

must equally join in the common satisfaction in the measure of success which has been achieved.

Six years back, when the subject was discussed in this hall, there were probably not a few who viewed the propositions then submitted as merely fanciful theories. Others who did not refuse to recognize their bearing, entertained the feeling that many grave difficulties presented themselves to interfere with any successful attempt to reform or modify usages so ancient as the computation of time. But the Institute, as a body, was hopeful. The action taken by the Council to extend the field of discussion and awaken the attention of foreign communities, evinced confidence, and we may now ask, was this confidence justified? What are the facts to-day? Twelve months have passed since an important change in the notation of Railway Time was made with general approval throughout the length and breadth of North America, a revolution in the usages of sixty millions of people has been silently effected and with scarcely a trace that it has happened. A proceeding which has been followed by events of equal importance. On the 1st of October last a body of accredited delegates from the different nations, on the invitation of the President of the United States, met in conference to consider the problem first submitted to the world by this Institute. The delegates were the representatives of twenty-five (25) civilized nations. The conference continued during the whole month of October, and, as a body, they came to conclusions affecting all peoples living under our theories of civilization.

It was early understood that a determination with respect to Universal Time was not possible without the general recognition of an initial meridian. Hence the importance attached to its choice, that it should be universally accepted.

For many years attempts have been made to effect the establishment of an initial meridian recognized in common by all nations, but every attempt hitherto had proved completely unsuccessful. It is therefore the greater cause for congratulation, that the efforts of the Washington conference have succeeded in its determination.

The discussions of the conference were long, and being carried on in different languages, could not have been of equal interest to all present. Translations became necessary, so that all the delegates might equally understand the propositions which were daily submitted. This necessary course prolonged the sessions and multiplied