

APPENDIX No. 39.

KINGSTON OBSERVATORY, 29th February, 1892.

SIR,—I respectfully submit for the information of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the following report of the Kingston Observatory for 1891 :—

The instruments have been kept in good order and adjustment, and observations have as far as possible been daily made throughout the year.

Since last report a hot-water coil from the adjoining building has been introduced into the observers' room. The cost of this improvement has been considerable; but, besides contributing greatly to their comfort, and that of visitors throughout the winter by the constant and equitable temperature which it affords, it has added to the accommodation of the department by rendering available the space formerly occupied by the stove and the necessary storage of fuel. Some small repairs have also been made in connection with the arrangements for opening and closing the shutters in the Equatorial and Transit rooms.

A new web of wires, with micrometer, for the transit, together with a ring micrometer for the equatorial, in addition to the position circle micrometer by Alvan Clarke, have just been ordered from Fauth & Co., the makers of the sidereal clock, which still maintains its excellent performance.

I am happy to say, that, since the improvements made some years ago, the foundations, and piers, on which the transit rests, have been found so perfectly stable that when the instrument is once adjusted, and is used with ordinary care, the level from day to day shows little or no appreciable change.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAS. WILLIAMSON,

Director of Observatory