

après le début du dernier signal horaire. Son objet est de permettre l'application d'un procédé très simple pour évaluer les retards à l'enregistrement.

"La Commission rappelle à tous les organisateurs devant participer à l'Opération des Longitudes de 1933, les incertitudes touchant la propagation des ondes courtes et les met en garde contre l'emploi de signaux horaires sur ondes courtes. Pour les ondes longues, les postes à arc ou à lampes sont à recommander, à l'exclusion des postes à alternateur."

"2. La Commission des Longitudes s'associe au vœu de la Commission de l'Heure, tendant à confier au Bureau international de l'Heure la mission de centraliser les mesures de longitudes qui seront effectuées en octobre-novembre 1933, d'en faire une étude critique et d'en publier les résultats\*.

"Il y aura lieu d'envisager ultérieurement l'attribution au B.I.H. des crédits spéciaux qui lui seront nécessaires pour mener à bien cette tâche. Le concours financier des diverses Unions, du Conseil international des Unions scientifiques, et de tous autres Organismes intéressés à l'entreprise devra être sollicité."

"3. La Commission des Longitudes, après avoir pris connaissance du Rapport rédigé par son Président et son Secrétaire et des conditions dans lesquelles ce Rapport propose que se fasse la prochaine Opération des Longitudes de 1933, en approuve entièrement les termes."

#### *Commission 19. (VARIATION OF LATITUDE.)*

ACTING PRESIDENT: Mr W. D. Lambert.

SECRETARY: Dr J. Schilt.

Mr Lambert stated that the Committee was a mixed one, the members being appointed by the I.A.U. and by the Association de Géodésie and the present session would be considered as a meeting of the entire Committee.

In connection with Dr Kimura's report the chairman recommended the resolution passed by the National Committee of Astronomy in Italy and moved that the Union should be asked to grant a small sum of money for the full publication of Kimura's reductions of the international latitude observations. Mr Bowie suggested that at the present time such action involving expenditure should be delayed. Dr Schlesinger seconded the motion of the chairman and elucidated the Italian proposal. He read a cablegram from Dr Kimura stating the number of pages to be printed and the price. On the basis of these figures it was estimated that the total cost involved would be about five hundred dollars. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Committee adopted the resolution proposed by Mr Lambert and seconded by Dr Schlesinger that in the future the difference of latitude be referred to the mean pole as defined by the observations for the first seven years of the International Latitude Service, that is, from 1900.0 to 1907.0.

The Committee approved the change desired by Dr Kimura with respect to a reduction of the star programme.

The Chairman moved that the absent President be thanked for the important work done, his valuable report, and recommended that the same sum of money as heretofore for the current work be placed at Dr Kimura's disposal. This was adopted.

Mr Bowie reported the re-opening of the Gaithersburg station and the Committee

\* Voir Procès-verbal de la séance de la Commission de l'Heure.

adopted a motion by General Perrier to request the general secretary to convey the congratulations of the Union by sending a copy of the minutes to the secretary of the United States Department of Commerce.

In connection with the work of the Reduced Geodetic Association and Dr Muller's letter, as given in the President's report, Mr Bowie moved that the general secretary of the Union be requested to convey to Dr F. Baeschlin at Zollikon, the thanks of the Committee for the valuable work done by it in completing and publishing the reductions for the period 1912.0 to 1922.7. Seconded and carried unanimously.

*Commission 20. (MINOR PLANETS, COMETS AND SATELLITES.)*

PRESIDENT: Prof. A. O. Leuschner.

SECRETARY: Mr H. E. Wood.

The President extended a welcome to Dr Kopff who was present at the meeting.

No formal report was presented to the Commission for adoption, but on the suggestion of the President the meeting discussed seriatim various proposals which had been brought forward by members of the Commission and which had been circulated.

(1) A proposal, emanating from Belgium, had been made for an improvement of the present plan for the distribution of observations and computations relating to minor planets and comets, with special reference to those which depart considerably from their ephemerides. The President expressed his opinion that the present arrangements, which were following a natural plan of evolution, were quite satisfactory and should be allowed to continue for some time. Dr Kopff agreed that further organization was at present unnecessary. No motion was taken on this proposal.

(2) With reference to the suggestion that there should be a central bureau (or bureaus) under the auspices of the Union to supervise any accepted plan for the co-ordination of observations and computations relating to minor planets and comets, the President said that the discussion on proposal (1) indicated that this was not necessary. He considered that a rigid organization was not desirable unless there was really a definite need for such. He referred to the spontaneous growth of activities covering present needs and mentioned as an example the work being done in the case of comets by Dr Crommelin and members of the British Astronomical Association. He suggested, however, that the formation of a small sub-committee of Commission 20, which would concern itself with the collection of information as to the work being done by various computers bearing on the return of periodic comets, would be of value. Such a committee would keep in touch with individuals interested in such work and would assist in preventing any unnecessary overlapping of effort and the possible neglect of any periodic comet. A motion was carried to the effect that the President of Commission 20 for the ensuing period should be instructed to establish such a committee from the members of the Commission.

(3) It was announced that systematic investigations of the orbits of the recently discovered objects designated as minor planets: Reinmuth 1932 HA and Delporte 1932 EA, were being undertaken at the Astronomisches Rechen-Institut.

(4) The proposals for the establishment of a central bureau (or bureaus) within the Union not having been accepted, the question of financial aid did not arise.