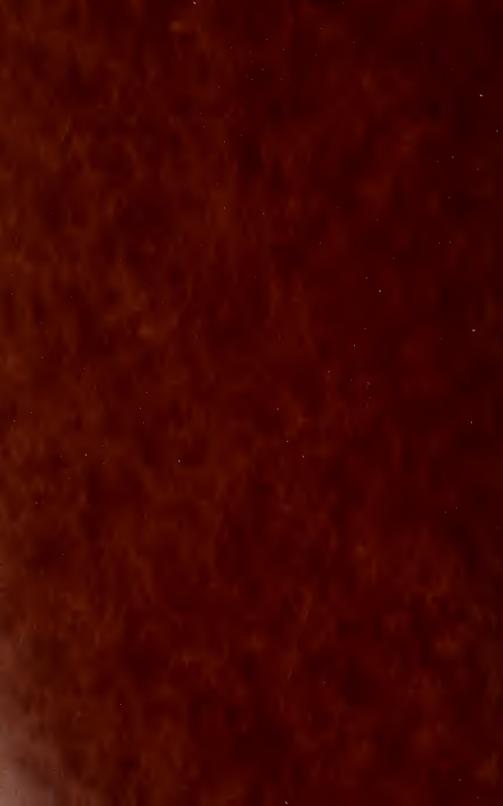
1994







## 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.

#### COMMITTEE:

SANDFORD FLEMING, C.M.G., LL.D., C.E.—Chairman.

ARTHUR HARVEY, ESQ. GEORGE KENNEDY, M.A., LL.D. ALAN MACDOUGALL, M. INST., C.E. CHARLES CARPMAEL, M.A., F.R.A.S. JOHN A. PATERSON, M.A. G. E. LUMSDEN, ESO.

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,

is on Tuesday, June 12, while the second half of the same date, (June 13th), according to Astronomical reckoning, is on Thursday, June 14th, Civil Time.

In this we have the elements of confusion, and it is not surprising that The Washington International Conference of 1884 recommended that the Civil Day should take the place of the Astronomical and Nautical Days for all purposes. The recommendations of the Washington Conference must be held to carry weight, as this assembly comprised representatives of science from twenty-five nations specially called together to consider questions of Time-reckoning. Among them were Astronomers of worldwide fame, as well as men who held high rank as navigators. They were unanimous in the opinion that as soon as practicable the Astronomical and Nautical Days should be arranged everywhere to coincide with the Civil Day.

The Civil Day is the reckoning used by the generality of mankind. It is the exact mean between the Astronomical and Nautical Days, and differs precisely twelve hours from both. To effect a complete coincidence, it is only necessary to shift Astronomical and Nautical Days each twelve hours, and this shifting will bring both to the Civil Day. Many ships have already abandoned Nautical Time and date their logs according to Civil reckoning; all ships would use the one reckoning only, if the Nautical Almanac and Ephemerides generally were arranged for Civil Time. There can be no doubt whatever that the marine of all nations would benefit by the change.

If we consider the subject simply in its relation to the Nautical Almanac and Navigation, the unification of Time-reckoning would simplify the calculations of mariners and reduce the chances of error. One correspondent (Dr. Johnston of McGill University) points out very truly "that the omission of even a single step in an oft-repeated process of calculation has an obvious advantage; when the simplification removes at the same time that most dangerous source of error, an ambiguous expression, it becomes a great gain." He says that the subject resolves itself unto a question of practical utility, viz., what is the greatest good of the greatest number? The Nautical Almanac, as its name implies s for the use primarily of navigators, who are very numerous and yearly, increasing. Compared with the men who guide the floating tonnage of the world, astronomers are extremely few in number, and Astronomers as a class are skilled calculators; moreover, Astronomers can make their calculations under the most favourable circumstances, consequently with the least liability to error, as they are removed from the disturbing influences to which seamen are frequently exposed.

