

of putting the new building on the vacant ground
- would be park - instead of on the school ground.

Friday 8
little snow
with

Busy in office, in afternoon Minors I were in Gall beds
some shopping. - In evening getting things in shape for leaving
tomorrow for Ottawa.

Saturday 9
pleasant

At 11 a.m. left for Ottawa. I remained at Ottawa
from 2 P.M. till 8.45 P.M. attending to some business. -
There I met E. Bray and later Hugh Wilson & Mr.
Richards from Mt. Forest. The former is to be pitied
recently he lost his wife and is now so to speak
an outcast having neither family nor home, which
his money can not buy. - In the supper met
Hugh Ryan, Mr. Fraser from Pembroke and Capt.
Freer of the English army.

Sunday 10
fine

In Ottawa. The day was quiet in my room
reading. -

Monday 11
fine. pleasant
after. snow

In morning a. c. Webb my colleague on the Board of
Examiners arrived, after breakfast proceeded
to the Board room where were C. Deville sur-
veyor general chairman W. Peace, W. F. King,
F. M. Gath and Mr. Munsie (new members)
members of the Board. After reading of the
minutes & routine business we adjourned till
tomorrow. Besides the examination we had a
trial on hand of a subpoena of J. D. Alton for un-
professional conduct. In the afternoon I went
to see our Deputy Min. a. M. Purpus but he
was not in, I then went to the Victoria Club
& spent some time with J. D. Dennis & afterwards
with C. Deville Surveys. - A new office
has been created in our branch of the Department
& that is Chief Astronomer - with W. F. King as in-
cumbent. He is competent for the position. -

I think I may safely state that it is a great deal to my work and efforts in behalf of astronomical work that such an office has been created. Had I been a failure at astronomical work at its systematic inception in 1885 I doubt whether there would now be a chief astronomer. Furthermore had I not favorably impressed the Deputy Minister Mr. A. M. Burgess with the work, and work done and also our late (ancestral) Minister Mr. White, had planned & carried out King's & my trip to Boston & Washington in connection with astronomical matters in 1887 (see diary), King would not now have his new title. — — and what official position do I seek? — Well — my brain has as yet not satisfactorily answered that question. The difficulty lies in the fact that so soon as I become an officer I become a civil servant, must take my rank in the graded scale of the civil service, must live in Ottawa and undoubtedly will receive a salary probably five hundred dollars less than I now do at day pay which is practically for the year — \$2200. Any sensible mind can see the situation. Now I am a free man, have my own home, am untrammelled by the dictates of society, my family breathing the fresh and healthy air of the country, the children having as good educational facilities as Ottawa can give. All this to be sacrificed for a life long situation but with reduced salary instead of a higher salary which however can at any time cease by your re-employment. I must admit that at home I feel the want of at least one kindred spirit with whom I can talk mathematics, astronomy & the like, & for this too I wish I had more refined society than is to be had in Preston. However I do not think the time opportune yet to enter

civil service.

— In evening W. Pearce, J. P. Dennis, D. W. Davis
M.P., A. C. Webb & I chatted away several hours.

Tuesday 12
Snowy

Attended Board meeting, we have five candi-
dates 3 for D.S., 1 on the limited ca. offer the
higher ca. — J. J. Dalton appeared before
the Board at the morning session with coun-
sel. As the Department (Prosecutor) has no coun-
sel the case was adjourned till tomorrow. —
The rest of the day was spent with ca. papers.
A. C. Webb & I had lunch with W. F. King
meeting at his house beside his wife his mother
and sister Carrie.

The evening I spent reading the first no. of the
National Geographic Magazine.

Wednesday 13
Cold

Attended Board meeting, & the day was occupied
with the case of J. J. Dalton, the only witness ex-
amined during the day being John Vicas, who was
a little too wise & fresh & hence hurried & blun-
dered & made a poor witness. —

W. F. King & W. P. Olive (the latter I had not seen since
he returned from the Yukon) had lunch with
with A. C. Webb & me. Yesterday ^{King} requested me to
write a letter to the Survey General (upon the
understanding hereby by the V. G.) of my opinion
of Olive's capabilities of making astronomi-
cal observations as it appears that Dr. Selwyn
Director of the Dept. Survey upon the advice of
Dr. Dawson has stated to the Minister that
Dawson that not much reliance can be
placed in Olive's work. — (Olive's
work having been the survey of the Yukon in
Canada, observations for the international
boundary the meridians & survey of the
Mackenzie river) The Gov. Gen. seems to