

applied to its rate. The Observatory time signals have been distributed as described in my report for last year. The time ball service has been improved by the erection of a new line of covered or insulated wire between the Observatory and the ball. All the time signals have been on the standard of the 75th meridian since Nov. 18th, 1883, when, in consonance with the railroad companies, and at my suggestion, the change was authorised for Montreal by the Mayor and Corporation of the city.

It is a matter of congratulation that the International Conference for fixing upon a meridian to be employed as a common zero of longitude for the world, which met at Washington in October last, has, by an almost unanimous vote, adopted the meridian of the transit instrument at Greenwich. It may also be proper to mention here, that incidental to an agreement that there should be a universal time reckoning, the origin of the day being the midnight of the initial meridian, the Conference recommended that the hours should be counted from zero to 24. This method for reckoning time, both for civil and astronomical purposes, will be adopted in the Greenwich Observatory on January 1st, 1885. I believe that the railroad companies of this continent will also shortly adopt it, and thus entirely remove the possibility of mistaking an afternoon for a forenoon hour, or *vice versa*. The new method of counting the hours is to be adopted in our work here from this date.

The reductions of the observations for the determination of difference of longitude between this Observatory and the Harvard College Observatory have been completed in so far as my observations are concerned. Owing to the unusual pressure of work, Professor Rogers has not been able finally to complete his reductions, but from the preliminary results which he has obtained I feel justified in stating that the resulting longitude of our transit instrument will be within two-tenths of a second of 4 hours, 54 minutes, 18.5 seconds west of Greenwich. The reductions of the observations made by me for the difference of longitude between Montreal and Toronto, and also those made by Mr. G. H. Chandler, M.A., and myself, between