

These opinions have taken root in North America. For about a year, especially by the impulse given by the administrations of railways, the United States and Canada, not through force of law, but by common arrangement of those interested, have been divided into six divisions, within the boundaries of which the time notation of ordinary life, although in a strict sense answering only to the middle Longitude of the Time-division, is taken as a constant, which in the successive time-divisions each differs from the other a full hour. According to the communications of the delegate of the United States, Mr. W. F. Allen, this arrangement has been accepted by not less than 85 *per cent.* of the cities of the United States containing 10,000 inhabitants, and 80 *per cent.* of the administrations of railways affected. For this period no practical difficulties have been reported even in those places where the true Time of the place differs half an hour from the Division-time introduced. But that some necessary difficulties must be experienced by this arrangement in actual civic life is proved by the observation that within these Time-divisions where at the boundaries there is a clear round hour where one can differ from the other, certain every-day occupations, for example, the hours of labour of the day-labourer with regard to the same use of day light must be established in a different manner with regard to each other, according as the spot under consideration lies to the east or western boundary of the Division. How this mode of proceeding is regarded by the inhabitants of the prairie-land the report in no way informs us. It would, however, be a matter of surprise if serious complications did not arise. For instance, village communities, which are only a couple of kilometres apart [1 2-5th miles] or are yet nearer neighbours, must make use of Time notations which differ an entire hour. So it forces itself on our attention that in a community of countries of which Europe consists, in which individual states, apart from their geographical position, gravitate to one side more than the other in their commercial, industrial, or political relationship, that by the adoption of similar proceedings they would be subjected to embarrassments perfectly unsupportable. Nevertheless, the attempt made in America is full of interest and instruction, and by the favourable result which it is said the first year has effected, it becomes a matter for serious reflection that this method of Time reckoning has been fully naturalized in the United States, and perhaps will be accepted by other countries. The same principle is also applied and has also been long in use in Great Britain, of which the isolated position and scarcely an extent of 30 minutes in longitude have greatly facilitated its introduction. In any case the further extension of the principle is yet in the category of experiments, and for this reason the Washington Conference did not recognize that it was in a position to offer a resolution on the subject, or even to enter into its discussion in detail.

It might be remarked that the method adopted for the period of dating the Universal Day accepted by the Conference, would not