

WEEKLY COLUMBIAN.

New Westminster, B. C.

February 20, 1901.

THE OCTIMAL SYSTEM.

What Columbian College Professors Say About the New System of Notation.

To the Editor of The Columbian:

Sir: In a recent issue of your valuable paper, the Faculty of Columbian College was referred to in an article, "Mathematical Revolution." For the benefit of your many readers we subjoin a brief statement concerning the new system of notation.

The origin of the system, and its application to many departments of mathematics and science, more especially to the sciences of horology, astronomy and navigation, are the work of Captain Cooper, of this city. The principle of the system was submitted to us some months ago, during which time we have sought to find how widely extended its application might be to all departments where calculations are necessary as well as to ascertain whether any defect could be discovered which would render it an imperfect system of notation. We are now prepared to state that as a system of notation, it is perfect, and that in its application to all forms of calculation it is eminently superior to any system heretofore known to mankind. We have been able, in our developments of the system to discover at every turn, how its adoption will simplify our present methods of mathematical operation, and render significant to the most ordinary intelligence, terms and expressions heretofore almost meaningless or of little practical value. Many of our laborious tasks, especially such as require the use of vulgar fractions, methods of deduction, etc., will be practically discarded, while divisions are now possible with accuracy, which before could only be determined approximately, if at all.

It will be safe to say that not only will the work of ordinary calculation be greatly reduced and simplified, but that many important operations will be brought within the limits of our public schools that now belong to higher mathematics. We think the ease with which such a system can be mastered by the young student, as well as the simplification of laborious methods, will at once be evident from the following:

First.—The multiplication table will be reduced to seven tables.

Second.—By this system, the figures which form any expression will be at once suggested by the naming of the ex-