

August and W. F. King. The Surveyor General was in a short time.

Wednesday 10
hot
close
sunny
night rain

Attended morning and afternoon session of the Disputaminers. The questions prepared by me are completely up to the other members of the Bd. — We have now only two candidates & they are for the first. They are Char. J. Seymour & Mr. Bourqueau, the former apparently well informed, the latter the reverse. —
About the only green spot that I have seen ^{in Ottawa} since I returned from Port Arthur is the green lawn on the Parliament grounds. Of course in it, as well as elsewhere, much attention has been lavished.

Thursday 12
cloudy
rainy

A long looked for rain came last night, and at last moistened the parched lips of suffering Nature, — and reduced the tropical heat which has reigned supreme for fully two months. —
Attended the examination. I do most of the marking of papers.

Friday 13
fine, clear
cool

Attended examination. — One of the candidates, Mr. Bourqueau who has been running along the ragged edge of the precipice stumbled at the rock of "Disciplines" and was "plucked". — Poor fellow, — but we can not give ignorance a commission. —
W. F. King has luncheon with me today. —
A. C. Webb & I spent the evening at J. Clayton's pleasantly.

Saturday 14
fine

The air is beautifully clear since the rain and decided by frost. Attended the examination. There are four examiners, ^a secretary and only one candidate, apparently hard on the candidate, but as one of the examiners facetiously remarked, "our sympathies are not so depressed now, and his

chance therefore better."

— One of the most appalling railroad disasters, ^{on record} occurred the other day near Chaseworth Illinois, whereby over a hundred excursionists lost their lives and many more were wounded.

Ode to Kakabeka

See July 29-

— In memory of July 29 1887. —

Near Kakabeka roar and seethe
While struck with awe we faintly breathe
Our eyes they stare, pinned to the view
The falling waters each scene renew

Whom wert thou carved in rock so deep
That cleft these rocks - so high, so steep
How many eons have passed thy great
Since first was heard thy rocky breast?

" Methinks, I am still very young,
But know not whence my life hath sprung
Yet this I know with certainty
Nature doth nourish thee and me. "

Sombre and dark thy waters glide
Between the banks from side to side
Till at the awful brink they come
Then sparkle in the light of the sun.

Myriads of pearls are gaily dancing
Bounding from ledge to ledge advancing
Needlessly plunging into the abyss.
Youth mocking nature resembling in this.
Silvery and golden is their hue
Enchanting, bewitching to the view. —

(over)

From the giant cauldron dimly seen
 Where never human foot has been
 Aside the mist and evermore
 Obscure thy face on western shore

Again thy life on Kanimiskiquia
 Who bears it towards Niagara
 And there in one majestic fall
 Exceeding mine, eclipses all.

But ~~where~~ there built to him a shrine
 Where mighty Jupiter would reign,
 One to Apollo would then be Thine
 Where youth and vigor e'er life regain

Now Kakabeka, farewell, farewell
 Thy music I'll hear no more
 But time shall not from my mind expell
 Those scenes you put in store.

Sunday 14
 fine

The above lines were penned today. Sunday away from home is always a very dull day for me, unless I am with my instruments and work. Thus the musing mind reverted to the scenes of July 29 and brought forth the above. -

- In the afternoon strolled around the shady walk -
 - Lover's walk - of Government Hill where I met - Kauska,
 with whom I chatted away an hour.

Monday 15
 fine
 warm

Attended examination. - Spent the evening at Mr. King's, - where were also Mrs Snow & Mrs. J. Maclean

Tuesday 16
 fine
 Cool

Finished the examination & Chas P. Squires presided very creditably. In afternoon I called on Mr. Deville's Surveyor General. We talked over my work. He is very undecided about anything, or rather very easily upset by meeting with any obstacle. Unfortunately a storm