

APPENDIX No. 1.

51ST CONGRESS,
2D SESSION.

S. 4879.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 16, 1891.

Mr. EVARTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A BILL

Respecting the reckoning of time throughout the United States.

Whereas an act was passed in eighteen hundred and eighty-two to authorize the President of the United States to call an international conference to fix on and recommend for universal adoption a common prime meridian, to be used in the reckoning of longitude and in the regulation of time throughout the world; and

Whereas in pursuance of the said act a conference was held at Washington in eighteen hundred and eighty-four, at which twenty-six nations were represented by delegates duly appointed; and

Whereas the said conference, after prolonged deliberation, with substantial unanimity passed resolutions embodying the principles which should govern in the measurement and notation of time, and recommended the meridian passing through the observatory at Greenwich, England, as a prime meridian for all nations; and

Whereas the "hour meridian system," commonly called standard time, now in general use in the United States, is in accordance with the said resolutions and is based on the said prime meridian as an initial standard and has been found to be much to the advantage of interstate commerce; and

Whereas, since the general adoption throughout the United States of the mode of reckoning known as standard time, doubts have arisen as to the reckoning which has force in law, and it is expedient to remove all such doubts: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That time throughout the United States shall be reckoned in accordance with the hour meridian system, commonly called standard time, and the prime meridian recommended by the Washington International Conference of eighteen hundred and eighty-four shall be the initial standard for reckoning time; and the meridians which are a multiple