

some means be taken to establish an absolute uniformity of time throughout North America.

Mr. Sandford Fleming, by whom the Intercolonial Railway of Canada was constructed, and who is now Engineer-in-Chief of the railway in process of construction to the Pacific, has had his attention directed to the inconveniences, confusion, and complications in time-reckoning, which are threatened by the rapid extension of the railway works under his charge, and he has suggested a practical solution of the difficulties which he foresees.

The question is likewise of general scientific interest ; and its solution is of value far beyond Canada, for it involves a question in which all civilized people are concerned. If uniformity be desirable in Canada and the United States, may it not be equally important to employ it throughout the whole world ? Does it not therefore become desirable to seek the co-operation of men of science in other countries, and if possible gain general concurrence in any scheme which may be proposed ?

At the instance of His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada, the subject was brought under the notice of the Royal Society, of England. That distinguished scientific body has recently forwarded a communication to His Excellency, of which the following is an extract :—

“The President and Council of the Royal Society, have taken into consideration the proposals of Mr. Sandford Fleming, relative to time-reckoning and to the establishment of a Prime Meridian, which were forwarded by the Council of the Canadian Institute, with a memorial to His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada.”

“The proposal consists of two parts. (1) The establishment of a system of Cosmopolitan time, with plans for the ready passage from this to approximate local time. (2) The choice of a Prime Meridian which should be common to all nations.”

“The convenience of a system of time-reckoning, which should be common to all the earth, is easily seen, while at the same time it is obvious that if such a reckoning be at all generally used, there must be means of readily passing from it to local time, which is intimately bound up with the daily business of