

on the encouragement of their material development on sound economic, and therefore on scientific, lines.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the action apparently taken may be reconsidered before we allow ourselves, as a colonial power, to be made ridiculous, and as a business people to stand committed to the policy of penny wise and pound foolish.

Unless we learn in time the lessons which this war is enforcing on every side, namely, that the way of prosperity in the future lies in promoting scientific knowledge and in utilizing the results of scientific investigation, it will make but little difference in the long run whether we win the war or not. For we should assuredly lose in the far more serious conflict that is certain to follow it, a conflict in which the claim for superiority will be inexorably decided against any nation which refuses to take full advantage of that knowledge which is power in a sense far more real than ever before.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

RESOLUTIONS in reference to daylight saving were, on May 23, adopted by the American Philosophical Society as follows:

Resolved, That The American Philosophical Society, convened in special meeting for this purpose, memorialize the Congress of the United States urging the early enactment of the identical bills, House No. 2609 and Senate No. 1854, entitled respectively "A bill to save daylight and to provide standard time for the United States."

Resolved, That the members of the American Philosophical Society urge their respective senators and representatives to take early and affirmative action on these bills, and that the society address the President, asking his approval of them.

Resolved, That the members of the American Philosophical Society urge their respective state legislatures to pass resolutions favoring these bills, as the Pennsylvania Legislature has recently done, and that they further urge commercial, financial, agricultural and engineering societies in their respective localities to memorialize Congress for the early enactment of these bills.

Mr. Arthur H. Lea, in moving the adoption of the above resolutions, said in part:

In his *Autobiography*, Benjamin Franklin wrote: "In walking through the Strand and Fleet Street one morning at seven o'clock I observed there was not one shop open, though it had been daylight and the sun up above three hours; the inhabitants

of London chusing voluntarily to live much by candle light, and sleep by sunlight, and yet often complain, a little absurdly, of the duty on candles and the high price of tallow." (Bigelow edition, Philadelphia, 1868, pp. 291-92.)

The founder of this society was the first to present the idea of Daylight Saving, but his suggestion has been neglected for one hundred and fifty years. Men can not and will not individually alter their habits of rising and going to bed, but collectively they can do so with no inconvenience. Traveling eastward or westward we alter our watches one hour at certain places and immediately forget the change and adapt ourselves to the new time. By federal legislation we can do the same and as easily throughout the entire country.

The bills aforesaid would legally establish the standard time zones adopted by the railroads in 1883, which innovation was then recognized as an immense convenience. They would also cover any legal questions by providing that standard time is to govern common carriers, government officers and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, in their acts and legal relations, rights and contracts. Furthermore, after establishing standard time, these bills provide for advancing it in five zones, respectively, by one hour at 2 A.M. on the last Sunday in April of each year, and for retarding it by one hour at 2 A.M. on the last Sunday in September. The only amendment necessary, now that April, 1917, is past, is to provide that for this year the advancement shall take effect at the earliest date, to be specified, after approval of the Act of Congress.

All the belligerent European nations, except Russia, have adopted Daylight Saving as a war measure for efficiency and economy, and adjacent neutral nations, such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Holland, have done likewise. These European nations now follow time standards 6 and 7 hours ahead of ours, and therefore their business day is practically over before ours begins. Stock exchanges in London and Paris now close one hour before our Exchanges open, and the Continental European stock exchanges close two hours before our opening. Stock exchange transactions within the same day would be facilitated by our advancing our time, and the same would be true of ordinary commercial and financial transactions across the ocean.