

We should like to give a *resumé* of each paper read, but the space at our disposal forbids this. We therefore can notice but a few. Perhaps one of the most important to the general public was that of Mr. Sandford Fleming on "Uniform standard time for railways, telegraphs, and civil purposes generally." He remarked that as the continent extends across 105 degrees of longitude, an individual at the western limit finds himself seven hours of recorded time behind another individual at the extreme eastern side at the same moment of absolute time. According to the system of notation which we have inherited from past centuries, every spot of earth between the Atlantic and the Pacific is entitled to have its own local time. In the whole country there is, so far, an irregular acknowledgment of more than one hundred artificial and arbitrary standards of time. The consequences of this system are unsatisfactory. It is proposed that the community unite in an effort to simplify the system now in use, by reducing the number of time standards to a minimum, by substituting for an indefinite number of irregularly established and purely local standards a few main or, as they may be termed, continental standards, each one having a fixed and well-known relation to all the others. It is proposed to have these standards established and maintained by governmental authority; to have them regulated with precision through a common central observatory; and through these standards it is proposed to keep every town, city, railway and steamboat clock throughout the land as nearly as practicable in perfect agreement. The plan of arrangements favored by the Meteorological Society, New York, and the Canadian Institute, Toronto, is to have the standards so established that they will be exactly one hour apart; that is to say, while it would be nine o'clock at one standard, it would be eight o'clock at the next to the west, seven o'clock at the following, and so on, by steps of exactly one hour. There would be no difference in the minutes and smaller divisions of time. If the time be ten minutes or thirty minutes past some hour at any one point, it would at the same instant in absolute time be ten minutes or thirty minutes past some hour at every point. The hours themselves only would differ, and they would differ only in designation according as the localities were east or west. At the same instant of absolute time every clock in the country would strike either one hour or another; the minute and second hands would always and everywhere be in perfect agreement.

The President of the Society, James B. Francis, Esq., addressed the Convention on Water Power in the United States. He said the earliest application of water power to general manufacturing purposes appears to have been at Patterson, New Jersey, where "The Society for establishing useful manufactures" was formed in the year 1791. Having mentioned a number of water powers which had been systematically developed, such as that at Cohoes, on the Mohawk River, at Lowell, Mass., and Lewiston, Me., he went on to say:—

"In the usual process of developing a large water power, a company is formed who acquire the title to the property, embracing the land necessary for the site of the town to accommodate the population which is sure to gather round an improved water power. The dam and canals or races are constructed, and mill sites with accompanying rights to the use of the water