

would be added to the already existing difference. But, gentlemen, we have to reckon both positively and negatively ; in certain times the difference has to be added, in other times to be deducted. The climax of 16 minutes is reached only four days in the year.

Gentlemen, has anybody amongst us who lives punctually by a well regulated clock ever remarked that he, in a fourth part of the year, has sat down to table 16 minutes too early, or that he has retired too early to rest, and in the following fourth of the year too late ? I think not.

Gentlemen, just the circumstances that this not important difference between solar time and mean time is not known to the great part of the public, nor felt by it, appears to me to prove that the apprehensions which are put forth on account of the discontinuance of local time are without ground.

Gentlemen, we are not able by a vote or by resolution to establish all that the movement aims to accomplish. Possibly this may be effected later through international negotiations. But I believe it will assist the movement if the Parliament declares itself in sympathy with a principle which, in America, in England, in Sweden, in Denmark, and Switzerland and in South Germany has already obtained acceptance.

The report of the Imperial Railway Department was approved.

STANDARD TIME—FROM THE "EMPIRE."

24th April, 1891.

The sudden death of General Von Moltke has caused a well known correspondent, Mr. Sandford Fleming, to direct attention to the remarkable speech delivered by the deceased general only last month in the Imperial German Reichstag. The subject is unity of time, and the occasion was during a discussion respecting the adoption throughout the German empire of the same system of time reform which is already introduced in Canada. The speech of Von Moltke, a translation of which appears in another column, appears to have had great influence in Europe ; and the action taken by Germany will, no doubt, lead eventually to a further extension of the principle of reckoning the hours, the adoption of which has removed much friction on this side of the Atlantic. There is still one thing needed in connection with this reform : it requires to be legalized. From Nova Scotia to British Columbia the system is in use, but there is no statute enacting its legality, and doubts have arisen as to the reckoning and notation of time which has force in law. This uncertainty should not exist, as it may involve legal questions in respect to banking, the administration of justice, registration or elections, which will readily suggest themselves to gentlemen engaged in legal pursuits. After the establishment of the railway system in Great Britain, the same uncertainty prevailed and it became necessary to pass an Act prescribing and defining the use of Greenwich time throughout England and Scotland. The same necessity for legislation has become apparent in the United States. A bill was introduced by Mr. Evarts in the Senate and by Mr. Flowers in the House of Representatives, and next session they will undoubtedly become law. Similarly, a bill was introduced into the Canadian Parliament last year by Senator MacInnes, of Burlington, but owing to the late period of its presentation the measure did not get beyond its second reading. We understand that the bill will again be introduced this session.