UNIFICATION

OF

THE ASTRONOMICAL, CIVIL, AND NAUTICAL DAYS.

Report of the Joint-Committee of The Canadian Institute and The Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto.

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The Joint-Committee, appointed by The Canadian Institute and The Astronomical and Physical Society of Toronto, have the honour to report on that branch of the subject of Time-reckoning specially referred to them.

The unification of the reckoning of the day has long been under consideration. Sir John Herschell, in his "Outlines of Astronomy," alluded to the advantages which would result from bringing into agreement the Civil, the Astronomical, and the Nautical Days. He pointed out that the adoption of the Civil Day for Astronomical purposes would but slightly inconvenience Astronomers, and that in a question which concerns all other classes of men, Astronomers should resolve to act on general principles and cheerfully submit to a small inconvenience in view of the far wider interests which would be benefited. "Uniformity," he said, "in nomenclature and mode of reckoning in all matters relating to time, space, weight, measures, etc., is of such vast and paramount importance in every relation of life as to outweigh every consideration of technical convenience or custom."

The Civil Day begins at midnight and ends at the midnight following. The Astronomical Day begins at noon of the Civil Day and continues until the following noon. The Nautical Day concludes at noon of the Civil Day, having commenced at the preceding noon.

It is obvious that any given date extends over, or into, three different Days. Take for example, Wednesday, June 13th. By Astronomical and Nautical reckonings, only half of this date in each case is on Wednesday ; the first half of June 13, according to Nautical reckoning,