

In League With Old King Sol

Saving the Daylight Has Been Endorsed by Prominent People, Great Corporations, and the British Navy

By WILLIAM WILLETT

A FEW weeks ago Mr. Charles H. Hale wrote an article for the Canadian Courier on "Saving the Daylight." It was a brief story of the progress made in shifting clocks one hour ahead in various parts of this country, especially the West, and in the United States. And it was a compliment to the bill introduced into the British House of Commons, and given a second reading in 1909, known as the Daylight Saving Bill. The bill to save daylight for the benefit of mankind has made considerable progress in the laudable effort to get people to bed and up again earlier, so that in most of the latitudes occupied by civilization the natural light of the sun may be used instead of artificial light, and so that people may have more of the daylight to live by and more of the darkness to sleep by. It has made at least more practical impression on the working part of the world than the movement to universalize the metric system, or to reform spelling, or to spread a simple language common to all people.

In tracing the effect of daylight saving upon Canada and the United States, where several communities have been experimenting with the new timetable, Mr. Hale made a statement to which the apostle of daylight saving, Mr. Wm. Willett, took some exception. Mr. Willett therefore writes to the Courier, somewhat to enlighten Mr. Hale on the daylight problem and also to show that remarkable progress has been made by the measure to save daylight. Mr. Willett's letter follows:

Editor, The Canadian Courier,
Toronto, Canada.

Sir,—While, as the author of this movement, I have found the article published in your issue of the 6th June interesting reading, I ask leave to appeal against the statement that "the movement makes surprisingly slow progress, considering its simplicity," and to show that, not only is the movement making progress in the United Kingdom, but in the over-seas dominions, the continent of Europe, and in all commercial countries throughout the world, where daylight saving during the summer months is practicable.

In favour of the Daylight Saving Bill in Great Britain and Ireland, resolutions have been passed by:

Eighty-six Chambers of Commerce; the Associated Chambers of Commerce; and the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire.

Fifty-nine Trade Unions, representing almost all classes of workers in the United Kingdom.

Four hundred and thirty-eight societies and associations, including the National Chamber of Trade.

Seven hundred and thirty-three city corporations and county, town and district councils, representing more than half the population of the United Kingdom.

The Bill is also supported by leading members of each of the four political parties in the House of Commons. Among them are:

Liberals—Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. D. Lloyd George, Mr. A. Birrell, Mr. T. J. Macnamara, Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, Mr. H. L. Samuel, and Sir Henry Norman. Conservatives—Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. J. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. F. E. Smith, and Admiral Lord Charles Beresford. Labour—Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. W. Crooks, Mr. J. Keir Hardie, Mr. T. Burt, Mr. W. Abraham, and Mr. Philip Snowden. Nationalists—Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. J. Devlin, Mr. W. Redmond, Mr. J. P. Hayden, Mr. S. Gwynn, and Sir Walter Nugent.

LAST autumn I received a letter from the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, informing me that the daylight saving principle was, last summer, introduced throughout one of the Battle Squadrons of the Home Fleet by the Admiral in command. The ordinary clocks on the Squadron were advanced in such a way that all possible use of daylight was made. There was no consciousness of getting up earlier than usual, the customary Fleet routine was not altered, and the experiment was a success.

On the 24th March last, the Home Secretary received a large and influential deputation, consisting of the Lord Mayor of London, and the Lord Mayors, Mayors, or other representatives of Westminster, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, York, and Sheffield,

and well-known representatives of chambers of commerce, chambers of trade, railway companies, banks, manufactories, stores, etc.

The Home Secretary, in the course of his reply to the deputation, said:

"I do not think in my whole experience I have ever had the honour of receiving a deputation with the speakers of which I so entirely concur. Public opinion in the Home Office, I may tell you, is quite ripe for the Bill. We have adopted the

made to return to the old hours it would meet with strong opposition."

