

measuring the day by two sets of subdivisions, as if they had recently emerged from barbarism and had not yet learned to count higher than twelve. They will find the hands of the various clocks in use pointing in all conceivable directions. They will find at the same moment some men reckoning that they live in different hours, others in different days. Is it not important, then, that an attempt should be made to provide a change for this state of affairs and devise for common use some simple uniform system which all nations may with advantage adopt whenever they may feel inclined to do so.

Should the desirability of some change be admitted, it is important to ascertain what the change should be. A new scheme should be well considered and rendered generally acceptable in the first place, so that whenever the necessity of a change be felt in any country or community, it may be spontaneously adopted; the inhabitants of the place feeling assured that they have selected the system which eventually will become universal. My duty has been simply to attempt to draw attention to the subject, and submit some suggestions for consideration. The subject is one which I feel concerns all countries, although in different degrees, and I shall be gratified if I have in any way assisted in initiating a discussion, which may result ultimately in the production of a matured comprehensive scheme suitable for all lands and advantageous to all mankind.

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The Author's London Address:—Canadian Agency, 31, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.