

In the year that has since elapsed this Government has received from most of those in diplomatic relations with the United States the approval of the project, while many have in terms signified their acceptance and even named their delegates.

Besides this generally favorable reception of the suggestion so put forth, interest in the proposed reform has been shown by the Geographical Conference held at Rome in October last, which very decisively expressed its opinion in favor of the adoption of the Meridian of Greenwich as the common zero of time longitude, and adjourned, leaving the discussion and final adoption of this or other equivalent unit, and the framing of practical rules for such adoption, to the International Conference to be held at Washington.

The President therefore thinks the time has come to call the Convention referred to in my instruction of October 23rd, 1882. I am accordingly directed by the President to instruct you to tender to the Government of , through its Minister for Foreign Affairs, an invitation to be represented by one or more delegates, (not exceeding three) to meet delegates from the United States and other nations in an International Conference to be held in the city of Washington on the 1st day of October next, 1884, for the purpose of discussing, and if possible, fixing upon a meridian proper to be employed as a common zero of longitude and standard of time reckoning throughout the globe.

You will seek the earliest convenient occasion to bring this invitation to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of by handing him a copy hereof and requesting that the answer of his Government may be made known to you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

RESOLUTIONS passed by the International Conference, in its several sessions, extending from October 1st to October 22nd, 1884, and confirmed by Final Act October 22nd.

I. "That it is the opinion of this Congress that it is desirable to adopt a single prime meridian for all nations, in place of the multiplicity of initial meridians which now exist."

This resolution was unanimously adopted.

II. "That the Conference proposes to the Governments here represented the adoption of the meridian passing through the centre of the transit instrument at the Observatory of Greenwich as the initial meridian for longitude."

The above resolution was adopted by the following vote:—

In the affirmative:

Austria-Hungary,
Chili,
Colombia,
Costa Rica,
Germany,
Great Britain,
Guatemala,
Hawaii,

Italy,
Japan,
Liberia,
Mexico,
Netherlands,
Paraguay,
Russia,

Salvador,
Spain,
Sweden,
Switzerland,
Turkey,
United States,
Venezuela.