ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

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months, which never can, nucler the existing almanae, both begin and end with the week. They always have at least one fraction of a week beyond four weeks, and in nine or ten months out of the twelve there are two portions of weeks to be computed, when adjusting weekly payments with monthly wages.

Those shifting factors so confuse our ideas of a month that few persons can mentally gauge the month, which, beyond the week, is the most used unit of time we are constantly needing. The reason is that the months are unequal and their dates persistently changing their week-day names; whereas, if the "model month" were adopted, the respective week-days would never deviate from the four fixed dates therein assigned to each name. Then we could instantly call to mind the identity of both week-day names and dates for any day in the year, and forgetful people could be sure of the current day of the week and date when it would be so easily shown by a pointer on our watches when Sundays are lettered at the quarter-hour points, and the six week-days in each quarter.

This subject in its practical bearing upon trade, and industrial life and general convenience has engaged my attention during twentyfour years. That accounts for my having been requested to bring the question before you.

ORIGIN OF THE SUGGESTED REFORM.

The world-wide need for reform of the almanac has yearly engrossed me the more its everyday value to us all was ascertained by investigation, travel, discussion, and correspondence during the exceptional opportunities provided by professional work on both sides of the Atlantic, in expert business methods to avoid waste labour.

The waste directly caused by our unequal months was evidenced early during my twenty-five years of statistical work, abstracting the weekly, monthly and yearly earnings, etc., for the railway company carrying the largest tonnage in the world, who are also the largest dock owners in the world.

In non-ler years all the twenty-eight days of February, being repeated during the first twenty-eight days of March, with the same week-day names to the respective dates, made all statistical comparisons easy and exact between these two periods, but then only. The regular weekly sailings of the continental and coasting steamers fitted both periods in the current and preceding non-leap-years.

Everything in earnings and expenditure was then on the same time basis, as, although the preceding year began a day earlier in the week, there were four constant periods of four weeks each. That enabled