

A very small percentage take an unfavorable view or propose modifications of the scheme submitted. The large majority are decidedly in favor of reform without delay. Much valuable information has been brought out which the Committee recommend should be printed.

It will be seen from the character of the replies received that a remarkable unanimity of opinion prevails in every section of the country heard from.

The Committee feel warranted in reporting that judging from the replies received there is a strong general feeling in favor of establishing a comprehensive system of Standard Time on the basis of the scheme set forth in the papers submitted. That an emphatic opinion has been expressed in favor of having four main standard meridians for the continent, distinguished as Q, R, S, and T, or by such geographical names as may hereafter be adopted and that a large majority of opinions expressed are in favor of numbering the hours in each day from 1 to 24 consecutively.

The opinion has also been generally expressed that while our time system should be in harmony with that of other nations, the necessity for reform on this continent is so urgent that we should not wait for other nations to move in the matter. That we should as soon as practicable inaugurate a system, the primary object of which would be to meet our own requirements. But that in taking the initiative we should by all means adopt a system capable of extension to the whole globe, and that we should to some extent give other nations an opportunity of co-operating with us.

The committee accordingly recommend that steps be taken to obtain the establishment of a zero meridian which would be common to all nations for reckoning time and longitude, and that concurrence with this measure be sought from as many nationalities as may be induced to assist in this determination.

That efforts be made to lead to the acceptance of this course on the other Continents to the fullest extent.

That failing in this effort the people of the Western Continent determine a zero meridian for their own use and guidance and especially with the view of establishing a system of Standard Time.

SANDFORD FLEMING,
Chairman of Special Committee.

WASHINGTON, 17 May, 1882.

RESOLUTIONS

Passed by the American Society of Civil Engineers, at the Washington Convention, May 17, 1882.

Motion by Mr. J. B. Francis, C. E. }
Seconded by Mr. F. Collingwood, C. E. }

Resolved, That this meeting entirely concurs in the recommendations contained in the report submitted and that the Committee be requested and is hereby authorized to continue their efforts to effect the objects set forth, and also to petition the Congress of the United States to take the necessary steps to have a prime or zero meridian established.

JOHN BOGART,
Secretary.