

scientific grounds alone; their primary object has been utilitarian and to provide a basis for systematic surveys. Without such a basis there is no finality in results; the same ground is being surveyed over and over again, as is the case in the Dominion, by the land surveyor, the geologist, the railway and canal engineer, the hydrographer. For every new project a new survey has to be made. The labour and expenditure on these surveys would be considerably reduced and often entirely unnecessary if we had a systematic triangulation carried out as in other countries. This fact has long been recognized in Europe, where every country has been accurately mapped. Outside of Europe may be cited the United States, whose triangulation is well advanced; India, which offers a striking instance of extensive and well conducted surveys; the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, which have executed a joint triangulation of South Africa; New Zealand, where triangulation has preceded all other surveys. It must not be supposed that there were no objections raised in these countries to the inception of the work; on the contrary, it was frequently opposed by those who did not understand its practical value, but their opinions changed after they had been in a position to appreciate its usefulness. Of the survey of South Africa, Mr. David Gill, Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape, says:

“The influence of the geodetic survey has made itself felt by raising the whole tone of survey operations in South Africa. Strongly as it was at first opposed and grudgingly as it was maintained, its advantages are now fully acknowledged, and by none more warmly than the Surveyor-Generals of the Cape Colony and Bechuanaland.”

The triangulation of the 98th meridian would be for Canada the first step in the right direction, to be followed by others, as the resources of the country would allow. It is believed that an appropriation of say \$10,000 for a few years would be sufficient to carry to completion the measurement of the 98th meridian. The Royal Society of Canada strongly recommends such a grant, and believes that the work will be of great benefit to Canada, not only by its immediate practical results, but also in placing the country in a more favorable light before the scientific world.

And your memorialists humbly pray that Your Excellency will take the foregoing facts into your favorable consideration.