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## Standard Time.

Until within the last 25 years each community used its own local time, but as travel became more extensive it was found quite inconvenient to alter one's watch and system of time reckoning for every few miles of travel east and west. Accordingly, late in the year 1883 the United States adopted the present system of standard time. It required months to adjust matters, but this system went into effect on March 13, 1884, since which time this system of standard time has been adopted all over the country. It was necessary to divide the whole country into time belts of approximately 15 degrees in width.

"The "eastern" belt, extending as far west as Buffalo, Pittsburg and a line directly south, uses the time of the seventy-fifth meridian, which is very nearly that of the Atlantic coast cities. Crossing into the "central" belt, watches are set one hour earlier, as the time employed is that of the ninetieth meridian, six hours behind the Greenwich time. Similarly "mountain" time uses the one hundred and fifth meridian, seven hours behind, and the "Pacific" belt adopts the one hundred and twentieth meridian

time, just eight hours slower than that of Greenwich.

Standard time is uniform inside each of these sections, and the time of each section differs from that next to it by exactly one hour. Thus at 12 noon in New York city, the time at Chicago is 11 a. m.; at Denver, 10 a. m., and at San Francisco, 9 a. m.

At present almost every civilized country is using some system of standard time, usually under the control of its own government.

The chief source for standard time in the United States is the naval observatory at Washington, D. C. Here high grade clocks are carefully regulated by observation of the stars at night, and all necessary corrections applied. For five minutes preceding noon of each day, eastern time, the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies suspend all business and throw their lines into connection with the Washington observatory. It is so arranged that the sounders all over the lines make a stroke each second during the five minutes until noon, except the twenty ninth of each minute, the last five seconds of each of the first four minutes and the last 10 seconds of the fifth

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