

the C. P. R. Co's. telegraph lines, has on behalf of that company and the Commercial Cable Co., guaranteed the free use of telegraph lines and cables for the work. The matter has been brought under the notice of the British Government and the Astronomer Royal, through the kindness of Sir Charles Tupper, and by representations from the Royal Society of Canada, through His Excellency the Governor General. In a letter dated June 23rd last Mr. Christie, Astronomer Royal, expresses his willingness to co-operate in the proposed determination, and his report to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory at the Annual Visitation in June last, makes the following reference to the work:—

"Several proposals have been made to me recently for the telegraphic determination of the difference of longitude between Greenwich and stations which are important in connection with Geodetic Surveys. The superintendent of the McGill College Observatory, Montreal, has asked for the co-operation of Greenwich in a direct determination of longitude, with a view to making that observatory the base station for the Geodetic Survey of Canada, the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Company having offered the use of their lines and connecting cable for the purpose. A re-determination of the longitude of Washington is proposed by the superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, and in connection with this it may be advisable to fix the longitude of the terminus of the trans-Atlantic Cables. Lastly M. Otto Struve has urged the importance of re-determining with improved modern appliances the longitude of Valentia, as the extremity of the great European arc of longitude. It seems desirable that the Royal Observatory should take part in these operations, and the experience gained in the observations for the longitude of Paris and Dunkerque would greatly facilitate the work. Some additions to our instrumental appliances would be necessary for these and other longitude determinations which it might be expedient for us to undertake in the future."

Under date of November 22nd Mr. Christie states that he has heard unofficially that the Treasury have given their approval, and that the grant which he required will be made.

During the past summer I took occasion to visit the terminus of the Commercial Company's Cables at Canso with a view to advancing arrangements for the work. The programme of operations for the determination, is now being actively discussed with the Astronomer Royal. The necessary funds for the prosecution of the Canadian portion of the work have yet to be provided, but it is confidently hoped that this will be met by a special grant by the Dominion Government. The matter has been brought under the