SCIENCE:

A WEEKLY RECORD OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

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PUBLISHED AT

229 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

P. O. Box 3838.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1881.

UNIFORM TIME.

The question of the introduction of uniform standard time into daily use, for both popular and scientific purposes, having been examined by the American Metrological Society, the president, Prof. F. A. P. Barnard directs attention to the following considerations, and invites exchange of views upon this subject.

He says "local time," in the astronomical sense of this term, varies with every change of meridian; it can therefore not be conveniently retained by travellers, and transportation and telegraph companies, which adopt whatever meridian may be the most convenient Over seventy such standard meridians are now in use by railroad and other companies throughout the United States and Canada; the larger towns and cities frequently adopt their own special local times, and the smaller ones adopt the railroad times most convenient to them; there are thus now in ordinary use at least 100 local times or meridians, many of them differing but a few minutes from each other.

Professor Barnard believes that a more thorough uniformity of accurate time would be to the daily advantage of all members of the community and all business transactions, and would immensely facilitate the study of certain natural phenomena, such as tornadoes, auroras, earthquakes, meteors, &c., for the observation of which we must depend largely upon those who chance to be favorably located.

It is accordingly proposed that the community unite upon a division of this continent into a few sections, throughout each of which the times adopted by railroad, canal, steamboat and telegraph companies, the city or town clocks and the clock makers, shall all be kept as nearly as possible in agreement with one standard meridian.

The system that especially commends itself for adoption, is that which also has the best prospect of being ultimately adopted by all nations throughout the world. It requires that, for the United States, we should adopt a central meridian in the Mississippi Valley, exactly 90° or six hours west of Greenwich, and proceed to the east or west by steps of exactly one hour each, so that the sectional times would be about as in the following schedule.

We have already given attention to this subject, and in "SCIENCE," Vol. I. p. 13, will be found some excellent suggestions in regard to "Uniform time," by Professor Ormond Stone.

In this article we merely present the views of Professor Barnard, the President of the American Metrological Society, and reserve a fuller consideration of the same for a future occasion. We may state, however, that we are heartily in accord with the object Professor Barnard has in view, and are pleased to find the matter in such able hands.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF STANDARD TIMES.

Geographical Section.	Standard Meridian west of Greenwich.	Standard Time slower than Greenwich.	Standard Time Slower or Faster than True "Local Times."	Designation of Proposed Standard Time.
Newfoundland	60°	H. M. S. 4. 0. 0.	29 minutes slower than St. Johns, N. F.	Eastern Time.
New Brunswick			24 " faster than St. John, N. B.	
Nova Scotia			14 " faster than Halifax, N. S.	
Canada			15 " slower than Quebec	Atlantic Time.
Maine to Florida.	75°	5. 0. 0.	18 " faster than Toronto	
			16 " slower than Boston	
			3 " slower than New York	
			8 " faster than Washington	
Ohio to Alabama.			19 " faster than Charleston	
			45 " faster than Montgomery	
Lower Lakes.			14 " faster than Buffalo	
			30 " faster than Detroit	
			28 " faster than Cincinnati	
Mississippi Valley	90°	6. 0. 0.	0 " faster than New Orleans	Valley Time.
Missouri Valley			1 " faster than St. Louis	
Upper Lakes			12 " faster than St. Paul	
Texas			18 " faster than Kansas City	
			19 " faster than Galveston	
			10 " slower than Chicago	
Rocky Mt. Region	105°	7. 0. 0.	0 " faster than Denver	Mountain Time.
			28 " faster than Salt Lake City	
Pacific States	120°	8. 0. 0.	12 " slower than San Diego	Pacific Time.
British Columbia			10 " faster than San Francisco	
			11 " faster than Olympia	
			12 " faster than Victoria	