The Joint-Committee considered it important to ascertain how far Astronomers generally would support the proposal which would practically abolish the Astronomical Day. On April 21st, 1893, a Circular was issued to Astronomers of all nations, inviting replies to the following question, viz.: "Is it desirable, all interests considered, that on and after the first day of January, 1901, the Astronomical Day, should everywhere begin at Mean Midnight?" The Circular was sent to every Astronomer whose name appears in the general list of Observatories and Astronomers prepared by Mr. Lancaster, of the Royal Observatory of Brussels, with the following result. 171 replies in all have been received, a complete list of which is appended; of these 108 are in favour and 63 are not in favour of the proposed change. Many of the former are strongly and earnestly in favour of the adoption of the Civil Day for Astronomical purposes. while the writers of some of the latter seem to have been under a misapprehension. They object to the adoption of the Civil Day on the ground that its division into two series of 12 hours, designated A. M. and P. M., would be inconvenient for Astronomers. It is obvious that this objection has no weight, as the 24 Hour-notation would remain associated with Astronomical reckonings as at present; moreover, indications are not wanting that the Astronomical practice of counting the hours in a single series from 1 to 24, will gradually win its way into general favour in civil life. The 24 Hour-notation has already been introduced into use over wide districts in Canada, in the whole of Italy, and throughout the Indian Empire, and there is a movement in Europe, in Australia, as well as in the United States of America, especially among Railway men, to bring this mode of reckoning the hours into general use.

In classifying the replies from Astronomers according to the countries from which they have been received, the votes for or against the change, stand as follows:—

#### IN FAVOUR OF THE CHANGE.

AUSTRIA.	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.
CANADA.	COLOMBIA.	England.
FRANCE.	GREECE.	ITALY.
IRELAND:	JAMAICA.	Madagascar.
MEXICO.	ROUMANIA.	Russia.
SCOTLAND.	SPAIN.	UNITED STATES

### UNFAVOURABLE TO THE CHANGE.

GERMANY.	Holland.
NORWAY,	PORTUGAL.

According to this classification of the Astronomers heard from, those of eighteen countries are in favour, and those of four are against, the adoption of the recommendations of The Washington International Conference of 1884 with respect to the Astronomical and Nautical Days. If we compare the shipping of the countries thus classified, (and the shipping has an important relation to the Nautical Almanac), we find that the first list, that is to say, the countries in favour of adopting the Civil Day for Astronomical purposes, represents  $\frac{17}{20}$ , or 85 per cent., of the tonnage of the world's marine.

Thus it appears that there is a preponderating weight of opinion among Astronomers themselves, that a change should be made in the Astronomical Day. The Joint-Committee, therefore, feel warranted in recommending that the Home Authorities be informed of the facts and that a respectful appeal be made to have the Nautical Almanac adapted to the change, proposed to take effect at the beginning of the coming Century. The Joint-Committee are of opinion that the proper course is to lay before His Excellency the Governor General a respectful Memorial asking His Excellency to bring the whole matter to the attention of the Imperial Government in order that some common international understanding may be reached, by which all nations shall assent to the change; and in order that the Nautical Almanac which has to be prepared four or five years in advance may be made conformable to the change.

All which is respectfully submitted.

### SANDFORD FLEMING.

Chairman,

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

Toronto, 10th May, 1894.

# Replies received to the following Question sent April 21st, 1893, to the Astronomers of all Nations:—

"Is it desirable, all interests considered, that on and after the first day of January, 1901, the Astronomical Day should everywhere begin at Mean Midnight?"

