

of the memorandum and of the map which have been printed for the purpose to be sent to the Governors of Her Majesty's Colonies.

The Under Secretary of State

for the Colonies, Colonial Office, S.W.

I am, &c.,

W. D. DONNELLY,

No 1 (b.)

Committee on the Prime Meridian Conference.

Meeting of 25th April, 1890.

Present :—The Astronomer Royal (in the Chair).
The Hydrographer of the Navy.
General Donnelly, C.B.

Resolved—

1. That it is desirable that Mr. Sandford Fleming's Memorandum be forwarded to the Governments of all the Colonies for their consideration, with a view to the adoption of the Hour Zone System in reckoning time generally, and of the 24 hour notation for railway time tables. The Committee desire to express their concurrence in Mr. Sandford Fleming's views as to the advantages which would result from this reform, and the ease with which it could be carried out.

2. That it would be advisable that a similar recommendation should be forwarded to the Indian Government, and that the adoption of the 24 hour notation for railway time tables (which they understand has been adopted on several lines in India) should be recommended to the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom.

No. 1 (c).

MEMORANDUM on the movement for reckoning time on a scientific basis, by which the greatest possible degree of simplicity, accuracy, and uniformity will be obtainable in all countries throughout the world.

1. Notwithstanding the great advance which has been made during the present century, in all the Arts and Sciences and their application to the affairs of human life, the reckoning of time is still in a primitive condition in many countries and in an imperfect condition in every country. Difficulties have been developed since the introduction of rapid means of communication, through the twin agencies steam and electricity, which, when examined, prove that time is computed generally on principles which are untenable. The world's time reckoning is, in fact, an exceedingly complicated combination; it is productive of confusion and the confusion is apt to be increased and intensified as population increases and lines of rapid communication are multiplied.

2. During the last ten years efforts have been made to overcome the evils referred to by establishing a remedial system on a sound scientific basis which would be acceptable to all nations and by which perfect accuracy, uniformity and simplicity would everywhere be obtainable.