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The PROPOSED "INTERNATIONAL FIXED CALENDAR" or "YEARAL"

EDITOR'S NOTE.—Readers of former articles by Mr. Cotsworth which have appeared in the *British Columbia Magazine* must have been impressed by the long years of arduous research which he has devoted to studying the origin and methods of almanac-making in many countries. The outcome of the expenditure of his time and money is a scheme to abolish our present clumsy calendar, with its unequal months and changing day names—the undoubted source of loss and worry to every civilized person. The average man does not realize to what extent the present system retards him in both his business and home life. It is a system that was arbitrarily set up 1940 years ago, warped by the pride and arrogance of Roman rulers.

The task of altering the daily customs of so many millions of people of diverse nationalities in relation to their use of calendars is so stupendous that only a man of strong personality, infinite patience, and absolute unselfishness would contemplate it. It may seem premature at the present moment to felicitate Mr. Cotsworth on what he has done, but having been privileged to gather some knowledge of his work and the almost unimaginable difficulties he has surmounted we cannot let the opportunity pass, and we place upon record the fact that British Columbia is most fortunate in being able to claim Mr. Cotsworth as a citizen today, although he began his labors originally in the historic city of York, England. If the international conference of the representatives of the Great Powers, which will meet in the near future as a direct result of his labors, adopts his suggestions, they will benefit us all every day by facilitating business and social convenience.

He undoubtedly is the originator of the "Diet-non" system, by which the "odd (365th) day" is proposed to be appended as an "extra Saturday" in every year and is to be freed from week-day name to avoid the present avoidable trouble all calendars now make by yearly changing week-day names and monthly dates throughout all the 365 days of all years—an Calendar constructors during more than 6,000 years had unsuccessfully striven to avoid.

Upon that discovery, by Mr. Cotsworth in the year 1895, has been founded all the slightly varied proposals since suggested by calendar reformers in all the great nations of the world whose governments are welcoming Mr. Cotsworth's proposals to establish the International year of fixed week-day names for the 364 days each year, and separate the 365th day as the helpful holiday universally needed at the year's end.

Readers will readily grasp his idea, which like all true and lasting reforms is very ample.

Dec. 31st, or the "Shortest Day" ending nature's year, is proposed as a "Diet-non" to be separated from both week-day names and monthly dates. The fifty-two weeks in all the years following 1918 can then easily be divided into thirteen months of four weeks each, like February. The proposed new month can be permanently inserted between June and July, just as easily as the 29th February was inserted as Leap-day between February and March, 1912.

That FIXED dates should be located for Easter and all Festivals, National Holidays, Fairs, &c., was also proposed by Mr. Cotsworth in the year 1895, to relieve all nations from the losses caused by early Easters and the tiresome drifting periods now used for legislative, university, college, school and law terms, which would be far better FIXED to avoid the proclamations and inconveniences now caused by that lack of fixity.

He also furnished convincing reasons why the year 1918 is the most convenient time to make these desirable improvements for future years. The chief reason being that the year then ends with the week, and the change can then be most easily made for the convenience of all.

After he invented the "Diet-non" method, the difficulty was not to draw up the scheme—to one possessing such complete knowledge of the history and mysteries of almanac-making, that was a congenial task—but to overcome the national, historical and religious prejudices of civilized people all over the world. To benefit every human being every day is a noble task, deserving of all the help we can give. We, therefore, asked Mr. Cotsworth to write this article.

It is also interesting to remember that "standard time," which has been a boon to the whole world, had its inception in Canada thirty years ago through Sir Sandford Fleming, K.C.M.G., who after the fullest consideration has endorsed Mr. Cotsworth's proposals as the simplest and most advantageous of all.

The Royal Society of Canada after careful consideration unanimously commended Mr. Cotsworth's proposals as the best, and petitioned the Government of Canada, who have urged the British Government to assemble an International Conference to consider this timely proposal to abandon our changing calendars and almanacs for one Fixed "Yearal."

That is the more appropriate name suggested for the proposed International "Fixed" Almanac which Sir Sandford Fleming reported to the Royal Society, will daily "benefit the great human family throughout all future time."

For the convenience of readers, the connected series of illustrations have been grouped into Fore-plates "B" to "J" preceding the explanatory pages, on which are printed each further pictures as are better interspersed with the type. The End-plates "K" to "W" illustrate the more detailed references to which readers specially interested in such research may refer.

Between the "fore" and "end" plates are printed: 1. Notes re the Evolution of Almanacs and Calendars; 2. The Proposals for Calendar Reform.

References to Encyclopedias and "Rational Almanak" (or "R. A.") will facilitate verifications.