ROYAL SOCHETY OF CANADA

weekly period for the employers' and employees' contributions to provide the best designed pension system for old age.

Then, feeling that the time had arrived to publiely advocate the reform, my book on "The Rational Almanac," was published in 1905.

Since that time increasing interest has been aroused by the advocacy for reform in both Europe and America. The celebrated French astronomer, Camille Flammarion, with others in Germany, etc., have joined with Lord Avebury, Sir Norman Loekyer, Sir Oliver Lodge, Mr. Alex. Philip, and other British advocates, in urging for improvment.

Sir Sandford Fleming, who is so widely known for his valuable experience in the establishment of International "Standard Time" has personally told yon "that the desired change can be effected I have no doubt whatever." Such testimonies commend the subject to your consideration. Now he has pointed out the right course to take.

As investigators have almost unanimously been led to realize the world-wide advantages which would result in everyday convenience to us all if the odd 365th day of the year (beyond the 52 weeks of 7 days) could be calendared without a week-day name to obviate the changing week-day names of dates through successive years, by simply naming "Christmas" or "New Year's" day apart from week-day names; which of the two is best may be left as a matter of detail for an international conference to decide. Similarly the minor question of the proposed fixity of Easter may suitably be left open for the churches to consider as the masses of the people evidence desire for a permanent almanac, bearing mind the main point that the church and Sabbath were made for men, and not men for those worthy institutions.

To fit working weeks into months and quarters is the most important consideration to aim at in almanae reform. Whether that can be best done by three months of 30 days, plus one public holiday as a *dies non* each quarter, or two months of 30 days plus one of 31 days, as Mr. Philip and others have suggested (possibly without the worldwide consideration needed), or whether the thirteen months of four weeks each, as I originally proposed in the years 1896 to 1899, or some other scheme should be adopted, are subject to discussion, and whatever is best should prevail for public convenience.

It is important that we should consider the best methods that have been suggested by persons who have given most thought and investigation to the subject of simplifying our months. As these can be readily grouped under four typical methods, A, B, C, and D, and will be easiest understood in comparative form, the Comparative Table for A, B, C, and D is printed opposite.

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