

of a competent observer, can be expected not to exceed two minutes. The original method of attaching the compass to the standards consisted of a hook at one end and a thumb-screw at the other, but as this was not always found to be satisfactory, the hook was discarded, and the compass attached by thumb-screws at both ends.

**Method of Observing.**—The method adopted for the determination of the magnetic meridian is given in Appendix C of the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of Dominion Lands. The observer is instructed to proceed as follows and to note the following remarks:—

1. Place the instrument on a section line and after adjustment set the vernier to read the astronomical bearing of the line.

2. Release the lower clamp, direct the telescope on the line and fasten the lower clamp.

3. Release the vernier clamp and turn the vernier plate until the north end of the magnetic needle, observed with a magnifying glass, is seen exactly opposite the zero mark. Tap the trough lightly with the pencil or hit the milled parts of the foot-screws with the finger nail to be sure that the needle has taken the position of rest. Note the reading of the horizontal circle. Take several readings by repeating the operation.

4. Repeat operation No. 3 for the south end of the needle.

5. Enter in the notes the place of observation, date, hour of the day, weather and other remarks, if any. It is important to record auroras occurring within 24 hours of the time of observation.

The observations should be taken only when the needle is nearly stationary, say, in the afternoon after 5 p.m. if possible.

In taking the needle out of the trough, whether to rebalance it or to clean the agate, care should be taken to see that it is put back in its proper position. If replaced in the reverse position the index correction would be altered. For this reason, to safeguard against error, the position of the compass, whether "compass west" or "compass east," should be entered in the remarks after each observation when observing.

The returns should also state whether the observations are recorded in the mean time of the place or standard time.

The direction of the magnetic needle is subject to a daily fluctuation called the diurnal variation. During the greater part of the night the direction is not far from normal. In the early morning the north end of the needle in Canada moves towards the east, reaching its maximum deflection about 7 or 8 a.m. The motion is then reversed, the north end travelling westward and crossing the normal direction about 10 or 11 a.m. The extreme western position is reached in the afternoon, and then the needle comes back to its normal position at some time after 5 or 6 p.m. This march is subject to wide variations during magnetic storms. The magnitude of the diurnal variation is not constant. Observations at both eastern and western elongations of the needle on the same day, that is, between 7 and 8 a.m. and between 1 and 2 p.m., give the best results, and it is desirable that when convenient they may be taken then. This gives not only the best value for the declination, but also the diurnal variation, which it is very useful to know. Failing this, however, the best time to observe is after 5 p.m., when the needle is about in its normal position. It is true that the normal position is crossed generally between 10 and 11 a.m., but, the motion being very rapid and the time of crossing uncertain, the afternoon observation is preferable.

The place of observation must be at least three or four hundred yards away from wires carrying direct electric current. There must be no iron near the instrument. The observer must make sure that he has no iron or nickel on his person. If any magnetic object is not brought closer to the needle than fifteen or twenty times the distance at which an appreciable deflection is first produced, the effect on the needle is negligible in observations of this kind. Avoid transportation of the instrument on electric cars, as there are instances of the polarity of the needle being reversed in such an intense magnetic field.

If the needle is sluggish the observation cannot be accurate. The sluggishness is generally due to a dull pivot or a scratched cap. To keep both in proper condition the needle must always be lowered gently on its pivot and never be allowed to play except when actually in use.

**Instrument Constant.**—Through the courtesy of the Director of the Meteorological Service at Toronto, the index correction of every instrument used for observing was determined both at the beginning and at the close of the survey season, whenever possible. If a serious discrepancy was found between the two determinations, it was investigated and the observations taken with the instrument rejected unless the cause of the discrepancy could be satisfactorily explained.

**Reduction of Observations.**—In order to give a character of homogeneity to the declination observations, a reduction to a common epoch had to be applied to the observed data. To accomplish this a knowledge of the diurnal and secular variation is necessary. Again, as the diurnal variation is subject to extreme fluctuations, magnetic storms must be detected. The only method at our disposal for reduction was making use of the daily records of the declinometer at Agincourt, but the observatory being far away from where our observations had been taken, it was thought advisable to compare by actual experiments the fluctuations of the compass in western Canada and those at Agincourt. An observer was instructed to observe the magnetic declination at Rosthern, Sask., during the whole of November, 1910. Rosthern was chosen on account of being advantageously situated as a base station. The observations were taken from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at periods ranging from half an hour to one hour, care being taken to observe the needle at its two elongations. The work was carried out in a small silk tent in order to shelter the instrument from the influence of the wind and storms.

A comparison of the results of these observations with a diurnal variation observation taken at Jasmin, Sask., on July 10th, 1910, disclosed a diurnal range of the compass in July almost double of that at Rosthern in November.

Later, in the office, copies of the photographic traces of the declinometer at Agincourt were made for the days on which diurnal variation observations had been taken in the western provinces. On these copies were plotted the diurnal variation observations taken in the West so as to correspond in mean local time to the traces of the declinometer, and the points were joined by straight lines. From this investigation useful information was derived for the reduction of our magnetic declinations. According to our expectations, mostly all magnetic disturbances shown on the traces of the declinometer were recorded on the diurnal variation curve, and both occurred at practically the same instant.

In applying reductions the observations have been reduced to the mean of the month of the year in which they were taken. This was done in the following way: