

1884  
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BUFFALO CONVENTION  
OF THE  
American Society of Civil Engineers.

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THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STANDARD TIME

REPORT:

The Committee beg leave to refer to the Report submitted at the Annual Meeting of the Society, held at New York, on the 16th January last, in which they set forth the various steps taken by the Society, in promoting the proper regulation of Time, and the adoption of Time Standards.

The Committee referred with much satisfaction to the fact that the Railway authorities generally had determined to adopt one of the reforms advocated by the Society, and that on the 18th November last, trains commenced to run throughout the United States and Canada, by Hour Standards, and that the public, with singular unanimity, accepted the change, which they now universally recognize as a great public boon.

In the documents widely circulated two years ago by the Committee under the authority of the Society, a series of questions bearing on the whole subject, were submitted to men in prominent positions in the Railway world, including Engineers, Traffic Managers and known Scientists in every State in the Union, and in every Province in Canada. To these questions the Committee invited replies, and among the large number of replies received, the Committee had an emphatic expression of opinion from many persons with respect to the division of the day into hours. Ninety-two (92) per cent. of those heard from, gave their unqualified support to the proposal, to abandon the old traditional division of the day into halves of twelve (12) hours each, and to adopt a single series of hours from midnight to midnight, numbered from one to twenty-four (1 to 24.)

A list of gentlemen who have carefully examined this branch of the subject and who in their replies referred to, have given opinions decidedly in favor of the proposed change, is appended to this Report.

It is proposed to adapt clocks and watches now in use to the change, by having inscribed on the existing dials the new numbers of