running standard base-lines and meridians, as had