

Monday 15
cloudy

With the 11 A.M. train I left for Ottawa. The afternoon was spent in Toronto leaving there again at 8-45 P.M. -

Tuesday 16
rainy

In Ottawa. At 10 A.M. call at the Department, and H. F. King & I see Mr. Deville - Surveyor General together and talk over the past season's work. I then call on Mr. H. H. Smith - Commissioner of Dominion Lands who is at present acting as Deputy Minister of the Interior during Mr. Bump's absence, he being on leave of absence thru' Sickness. After luncheon I call on Mr. E. Dewdney - Minister of the Interior, this being my first interview with him as Minister for last spring when I left the late Mr. Thomas White filled that position. Mr. Dewdney received me kindly and while listening to me made numerous notes of what I was saying & the information I was giving. The Council meeting at 3 P.M. my interview was cut short. - After 4 P.M. King & I had a chat & smoke at the Bodspa. After dinner I spent the greater part of the evening with King at his house.

Wednesday 17
cloudy
a little rain

In forenoon called on Mr. Dewdney again, but as Rev. Père Gendreau desired an interview I had to give way - being an official - to him. This is the man who was at Onion Lake while I was there, he inspects the Indian Agencies, to enquire into the grievances of the Indians &c. - To me it seems extraordinary that a Catholic priest should be commissioned on such an errand for the Government, for the unexplained grievances are mainly brought about thru' the machinations of the priests - the arch disturber being Père Létourneau. I then went to the Geological Museum & had a chat with Mr. R. de la Connerie who has just returned from an 18 months' absence on the Mackenzie river & Yukon. There I also met A. Low.

October

After luncheon called on E. Deville again & had a pleasant chat with him on my work & other matters. After 4 PM. King & I had our sit down at the Bodsea for 7/8 of an hour when mathematics & other interesting subjects were discussed. —

My visit to Ottawa is so far very satisfactory, I feared Mr. Deville would be somewhat sore that we did not put in Prince Albert (lat. & long.) this season as he desired but our (Kingman's) explanation was apparently satisfactory to him. — My interview with Mr. Deviney was also so far satisfactory, although I can not as yet tell how he appreciates or favors our astronomical work, it being as yet not an established and permanent branch of work of the Department. Being an old surveyor himself one is inclined to infer that he would encourage high class & scientific work. — The future however will tell us whether our fond hopes will be realized. —

At 11 PM. I leave for home again. On the train I meet Mr. Caspary, Director of the Meteorological Observatory Toronto. After our acquaintance he was very talkative, his conversation being exclusively about himself, what he had done — grinning at his own achievements frequently saying "That's pretty fine work - eh?" He told me how he caught Whipple of New Observatory napping re. — I got little opportunity to say anything out of courtesy — and in order to say something at the end of each act expressed with a forced grin his superiority. — A no man is egotism becoming and least in a man of talent. As he was the man who objected to our building an observatory at Ottawa, believing that we were encroaching on his domain I was glad to meet him & see what kind of an antagonist we had to deal with. Before retiring we enjoyed a night cap out of his flask.