

Section 2.—Meteorology

See list at the front of this edition, under the heading "Climate and Meteorology", for special material published in previous editions of the Year Book.

Section 3.—Standard Time and Time Zones

See list at the front of this edition for special material under this heading published in previous editions of the Year Book.

PART VII.—ASTROPHYSICS

Major astronomical work is carried on by three Canadian institutions; the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Ont., the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B.C. (operated by the Mines, Forests and Scientific Services Branch, Department of Mines and Resources), and the David Dunlap Observatory, which is associated with the University of Toronto. Of the two Government institutions the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa has specialized mainly in the astronomy of position in solar physics, and in various branches of geophysical work, while the major effort in astrophysics has been concentrated at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B.C. The David Dunlap Observatory is a newer institution founded in 1935 with very fine astrophysical equipment of a kind similar to that in use at Victoria. It not only performs the function of a privately financed and administrated research institution but is also the nucleus of a University department of astronomy. The following article deals specifically with the work of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B.C.

THE CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE MADE BY THE DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY*

The Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, Ont., was established in 1905. Its primary purpose was to provide a sound astronomical basis for the correlation of surveys, local, provincial and international boundaries, and help to solve problems of navigation and time. Western Canada was being rapidly settled at this period and the accurate determination of boundaries was a first essential.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Canada was a new and rapidly developing country. The population grew from something over 5,000,000 to nearly 9,000,000 between 1901 and 1921. Nevertheless, the Dominion sprawled over half a continent and her population was meagre indeed for the tasks ahead. The carving out of a new domain from the vast Northwest was demanding all her energies and, during the second decade of the century, the First World War called for sacrifices of manpower that could ill be spared.

Research in the realms of pure science under these circumstances had the appearance of an indulgence and a luxury, the enjoyment of which might have been postponed until the more immediate and pressing tasks were accomplished. It is the more remarkable, therefore, that the Canadian Government in those days should have shown such foresight and initiative as to support the installation of what was then the world's largest telescope and thus enable Canada to actually take the leadership in certain branches of astronomical research.

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