

or initial meridian for reckoning cosmopolitan time.

3. The time zero to coincide with the prime meridian to be common to all nations for computing longitude.

4. The several (24) standard meridians to be designated by names or by letters of the alphabet or by numbers or by degrees of longitude, numbering from the prime meridian westerly.

5. The prime meridian or zero for time and longitude to pass near Behring strait 180° from Greenwich.

6. The division of the day into two halves of twelve hours each to be discouraged and the preference given to a single series numbered from one to twenty-four hours in the cosmopolitan day or period of time between two successive passages of the sun over the prime meridian, the single division (1 to 24) to be made absolute.

Resolved, That the Councils of the American Meteorological Society and the Canadian Institute are hereby requested jointly to bring the subject under the notice of the Governments of the United States and Canada, and through these respective Governments, to invite the concurrence of the civilized nations of the earth to the adoption of a uniform system on the above base.

These resolutions were brought by the American Society before the Signal Department at Washington, and the chief signal officer has agreed to utilize the signal stations throughout the States for the furtherance of the object under certain restrictions, which are as follows:—

1. At any signal service station already established for the benefit of commerce and agriculture, and at which two or more men are necessarily stationed, the chief signal officer will contribute such portion of the time of one man as will be necessary in order to keep in perfect working order the ball-mast, electrical and other apparatus at the station, and will have the ball hoisted daily at the proper time, and the electric connection properly made, provided this does not on the average require more of the time of the man on duty than one-half hour per day.

2. The expense of battery and battery room, and of purchasing, installing, and repairing the apparatus, as also the expense attending the astronomical determination of time, and the necessary telegraphy must be borne by other parties,

and must not in any way be imposed upon the signal service.

3. The chief signal officer will not undertake such co-operation for the benefit of special intervals, nor unless there is satisfactory evidence that the "time signals" will be in charge of such astronomers and institutions as can guarantee a high standard of accuracy, and the uniform maintenance of their part of the time service from year to year.

4. The signal, which usually consists in dropping the "time-ball," must be given automatically by telegraphy from the astronomical observatory, which shall alone be responsible for the accuracy thereof.

5. The chief signal officer will be pleased to publish such reports of the annual reports of the observatories in charge of time-balls as relate to the accuracy of the signals.

6. Without presuming to prescribe, the chief signal officer would suggest that the interest of navigators as well as railroad travelers and of the community at large will probably be best subserved by causing the respective time-balls to be dropped simultaneously throughout large sections of country, and especially at noon of the meridians of 75° , 90° , 105° , or 120° of longitude west of Greenwich, in accordance with the following schedule:—

Atlantic coast time-balls drop at noon on the 75th meridian.

Gulf coast time-balls all drop at noon on the 90th meridian.

Lake coast time-balls all drop at noon on the 90th meridian.

Mississippi coast time-balls all drop at noon on the 90th meridian.

Pacific coast time-balls all drop at noon on the 120th meridian.

Thus, for instance, at Washington the time-ball will be dropped exactly five hours of Greenwich mean time, which will be eight minutes earlier than Washington mean noon, and three minutes later than New York mean noon.

7. The chief signal officer will take action in reference to time-balls at any station so soon as Chambers of Commerce or Observatories or other local organizations communicate their desire to him.

After hearing the above read at the Canadian Institute last Saturday night, on motion of Dr. Wilson, the resolutions adopted by the American Meteorological Society were unanimously adopted, and Mr. Fleming, Prof. London, and Prof.

Carpmael were appointed a committee to communicate with the American Society as to the furtherance of the scheme.

BUSINESS CHANGES FOR APRIL.

Hicks, McNaughton & Co., electro-platers, Fergus, dissolved, Hicks retiring. J. C. Cook, hardware and tins, Haysville, sold out to H. Hunter, W. B. Stewart, paints, &c., Toronto, stock sold by auction. Philip Taylor, jeweler Oshawa and Whitby, sold out Whitby business to Jno. S. Barnard. Jno. Birtch, hardware and tins, Scotland, removed to Otterville: J. F. Hall, hardware, Walkerton, called meeting of creditors, George Elliot, hardware, Palmerston, admitted L. Knott into partnership, style now Elliot & Knott; Geo. Kiff, tins, Kingston, advertised to sell out by auction; A. J. Smith, hardware, Elora, has sold out to Robert Dalby. Roach & Insole, hardware, Hamilton, dissolved partnership, Geo. Roach continues, D. Kerr, hardware, London, assigned in trust, W. R. Walker, Markdale, tins, has removed to Lefroy. Thos. Vaughn, hardware, Plattsville, admitting Geo. Sauer, style, Vaughn & Sauer, C. G. Cobban, photo supplies, Toronto, assigned in trust.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The *Detroit Free Press* having declared that it is very hard to be poor, the *Richmond Baton* considers that there is nothing easier, provided you spend more than you make.

AFTER the 1st of May, the style of the extensive business of Mr. James Smart at Brockville, in stoves, hardware, implements, &c., will be changed to The James Smart Manufacturing Company, Limited.

An offer of composition has been made by Messrs. W. & F. P. Currie & Co., of Montreal. They are ready to pay fifty cents cash, five cents in two years, and five cents in three years, these two last instalments without security. There are fair prospects of their obtaining a general acceptance of this offer.

An English company has bought the patent right of the Rhode Island Horse-shoe Company to manufacture horse-shoes outside of the United States and Canada, for \$425,000. So attractive appears to be the scheme in England that although \$675,000 will be required to start a factory by the 1st of May, the money has been subscribed three times over.

The net profit made by the Starr Manufacturing Company of Halifax, N. S. last year is stated to be \$45,000, certainly a good dividend on a capital of \$227,000. The sum of \$5,000 was placed to the account of the contingent fund, a dividend of 15 per cent. declared, and \$3,000 voted to the directors as a remuneration for their services during the past seven years.

A CHICAGO jewelry firm has put up a sign 129 feet long and 512 feet wide, which consumed 4,000 feet of lumber, \$400 worth of gold, and \$250 worth of metal ornaments, was three months in course of construction, and cost \$2,500. All this, probably, for the sake of having "a bigger thing" or a costlier thing in the shape of a spread-eagle sign board than their neighbors.