

The difference between the 28 days of February and 31 days in January and March, approximates 11 per cent, and renders accurate comparisons impracticable, whilst fair adjustments can only be approximated after elaborate calculations are made. Similar difficulties arise from the disparities between the other months of the year. They cannot be truly compared either with each other, nor with the corresponding months in the preceding years, because their week-day earning times are different. Those differences are developing serious drawbacks in all kinds of statistical work and investigation dependent thereon, such as the growing need for the exact ascertainment of the costs of production per ton or per article, the costs of transportation required by railway, canal and shipping companies, coal, iron, and other mining companies, and manufacturers generally. Banks, insurance companies, medical, city, and government authorities, need more precise comparisons for records of immigration, births, deaths, etc., best obtained each four weeks.

To meet the growing need for accurately apportioning costs of production and comparison, the practice of sub-dividing salaries, wages, etc., into the varying monthly payments proportionate to the number of working days in each month, has rapidly spread through the United States, "because it pays," and for that reason vitally affecting competition, tends to spread through Canada and the world's manufacturing countries, entailing many millions of waste calculations and much inconvenience, all of which will have to be endured under more intensely developing conditions, unless our months are adjusted in the near future to meet the controlling needs of commerce for monthly accounts commensurate with the working week. Neither months of 30 nor 31 days can overcome the inherent difficulty of fitting the inevitable week of seven days into any other month than that of the simple 28 days to adequately meet public convenience, which must dominate all other considerations.

EXISTING ANOMALIES AND INCONVENIENCES

The defects of unequal months changing week-day names for dates trouble everybody. Think of the number of times we want to know what day of the week and month it is, or will be on future dates, the intervals between which are so complicated to calculate by our irregular months. When the Cæsars fixed those months that difficulty was scarcely felt, references were few, and they had neither the week nor Sundays changing day names in the months: but now the weekly Sunday's rest from business has developed special duties and recurring engagements for particular week days, and weekly payments needing better almanac facilities for reference than sufficed when nearly all days were equally available for every purpose, as with the Red Indians.