

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Tuesday, April 29th, 1890.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and Routine Proceedings.

RECKONING OF TIME BILL.

WITHDRAWN.

HON. MR. DICKEY, from the Committee on Railways Telegraphs and Harbors, reported Bill (Y) "An Act respecting the Reckoning of Time," with a recommendation that owing to the late period of this session the Senator having charge of the Bill be allowed to withdraw it.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—With the permission of the House, I should like to offer a few observations on the Bill. Although this measure only seeks to establish the practice which has been in existence since 1883, yet the subject of standard time is a new one—its discussion is new, and I think it is a very important subject, and that the discussion of it will tend to do good. The mode of reckoning time is uniform over a very wide area. The old mode varied with every few miles of longitude. For example, in the Province of Ontario the old reckoning differed from the new 10 minutes at Kingston, 18 minutes at Toronto, 24 minutes at London and 32 minutes at Windsor. Every one will admit that it would be exceedingly inconvenient to return to the old mode of reckoning time. The establishment of long lines of railway and telegraphs created new conditions in the matter of time reckoning, and it became imperatively necessary to supersede the complicated variety of local time reckoning. Efforts commenced to be made fourteen years ago to meet the new requirements of the age in the matter of time reckoning. International gatherings took place, which culminated in the conference held at Washington in 1884. I will take the liberty of reading a few extracts from a memorandum concerning that conference. It is as follows:—

"This conference was held at Washington in 1884, at which the following nations were represented, by in some cases two, three or four delegates duly appointed:

Austria-Hungary,	Japan,
Brazil,	Siberia,
Chili,	Mexico,
Columbia,	The Netherlands,
Costa Rica,	Paraguay,

France,
Germany,
Great Britain,
Guatemala,
Hawaii,
Italy,

Russia,
San Domingo,
Turkey,
Venezuela,
The United States,
San Salvador.

"The conference deliberated for a month, and with great unanimity, passed resolutions recommending the leading principle upon which a common time-reckoning for the whole world is based.

"WHAT IS STANDARD TIME.

"The system of reckoning time which came into use in Canada and the United States six years ago has been designated Standard Time. It is in complete harmony with the resolutions of the Washington conference. The initial standard is the meridian passing through the observatory at Greenwich and the reckoning is practically the same as civil time at Greenwich. To-day the pendulum everywhere in Canada beats with the pendulum in Great Britain, the minutes are simultaneous. When the clock of the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich strikes an hour, every well regulated clock on this side of the Atlantic strikes at the same moment. There is but one exception to complete agreement, and that is in the numbers by which the hours are distinguished.

"HOW ARE THE HOURS NUMBERED.

"The meridians which are the multiple of 15 degrees from the Greenwich meridian are selected as sub-standards for our meridian. By these sub-standards the hours are numbered as following:—

Hour Meridian.	
60 degrees W. deduct from Greenwich time	4 hours
75 degrees W. " " "	5 hours
90 degrees W. " " "	6 hours
105 degrees W. " " "	7 hours
120 degrees W. " " "	8 hours

"By the simple expedient the number of the hours by the new reckoning approximate the numbers with which habit has familiarized our mind, and thus without any apparent great departure from old usages the whole community has accepted the new system. There must necessarily be an arbitrary time between districts using a common number; this line may be midway or indeed anywhere between the hour meridian. The principle of the system is in no way affected by the position of the dividing line. It has been found convenient in most places in Canada and the United States to adopt geographical boundaries, such as the boundaries of States or Provinces as the limits of hour districts.

"The Bill before Parliament defines the hour districts by Provinces, and clause 5 provides for any changes in this respect which the people may desire."

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I rise to a question of order. There is no motion before the House which has entitled the hon. gentleman to read such a lengthy statement as he is making before the House. The committee have reported on the Bill, and there is no motion respecting it. I would not have risen to a point of order had it not been for the fact that the other day I thought the hon. gentleman's remarks were not only inaccurate, but very vague. I rose to ask a question of some other hon. gentleman, and I was stopped by the order of the House, saying that I had spoken before. I gave the hon.