

United States of North America, have come to an understanding, and in other countries, such as Germany and Italy, the like result may be looked for, as the same Meridian is already there legally introduced in the preparation of the Hydrographic Charts. Possibly France, out of national feeling, may for some time appear as holding back. Eventually, however, it may be looked for, that regard for the common good, and for the actual interests of its own navigation, may cause the Government of that country to make the unification complete. We may, therefore, regard the chief object of the Washington Conference, namely, the establishment of the First Meridian, from which all the remaining questions are more or less natural consequences, as satisfactorily solved.

Possibly the introduction of Universal Time may experience greater difficulties in the administration of commercial institutions, as this innovation will act upon a numerous class of people, and awaken new ideas on questions with which they have had little occasion to make themselves familiar. In the meantime, according to the opinion of men capable of appreciating these difficulties, at least in Russia, where there is great extent in Longitude, besides where the ideas over the differences of Time Notation are more complicated than elsewhere, they are less important than at the first glance they would appear to be. It is to be expected that at the present time the constantly repeated Congresses on Railway, Post and Telegraph Administration will soon occupy themselves with this matter, and sustained by the authority of the Washington Congress, will call into practice the Resolutions in this respect which were passed there.

Much earnest reflection, on the other hand, must be given to the desire expressed at the meeting, that Astronomical Time Reckoning should be brought in accord with the commencement of the day in civil life.

In this matter astronomers have not simply to abandon a custom of long standing, and consequently to make conditional changes of practice established for many years, but at the same time astronomical chronology is disturbed, which it is easily understood, must exercise a marked effect on the comprehension of all problems bearing upon motion. Without doubt, the astronomer must make a great sacrifice for the fulfilment of this desire; but in reality this sacrifice is not greater than that entailed on our forefathers, when they passed from the Julian to the Gregorian Notation of Time, or when they altered the commencement of the year: a sacrifice of convenience, by which we yet suffer when it becomes necessary to refer to phenomena of remote dates. At this period we must the less stand in fear of a like sacrifice, when by such means an acknowledged existing non-accord between science and ordinary life can be set aside: a non-accord which it is true in individual cases does not press heavily on the astronomer, but which is a constant source of inconvenience for non-professional