

and nearly a quarter of a century since it was legalized in Canada. Our Governments have said to the people, "We give you full liberty to use the new and more simple system." But there is no one to show how it is to be done. The more civilized we become, the more bounden we become to each other, the more difficult is it for the few to follow a different line from the multitude in matters having a common relation to each. It becomes necessary, therefore, to organize for the simultaneous accommodation of all affected by such changes of common conventions. So long as we are content with the old, the Legislature is not going to disturb us with the compulsory adoption of any thing new for our benefit. For the Legislatures represent us. The last trade congresses held in Montreal, Canada, and in London, England, for example, revealed a growing anxiety in reference to the matter. English catalogues are beginning to give their quotations in the metric as well as in the old English system, for it is found that foreign buyers being better acquainted with the metric system, order German or French goods at higher prices than the English, because they do not understand the English quotations so readily. In all foreign exporting establishments it is necessary to have clerks understanding and using the two systems. But these business firms are not the people to organize for the general introduction of a change of this kind. They may call for clerks who can do the foreign work as well as the home work. They must accommodate themselves to the conditions they find. Their business is trade, not education. Whose is this work then? Is it not the work of the educators? But the educators cannot well begin by changing the customs in one province or state. The introduction must be simultaneous, probably throughout the whole Empire, at the very least throughout a continent.

I would, therefore, suggest that this Association should appoint a Committee to co-operate with similar Committees which may be appointed by the National Educational Association of the United States, and the highest corresponding organizations in Great Britain and in the more important colonies. The object would be to co-ordinate a movement through the whole English-speaking world to impress on the Education Departments and ultimately on the Governments the advantages of a simultaneous change, and to prepare the people for the same, so that the inconvenience caused would be reduced to a minimum. If the Dominion Parliament, for example, passed an Act this summer making it advantageous to use the metric instead of the old system, the Education Departments of our provinces could have matters so arranged that within one month the whole system could be practically well-known