

on the ground of common utility and their conformability to the requirements of the case.

In Rome, namely, it was proposed that the Longitudes departing from the custom observed, should be numbered around the whole earth from West to East, and this proposition was there accepted without further discussion; so that nothing definite is known concerning the reasons on which this resolution was founded. In Washington, on the other hand, this question was fully discussed. It was there expressly and forcibly urged that the resolution adopted at Rome was fraught with mischief for Cartography, that a departure from the numbering in use $\pm 180^\circ$ from the Initial Meridian, in no way offered any scientific advantage, and that the numbering of Longitude to 360° —the 24 hours of the ultimately asked-for change of Civic Time into proposed Universal Time—from want of practice, would cause great difficulties and complications. It resulted accordingly that the maintenance of the system in use, found no special effective opposition from any side.

It was different with regard to the question whether Universal Time should commence with Greenwich, mid-day or mid-night. This question in Rome, as in Washington, was discussed in detail. At Rome the preference was given to mid-day, as thereby the interests of astronomers and navigators were especially brought into prominence. At Washington, on the other hand, the seamen who were present at the Congress maintained that the new principle was of no actual importance for men of their calling, a view which was held also by the Russian naval men.

It was also mentioned that already in the United States Marine it was a common practice as in ordinary civic life to count the commencement of the day from midnight. Consequently the argument came with greater weight in the Washington Congress that the translation of the commencement of the Universal Day to Greenwich mid-day would cause considerable disturbance to Trade and Commerce in the most populous territories of the world; while at these places during the most important business hours, in the period approaching mid-day, a double set of dates must come into use. In the presence of an argument of this character, the interests of the astronomer, which alone must suffer from the determination must naturally be placed in the background. So, as above remarked, the resolution to take mid-night at Greenwich as the commencement of the Universal Day was carried by a two-thirds majority, 7 countries abstaining from voting, 2 voting negatively.

During the discussions on the Universal day an opportunity was given to Mr. Sandford Fleming to submit his generally well-known opinions as to the form in which the common acceptance of Universal Time can take the place of the ordinary time affecting civil life which in each particular place depends on the rising and setting of the sun.