

ties. In 1864, the metric system passed its first law, and it was made permissive in Great Britain, and in 1871, in Canada. The Imperial system established by the Act of 1824, and confirmed by law in 1835 is yet more extensively used than the metric, which is also extensively used in all civilised Europe, and in America, though not so generally as the metric. The metric system is however a great success, and is rapidly becoming more popular, especially in France, Germany, and Italy, and in the universities and technical schools of all the countries which have adopted it. It is now the standard of the decimal metrology, in France, Germany, Italy, and North German Parliament, to say nothing of the Swiss, who passed an act adopting the system in 1862, and declared its use permissive on Jan. 1st, 1864, and compulsory on Jan. 1st, 1870, but compulsory on Jan. 1st, 1872. In France, it was made permissive in the French Colonies, and in the Dominion of Canada. It was at the same time made compulsory in all the countries, having an aggregate population of 140,000,000, viz.: France, Algiers, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the French Colonies, Italy, Papal States, and Co., and Portugal, and Greece, Mexico, Chili, Brazil, and the West Indies, and Guiana, and other South American Republics. It was partially adopted by the following having a population of 180,000,000, viz.: Prussia, Poland, Ireland, Italian Towns, Austria, and British Isles. It was made permissive in the United States, having a population of 95,000,000, and in Britain, United States, Australia, and Prussia, and North Germany. Since this time the metric system has been silently but continually growing in popularity in the greater countries in which it has been merely permissive.

The fact that so many countries have already given up their old system for the metric, and that in one country it is permissive, is one of the most positive and unanswerable

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