In Victoria (Australia) a Parliamentary Select Committee reported in favour of a Daylight Saving bill, and recommended its adoption throughout the Commonwealth, adding that "if the other (Australian) states should not agree to adopt the Bill, the advantages arising from its adoption in this state (Victoria) would so greatly outweigh any disadvantages that it should be passed into law in this state (Victoria), as they were convinced that it would give their industrial population such an advantage that the other states would necessarily have to fall into line.

The Prime Minister of Victoria has expressed, in Parliament, his approval of the Bill, and has stated that he would bring the subject before the next Conference of State Premiers with a view to concerted action by all the states of the Commonwealth.

In New South Wales a Parliamentary Select Committee has been appointed.

A DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL for New Zealand, after having been favourably reported on by a Parliamentary Select Committee, has passed a second reading in the House.

In British Columbia, the Royal Commission on Labour, appointed in 1912, in the report, published last March, say:

"We are in accord with the proposal to take more advantage of the daylight hours at our disposal. Your Commissioners, therefore, recommend that legislation be enacted to advance the Standard Time one hour from existing Pacific Coast time throughout British Columbia, excepting the eastern portions of the Province, where the time in use is already one hour ahead of that at the Coast."

On the 10th inst. a resolution in favour of an international adoption of the principle of "daylight saving" was passed unanimously by the International Congress of Chambers of Commerce at their meeting in Paris, at which nearly every commercial country on the face of the globe was represented. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this pronounced opinion of the World of Commerce, and I submit that not only has as much support as could reasonably be expected been obtained for this movement, but that the volume of that support is now so great that the already dwindling opposition will, before long, be overwhelmed.

WM. WILLETT.

Destroying a Relic

WHEN a cigarette stump got in its work recently under the plank walk of Dufferin Terrace, in Quebec, the most famous promenade in America was more than half destroyed. Dufferin Terrace, on the second heights of Quebec, just below the Citadel and next to the Chateau Frontenac, has become familiar to many thousands. As a popular rendezvous for folk of many sorts, it was a naive compromise between a village street in Quebec and a Parisian boulevard. Once a day in summer weather, just before the bells of nine parish churches clangled vespers over the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles River the young folk of our most picturesque city swirled in from all the streets, except those of Lower Town, about the Sous le Cap. They mingled with hundreds of tourists registered at the Chateau and waited for by long lines of lumbering, quaint caleches. The big hostelry, with the Citadel above it, the Champlain statue at the western end, and the bandstand midway to the Citadel, became a scene of good-humoured and popular bonhomie unknown anywhere else in America.

The plank walk of the promenade was a distinct relic of the wooden age, when Quebec was a place for building wooden ships. It was far better for the soles of mankind than cement or gravel. The absence of flower gardens and playing fountains was never noticed, because the eyes of the pleasure-makers were constantly turned upon the triple drama of great scenery provided by the lordly St. Lawrence, the St. Charles, with the blue-domed Laurentian hills beyond, and the archaic panorama of Lower Town, whose quaint markets and mediaeval churches blended so bewitchingly into the foreground of fishing villages and steamship funnels in the harbour.



TWO CIVIC TIMEPIECES, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT TIME.

On April 23rd, 1914, Regina passed a by-law for putting all clocks forward one hour. In order to remind the public that such a change had been made the post office clock in the background of this picture was left at the old time, while the City Hall clock was advanced one hour.

system for the five months in the year from April to September. The Government cannot take up the Bill as a party measure, but if you will urge your respective members to ballot for this Bill, to get it a good place in the ballot, and consequently an early second reading as a Private Member's Bill, I have little doubt that the movement in support of it has made so much progress in the country that you will be able to secure a majority in the House of Commons in favour of it."

In Cape Town, clocks are 46 minutes in advance of the sun. The beneficial effect of the change is testified to by Lord Gladstone, who confirms the opinion of the late Sir Walter Hely Hutchinson, the former Governor of Cape Colony, who wrote me as follows:

"I can bear testimony to the benefit conferred on the community of Cape Town, especially to employees and to artisans. It gives them three-quarters of an hour daylight extra every day. There were some complaints at the time the change was made, but it was soon recognized that the drawbacks were outweighed by the advantages, and I feel confident that if a proposal were now