

consideration of the conditions necessary to satisfy a neutral Meridian. For to be of importance as a First Meridian among others, and in order to admit of no ambiguity it must contain in itself a departure from the principle of neutrality by the determination of its position of Longitude through an observatory in the neighbourhood to be designated authoritatively.

The idea of selection on grounds of neutrality was therefore set aside by a great majority. The remark of M. Jansson, on the occasion of the discussion of this subject must be recognized as most just. Namely, that the Meridian of Ferro, introduced at the commencement of the 18th century, through De L'Isle, and subsequently brought into common use, lying 20° to the west of that of Paris, by that fact furnished a marked objection to its selection as the common First Meridian, for from this circumstance it had become purely a French Meridian, and thus, to the great disadvantage of all geography, the Meridian of Ferro had lost its international or neutral character.

After the theory of a neutral Meridian was set aside, the grounds on which Greenwich as the starting point of longitude was advocated, came into prominence with their fullest force, and the choice of it as the initial Meridian, followed almost with unanimity, France and Brazil as advocates of the neutrality principle, abstained from voting, and only the representative of San Domingo, M. de Galvan, voted positively against Greenwich. The latter, however, added that his negative vote must only be taken as an expression of his sympathy with the principle of neutrality.

The three succeeding Resolutions, the numbering of Longitudes with different signs, East and West from Greenwich; the acceptance of an Universal Day for special purposes; and the accord of this Universal Day with the Time Reckoning of civil life under the First Meridian, were in their essence internally connected one with the other. The discussion in the Conference accordingly was directed at the same time equally to the three Resolutions, although the vote upon them was given on each proposition separately. It is a matter worthy of attention, that the second, which set forth the main principle, was the only one which obtained an almost unanimous vote, while for the two others many countries abstained from voting, some of the smaller territories even voting negatively. An explanation of this manifestation is found in the fact that a great number of the Delegates were not provided with special instructions in regard to particular questions, but had only received as a rule of conduct that they should hold to the Resolutions of the Congress at Rome, which in these two particular points had decided in the opposite direction. These Delegates evidently did not feel themselves at liberty to depart from what had been laid down at Rome, even when their own personal views in the course of the discussions at Washington rather inclined them to the prevailing direction of the Resolutions there brought forward,