

September unless I practically do work which involves the process of reasoning, in making experiments or the like, which is the best aid to memory.

Thursday 29  
fine  
very warm

The day was almost unaccountably warm, and the black flies decidedly so. — The air is somewhat hazy, smoky, showing that there are bushfires somewhere.

I erected a stand outside of the observatory for mounting the transit telescope for sweeping the heavens, especially for examining Saturn.

Towards evening I got a telegram from Cluikie who is en route to meet him for conversation re work.

At midnight I left on a freight train for Rat Portage. The night was glorious under the bright moon and I enjoyed riding "upstairs" in the caboose with the conductor C. W. Risken, and seeing the huge snake of cars winding around the numerous curves, through rock cuts & tunnels, skirting picturesque lakes dotted with evergreen islands, or crossing a treacherous muskeg. — We passed the stacks of 375 cords of wood which were consumed by encroaching bush fires. Having to wait an hour & a half at Rat Portage and feeling hungry I went to the Hilliard Hotel and regaled myself with a piece of bread & butter & a glass of beer. When the train arrived I found W. T. King sound asleep in bed although he afterwards said he had gone to bed early in order to awake in time. We chatted over our work present & future, especially relative to my going to British Columbia next spring to observe moon culminations for determining the 124° meridian or boundaries of Alaska in conjunction with Gilvie who is on the Yukon. Unfortunately some of our administrative affairs in the Department are not what they should be, owing to the undetermined stand assumed by Mr. Deville Surveyor General. As an example; — King tells me that he (Mr. D.) doesn't know whether he will have the observatory at Kalamazoo connected with the meridian of the North West Angle — date of the wood as the

connecting line lies in Ontario, which is outside of the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. It is too stupid & inconsistent. Isn't the observatory in Ontario? What is the use of my observations here if the connection is not made. I am certainly not observing to ascertain the geographical position of this forsaken place. — I have a little plan or scheme in view in the event of my going to British Columbia next spring and that is to take Maine along and go via Chicago, Salt Lake City, San Francisco (also visiting the Lick Observatory) Portland & Victoria. — An hour & twenty minutes ride brought me to Kalamazoo where I left the train again, having talked over all the subjects with Leekins.

Friday 30  
fine  
warm

At night observed for latitude and when such a set of chronometer signals came by my register failed me, altho' I have previously it worked well, being for my beats all night & I his but not in the register. — After the observations I examined everything again & the only assignable reason <sup>of failure</sup> I found in the fact that there was a deficiency of Sol Ammoniac in the register battery, which I remedied & soon afterwards everything worked well.

I have before mentioned that the section here in which I get my meals is more suited for "liveliesses" than cleanliness. At tea tonight I got something into my mouth that I took to be a bunch of tea leaves (but remembered that I brought my own tea & teapot with me) I spat it out & found it to be a large green bottle fly. — A vote I amble. This episode was supplemented at 2 1/2 a.m. when I got my midnight lunch. I went to the kitchen & got a plate and just as I was going to put some puddings (which I also bro't with me as numerous other eatables) thereon, something crawled on the plate, not precisely as the French call it. — Sadly we learn - Hunger is the best Cook.