

business of the congress, after a debate, in some respects often animated, the following eight resolutions were passed :—

I.—That it is the opinion of this congress that it is desirable to adopt a single Prime Meridian for all nations, in place of the multiplicity of initial Meridians which now exist.—[*Unanimously adopted.*]

II.—That the conference proposes to the governments here represented the adoption of the Meridian passing through the centre of the transit instrument at the Observatory at Greenwich, as the Initial Meridian for Longitude.—[*Ayes, 23 ; noes, 1 ; abstaining, 2.*]

III.—That from this Meridian Longitude shall be counted in two directions up to 180 degrees, East Longitude being *plus* and West Longitude *minus*.—[*Ayes, 14 ; noes, 5 ; abstaining 1.*]

IV.—That the Conference proposes the adoption of a Universal day for all purposes for which it may be found convenient, and which shall not interfere with the use of local or other Standard Time where desirable.—[*Ayes, 23 ; abstaining, 2.*]

V.—That this Universal day is to be a mean Solar day ; is to begin for all the world at the moment of mean midnight of the initial meridian, coinciding with the beginning of the civil day and date of that Meridian, and is to be counted from zero up to twenty-four hours.—[*Ayes, 15 ; noes, 2 ; abstaining, 7.*]

VI.—That the Conference expresses the hope that as soon as may be practicable the astronomical and nautical days will be arranged everywhere to begin at mean midnight.—[*Carried without division.*]

VII.—That the Conference expresses the hope that the technical studies designed to regulate and extend the application of the decimal system to the division of Angular Space and of Time shall be resumed so as to permit the extension of this application to all cases in which it presents real advantages.—[*Ayes, 21 ; abstaining, 3.*]

VIII.—That a copy of the Resolutions passed by this Conference shall be communicated to the Government of the United States of America, at whose instance and within whose territory the Conference has been convened.—[*Adopted unanimously.*]

The first Resolution was manifestly purely formal. It merely stated the end for which the Congress was called together, somewhat more fully than had been done in the invitation. The last resolution is also of the same character, a formal conclusion of the matters under consideration, as the results looked for will lead to further diplomatic proceeding with regard to the resolutions adopted.

We beg leave to enter here into some further discussion with regard to the other six resolutions.

During the discussion on the choice of the First Meridian the French delegates made the proposition that in place of passing through a specified observatory, the choice should, if possible, be made of an entirely neutral Meridian. Plausible as this proposition appears at the first glance to set aside all national jealousies, so the very definition of what was meant by an absolute neutral Meridian, at once hit upon serious difficulties. Moreover the proposition appeared even in a more unfavourable light upon closer