

REFORMED CALENDAR

A CALENDAR project which ignores the immutable character of the week has slight chances of being adopted because the week is fixed by religious observance in all christian nations. The calendar here proposed is based on the week as a fundamental unit. It is closely similar to the calendar recently proposed by Dr. C. G. Hopkins, but differs in that it consists of a year of thirteen months, each four weeks in length, instead of Dr. Hopkins's twelve months divided into quarters of three months, each quarter containing two four-week months and one five-week month. Dr. Hopkins's reason for retaining twelve months is that the quarters of the year may be even months, but the value of the quarter year as a unit of time is incomparably less than the value of the month. It is highly desirable to have all the months the same length for the reason that salaries, wages, rent, board and many other ordinary affairs are counted in months. The advantage to be gained by having months of uniform length is one of the most marked advantages to be gained by a reform of the calendar.

In the present project the new month is inserted between June and July. This is the month in which the summer solstice occurs in the northern hemisphere and the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere, hence it may properly be called "Sol"—the month of the solstice.

In the new calendar the quarters are easily found, as each consists of thirteen weeks. The four quarters would end on the following dates: first quarter, April 7; second quarter, Sol 14; third quarter, September 21; fourth quarter, December 28; and these dates would all be Sunday in the new calendar. The present project therefore contains all the advantages of Dr. Hopkins's project, and the additional advantage of having all the months the same length, as well as multiples of the week.

Other advantages of the new calendar are: the year always begins on Monday; every month begins on Monday; the same day of the year always occurs on the same day of

the week; the same is true of the days of the month. Thus, the first, eighth, fifteenth and twenty-second of every month would fall on Monday; the seventh, fourteenth, twenty-first and twenty-eighth of every month would fall on Sunday.

If desired Sunday may as well be taken as the initial day of the week, month and year.

An additional advantage is that a calendar for one year is good for all future time, as the years are all alike in all respects except that every fifth year has an extra week added to December, with exceptions noted below.

The details of the project are as follows:

Common years consist of thirteen months of four weeks each, namely, January, February, March, April, May, June, Sol (the month of the solstice), July, August, September, October, November and December;

Long years differ from common years in having an extra week added to December;

Years divisible by five are long years, with the exceptions noted below:

The extra week is omitted from years divisible by 50. It is also omitted in the year '25 following centennial years divisible by 400, and in the year '75 following centennial years divisible by 25,000. This makes a calendar good for more than 300,000 years.

In order to cause less confusion, this calendar should be adopted in a year that begins on Monday. In the near future these years are 1912, 1917 and 1923.

In order to secure the adoption of a reformed calendar, we must secure the appointment of an international commission with representatives from all civilized nations. It seems to me that our present duty is to begin a serious attempt to secure the appointment of such a commission. Can we not form an organization for this purpose?

W. J. SPILLMAN

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 QUOTATIONS

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM AND THE NATURAL
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DURING the past few weeks we have printed letters from several distinguished correspon-