

notice of the Minister of Marine by the Board of Governors of the University in a Memorandum prepared by a Committee of the Board. It is hoped that at least a portion of the work may be carried out during the coming summer.

*Improved Site for Observatory.*—The position of the present observatory being inferior for all kinds of astronomical work, it has, for many years been felt that provision should be made for a proper site for a future Astronomical Observatory. There are in the neighbourhood, two positions both admirably adapted for astronomical observations—the one on Mount Royal Park, the other on the high ground in rear of Cote St. Antoine—known as the “little mountain.” The former possesses the advantage of greater altitude and nearness to the University buildings. Both positions are fairly free from city smoke, being situated in the direction of the prevailing winds. The advantages of the Cote St. Antoine position would be such as would follow absolute ownership of the land, being at the same time at a sufficiently great elevation to command a practically unobstructed horizon. It was felt however that the advantage in nearness of the Mount Royal site was paramount, and that an opportunity should be given the Corporation of the city to reserve a portion of the park for this purpose. Application was accordingly made by the board of Governors of the University for a reservation of about two acres, on the western summit of the mountain. The application has received the entire approval of the park committee, but I am not aware that it has yet been considered in council. Should the grant be made it is proposed to occupy the position at once as a wind and thermometer station.

*Sunspots:*—The observations of sun spots by the methods explained in former reports have been made whenever the condition of the sky permitted. The results from the commencement of the observations in January 1888 to May 28th last, have been published in the transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, and with the approval of the society it is proposed to continue the publication from year to year.

*Soil Temperatures.*—During the past two years observations of soil temperatures have been taken daily, the primary object being to establish somewhat more definitely the relation of such temperatures to vegetation. An important part of this work relates to the changes attending the penetration of frost in autumn, the influence of snow as a protective covering, and the changes incident to the opening of the ground in spring. For this reason the period of observation embraces the entire year, instead of covering only the