

3. The subject has been carefully considered by many individuals and by scientific societies in Europe and America. It has been discussed at Geographical and Geodetic Congresses at Venice and Rome; and at conventions of scientists and practical business men in America. On all these occasions the solution of the problem has been promoted. As an outcome of these various meetings and efforts, the President of the United States, under the authority of an Act of Congress, invited the governments of all civilized nations to appoint delegates to meet in conference at Washington to consider the whole question and take decisive action in respect thereto.

4. The Washington Conference embraced delegates from twenty-five nations, they had eight sessions, the first was held on 1st October, 1884, the last on 1st November following. After patient deliberation and discussion the object of this International Conference was accomplished by the passage, with substantial unanimity, of a series of resolutions determining the principles upon which all the nations of the world may unite in the adoption of a universal system of reckoning time.

5. The important results of the Conference are the establishment of (1) a prime meridian for reckoning longitude, (2) a zero for time reckoning, and (3) a unit-measure of time to be common to the whole world.

6. The prime-meridian corresponds with the Greenwich meridian.

7. The zero of time may be defined as the moment of mean solar passage on the anti-prime meridian.

8. The unit-measure of time, designated the universal day, may be defined as the interval between two successive mean solar passages on the anti-prime meridian.

9. The Conference further determined that the hours of the Universal day shall be counted in a single series from zero to 24.

10. The Universal day as defined by the Washington Conference begins and ends at the same moment as the civil day at Greenwich, but it differs from the Greenwich civil day in respect to the numbering of the hours. While the Universal day has a single set of hours numbered from 0 to 24, the Greenwich civil day is divided at noon into halves, the half days before and after noon being sub-divided into separate sets of hours each numbered from 0 to 12 and distinguished as Ante-meridian and Post-meridian. Greenwich time is the local time so-called of the meridian of Greenwich. Universal time, on the other hand, is understood to be common to all localities and the Universal day is held to be the date of the world.

11. Considerable progress has been made in the adoption of the principles of universal time and the practical success which has attended the application of these principles goes to show that the unification of reckoning by the several nations can best be effected step by step.

RECKONING BY HOUR MERIDIANS.

12. The first important step is the adoption of the "Hour Zone System," commonly designated in America "Standard Time." It may be stated, that in the theory of universal time the fundamental principle is unity, it is held that there is not more than one time in the whole universe and that the idea of separate and distinct times in each separate locality is incorrect. While the essential principle of universal time is indisputable it cannot be denied that a perfectly uniform notation of time throughout the entire globe comes