

claim the right to have its own time. It is self-evident that time is in no way dependent on locality, and I will quote on this point but one authority, the great Sir Isaac Newton. "Absolute true and mathematical time of itself, and from its own nature, flows equally without regard to anything external."

Our finite minds are incapable of understanding fully what time is, but this much is perfectly clear to our reason. Time is a measurable quantity, it may be termed a flowing magnitude, and only as *one* such magnitude is it conceivable. A distinct and separate flow of time in each of the myriad localities throughout the Universe is perfectly inconceivable. If time be anything it is a *unity* and not a *plurality*. The cardinal principle of Cosmic Time is *unity*, and with *unity* as a fundamental idea of time it must be held that the Cosmic system is the only sound principle of reckoning, and that as the area of civilization broadens, it must in the end be recognized as applicable everywhere and for all purposes.

The conclusions of the International Conference are fruitful of results of high importance. They may be said to point to the opening of a new chapter in the world's annals. They make provision for a complete cessation of ambiguity in hours and dates. By Cosmic Time all events whatsoever will be systematically arranged according to their proper chronological order. The calendar days the world over will begin at the one initial instant, and clocks will strike the same hour at the same moment in all longitudes.

But the new system can only be gradually introduced. The majority of mankind have firmly fixed ideas with regard to the passage of the day and the numbers of the hours by which their social habits are regulated. A proposal suddenly to change the old familiar succession of the hours will be misunderstood. The influence of custom is always powerful under any aspect. It is anticipated that this influence will be the one serious obstacle to be overcome. The belief, however, may be permitted that the change will be rendered easy when men understand that the numbers of such hours have been arbitrarily chosen; that there is no necessary connection between them and the position of the sun in relation to the earth in its daily rotation, and that whatever numbers may distinguish the twenty-four divisions of the day, the recurring phenomena of light and darkness will always regulate sleeping, waking, eating, and working, and all the routine of life in every locality. Noon has heretofore been