

which gives official announcement of the fact that the 24-hour notation has recently come into use on all the railways throughout the Indian Empire, and that this result is partly in consequence of the satisfactory trial of the new system on some of the lines during the past few years.

The Committee has received the strongest assurances from all quarters that wherever the new notation has been adopted in the working of railways, it continues to give increased satisfaction. Experience has shown that the change can be effected with great ease, absolute safety and without creating any disturbing influence in any direction. When your Committee reported a year ago, the 24-hour notation was then in use on less than 4 000 miles of railway. It has now been permanently adopted on an aggregate length exceeding 20 000 miles.

The time-reform movement has for some years attracted much attention in Austria, Hungary, Germany, Italy, France and Belgium, and there is every prospect of the principle of Standard Time being adopted throughout Central Europe at an early day.

An official correspondence has been placed in the possession of the Committee which establishes that the British Government has taken steps which will tend to promote the general adoption of Standard Time and the 24-hour notation in all the British possessions. This correspondence can scarcely fail to be of interest to every member of this Society, inasmuch as we learn by it that the reform in time-reckoning which the American Society of Civil Engineers has taken a leading part in bringing to its present satisfactory condition, meets with the approval and hearty recommendation of the highest scientific authorities in the service of the British Government. The committee in England which has so favorably reported on the universal adoption of Standard Time and the 24-hour notation, consists of the Astronomer Royal, the Superintendent of the Nautical Almanac, the Hydrographer to the Admiralty, and the Secretary of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, together with Professor Adams and General Strachey, both of whom were delegates at the Washington Conference of 1884.

A memorandum, prepared by a member of the Special Committee on Uniform Standard Time, setting forth the principles of time-reckoning long advocated by this Society, has been endorsed by these distinguished men, and recently has been sent by the British Government to the governments of all the British possessions around the globe, with a view to the adoption of Standard Time generally and of the 24-hour notation for railway time-tables. The railway companies of England, Ireland and Scotland have likewise been recommended to adopt the 24-hour notation. A copy of this document with its accompanying map is appended hereto. (See Appendix No. 3.)

In concluding this report, the Committee feels that it is not out of place to remark that, as the Members of this Society have in an important manner been associated with the construction of the great artificial