

## THREE GREAT REFORMS—HOW MAY WE HASTEN THEM ?

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One of the special functions of a Dominion Educational Association as compared with simply provincial conventions, is the correlation of movements leading to important reforms, which from their nature can not be carried out or even initiated in one province alone, or in one section of the English-speaking world.

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

One of these is the reform of our weights and measures in order to throw out of the common schools (Elementary, or Public Schools, as you say in Ontario), the compound rules so called. This not only would lessen the tangle of unnecessary Mathematics now forced on young pupils, but it would give time for a more thorough training in accuracy and rapidity in the great mass of computation work more or less necessary to the every day business of life. The Mathematics of the non-decimal scales of notation can be acquired by those who need it, in the High Schools, at an age when the whole can be understood and assimilated in one hundredth part of the time. This would cause a great saving of severe effort on the part of pupils, which could be utilized in some more practically useful way, as every one knows.

But this change in the school work implies necessarily a change in the system of weights and measures used in the whole country, and not only in one province but in every province of the Dominion, and not only here but also necessarily in the British Empire and the United States. If the change could be introduced without much difficulty, every one would say at once, let the change come. The additional simplicity of all common and even uncommon calculations would be a tremendous boon especially to the world of trade and commerce, once the difficulties incident to the act of changing should pass away. Then again the decimal system would put the whole English world of trade and commerce more in touch with the rest of the world, a matter which is becoming so strongly felt in business circles, that not a single great English trade congress is now held without a discussion of the necessity of the change.

It is now thirty-one years since the metric system was legalized in Britain, twenty-nine years since it was legalized in the United States,