

February Some intellectual passages occurred

Tuesday 21  
pleasant

Attended Board meeting, which was the final one, & passed Gov. White & L. R. Bourgeault. King, Webb & I were together afterwards. - At night Mr. Webb returned to his home, Mr. Prentiss & I chatted away several hours this evening.

Wednesday 22  
fine

This morning I called on our Minister Hon. Mr. White & spoke with him re my going to British Columbia to complete the programme arranged last year with Mr. Oplvie who is now in the Yukon for determining the longitude of Oplvie's winter quarters, whereby an approximate determination of the boundary (141<sup>st</sup> meridian) of Alaska will be obtained. Mr. White concurred therein stating "that the best way to make money is to begin something & not finish it." (The observations are observations of stars by the moon, one observer being at a place of known longitude, the other at the one to be determined). Then I called on Dr. Dawson and with him met Dr. Selwyn, the director of the Geological Survey, and who heartily greeted me, saying he was glad to meet me, often having heard of me. I had only known him by letter and was not particularly well disposed towards him. - Returning I found the Deputy Minister Asst. Burgess in; with him I had a similar chat as with the Minister, he told me of the difficulties that had existed between him & Mr. Edw. Burgess, and how he had relegated him to his proper place - inferior in rank to himself etc. - He asked me to draw up a joint report (by Mr. Deville, King & self) on "the selection of an observatory at Ottawa, and one by myself on "the contemplated survey of the Dominion by the Department of Militia & Defence i.e. to be done by the Royal Military College professors & cadets. By request of Mr. Burgess I inspected the new