

and there will be no further need for prolonged comparisons of "standard" bars of metal. The new definition will facilitate accurate linear measurements in many industries. Canada's legal position will not be changed with the introduction of the new standard. Since 1951 the Canadian yard is defined by law as 0.9144 international meter, which makes the inch exactly equal to 25.4 millimeters.

Other Resolutions

A number of other important resolutions were passed during the five sessions of the General Conference. A resolution was adopted ratifying the definition of the second, which was established in 1956 as $1/31,556,925.9747$ of the "tropic" year 1900, the first day of January, 0 to 12 hours. It was also decided that the International Committee should co-operate with other international organizations involved in determining a standard of time based on the transition between two energy levels of an atom or a molecule so that an appropriate resolution could be adopted at the next General Conference.

The Conference also decided to maintain for the time being the Potsdam gravimetric system, but authorized the International Committee to change the system when it considered that the value of this acceleration had been determined with adequate precision. It adopted the name "Système International d'Unités," abbreviated as "SI", for the basic international system of measurement adopted at the Tenth General Conference.

Finally, at its last session, the Conference authorized the International Committee to examine the problems arising from the disparity of 28/millionths existing between the liter and the cubic decimeter, and to negotiate an agreement with the French Government similar to other agreements between France and international organizations respecting a permanent seat in that country for the International Bureau. Reflecting current developments on the world scene, the Conference also invited all newly-formed, independent states to adhere to the Convention.

Canada's representatives were impressed by the degree of amicable co-operation that was evident throughout the deliberations. The scientists present at the Eleventh General Conference appeared extremely happy with its accomplishments, which were considered to be quite substantial. They took time out to give a standing ovation when the resolution of the adoption of a new standard for measuring length was adopted. The historical importance of that moment was obvious to all persons present.