

year Edmonton and Onion Lake (110° meridian) were occupied and connected in longitude with Winnipeg.

About this time the Alaska boundary question occupied the attention of the Department of the Interior more and more, and the astronomic work was temporarily suspended, but the observatory scheme was kept alive. A good deal of correspondence took place between the Department of the Interior and those of the Public Works and Railways and Canals about a site for the temporary observatory, either along the Canal Basin or on a Government lot on Cliff Street.

On June 30, 1890, by order-in-council a new office was created—Chief Astronomer—and W. F. King, Chief Inspector of Surveys, was appointed thereto at a salary of \$1,800 per annum.

It is important to note that during these years, and for some years subsequently, there was no thought of an observatory with dome nor of engaging in astrophysical work; this was a later evolution, on the advent of the Hon. Clifford Sifton as Minister of the Interior, who wanted a creditable astronomic outfit and building, representing the National Observatory of Canada.

The Surveyor General, the Chief Astronomer and the writer were at the time more concerned about a permanent observatory at Ottawa, as the initial place of reference for longitude work throughout Canada, with the installation of transits, and later a meridian circle for fundamental work. It was hoped ultimately to expand the astronomic work of latitude and longitude that had been carried on for some years to include a trigonometrical or geodetic survey, towards which the writer had labored and written for many years.

In 1890, W. Ogilvie made an exploratory survey from Lake Timiskaming to and along part of James Bay. The meridian from the head of the lake forms the boundary line between Ontario and Quebec. To determine its longitude, it was by survey connected with Mattawa, and the difference of longitude between Mattawa and Ottawa was determined by the Surveyor General and the Chief Astronomer, although the accurate longitude of Ottawa had not been established.