

## Section 2.—Astronomy

The modern era of astronomy in Canada may be said to have begun in 1905 with the completion of the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, the national observatory of Canada. Prior to that time, an astronomical observatory established in 1851 at Fredericton, N.B., was used for a short time to determine the longitude of that centre and for general astronomical purposes; it has been rehabilitated as a historic monument. Other small observatories were established, one at Quebec City in 1854 and one at Kingston in 1875. Astronomical instruments were to be associated with the Magnetic Observatory built by the British Government at Toronto in 1839 but there is no record of their being set up until 1881. A small observatory established at McGill University in 1879 was used for many years for time observations.

Today, an increasing number of universities and other scientific organizations are devoting a substantial part of their efforts to the study of astronomy and astrophysics. The Dominion Observatory at Ottawa which, with its sister institutions, is administered by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, specializes in the astronomy of position, solar physics, meteoric astronomy and various branches of Geophysical work. This Observatory also maintains a subsidiary (the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory) near Penticton, B.C., for the study of Radio Astronomy. Also associated in the same group is the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, B.C., which devotes its efforts to the motions and physical characteristics of the stars and of inter-stellar material. Other Federal Government institutions carrying out meteoric and radio astronomy, including a study of the upper atmosphere by essentially astronomical methods, are the National Research Council and the Defence Research Board.

The David Dunlap Observatory of the University of Toronto carries on an active program of astrophysical research as well as the teaching of astronomy. It performs not only the functions of a privately financed and administered research institution, but is also the nucleus of the Department of Astronomy of the University of Toronto. The Physics Department of Queen's University in Kingston, which devotes considerable effort to the teaching of astronomy, has recently installed a new optical telescope and has for some time been carrying on advanced work in the science of radio astronomy. The University of Western Ontario maintains a small but active Department of Astronomy and several other Canadian universities give some instruction in astronomical science.