NAME.	Observatory, Etc.	PLACE.	COUNTRY.	Ans.
Abbe, Cleveland	United States Weather Bureau National Astronomical	Washington	United States	Yes.
Anton, Dr. Ferdi-	Observatory	Tacubayo	Mexico	Yes.
nand	Marine Observatory Meteorological Institute	Trieste	Austria Spain	Yes. Yes.
Ashley, Miss Mary	Private Observatory	Bath	England	No.
Auwers, Dr. A	Academy of Science	Berlin	Germany	No.
Backhouse, F. W Bacon, Chas. A Bardwell, Elizabeth.	Private Observatory Smith Observatory Mount Holyoke College	Sunderland Beloit, Wis	England United States	Yes. Yes.
Barnes, Willis S	Observatory Private Observatory	S. Hadley, Mass. Charlestown, Ind.	United States United States	Yes. Yes.
Bauschinger, Dr. J Becker, Prof. Dr. E.	Royal Bogenhausen	Munich, Bavaria. Strasburg	Germany	No. No.
Böe, A. de	University Observatory Private Observatory	Antwerp	Germany Belgium	Yes.
Börgen, Prof. Dr. C. Braun, Dr. Chas	Marine Observatory Kalocsa Observatory	Wilhelmshaven . Kalocsa, Hungary	Germany	Yes. Yes.
Brown, M. V Bruns, Dr. H	McKim Observatory University Observatory	Greencastle, Ind. Leipzig	United States Germany	No.
Burckhalter, Chas.	Chabot Observatory	Oakland, Cal	United States	Yes.
Carpmael, Chas Chambers, G. F	The Observatory Northfield Grange Observa-	Toronto	Canada	Yes.
Chree, Chas	Kew Observatory	Richmond	England England	Yes. Yes.
Christie, W. H. M. Cobb, John N	Royal Observatory	Greenwich Philadelphia	England United States	Yes. Yes.
Colton, A. L	Lick Observatory	Mount Hamilton, Cal	United States	No.
Combe, F. P Comstock, Geo. C	Royal Observatory	Tananarivo Madison, Wis	Madagascar	Yes.
Contarino, Francesco	Washburn Observatory Capo di Monte	Naples	United States Italy	Yes.
Deichmuller, Prof.				
Dr. F Deville, E	University Observatory Surveyor General	Bonn Ottawa	Germany	No. Yes.
Egnitis, D d'Engelhardt, Dr.	Royal Observatory	Athens	Greece	Yes.
Baron	d'Engelhardt Oservatory	Dresden	Germany	No.
Epstein, Dr. Th Esmond, Darwin W.	Private Observatory Geraldine Observatory	Frankfort, A. M. Newburgh, N. Y.	Germany United States	Yes. Yes.
Ewell, Marshall D	Private Observatory	S. Evanston, Ill	United States	Yes.
Fenyi, J	Haynald Observatory Capo di Monte Observatory.	Kalocsa, Hungary Naples	Austria Italy	Yes. No.
Flint, A. L Folie, F	Washburn Observatory	Madison, Wis	United States	No. Yes.
Fulton, Robt. B Fuss, V.	Royal Observatory	Uccle	Belgium United States Russia	Yes. Yes.

NAME.	Observatory, Etc.	PLACE.	Country,	Ans.
Galle, Dr. Andreas	Royal Institute of Geology	Potsdam	Germany	No.
Galle, Dr. J. G	University Observatory	Breslau	Germany	No.
Gaudibert, Č. M	Private Observatory	Vaison	Paris	Yes.
Gautier, R	Geneva Observatory	Geneva	Switzerland	No.
Gedeonow, D	Astro-Physical Observatory.	Tashkend	Russia	Yes.
Geelmuyden, Dr. H.	University Observatory	Christiania	Norway	No.
Giacomelli, Dr. Fr Giovannozzi, Dr. G.	Capitol Observatory Ximenian Observatory	Florence	Italy Italy	Yes. Yes.
Glauser, J	Railway Engineer	Zurich	Switzerland	Yes.
Gogow, Prof. Cons	University Observatory	Bucharest	Roumania	Yes.
Gonzales, José M	Flammarion Observatory	Bogota'	Colombia	Yes.
Gore, J. Ellard	Private Observatory	Bailysodare	Ireland	Yes.
Gruss, Prof. Dr. G	Imperial Observatory	Prague	Bohemia	No.
Hadden, David E	Private Observatory	Alta, Iowa	United States	Yes.
Hall, Maxwell	Government Meteorologist	Montego Bay	Jamaica	Yes.
Hanig, Dr. C	Hamburg Observatory	Hamburg	Germany	No.
Hartwig, Dr. Ernest	C. Rameis Observatory	Bamberg, Bavaria	Germany	No.
Harzer, Prof. Dr. Paul	Ducal Observatory	Gotha	Germany	No.
Hastings, Chas	Yale University Observatory	New Haven, Conn	United States	Yes.
Haywood, John	Otterbein "Observatory	Westerville, Ohio	United States	Yes.
Hess, F.	Private Observatory	Fort Dodge, Iowa	United States	Yes.
Holden, Dr. E. S.	Lick Observatory	Mount Hamilton,		
	D: 01	Cal	United States	No.
Hopkins, B. J	Private Observatory	London	England	Yes.
Horr, Dr. Asa	Private Observatory	Dubuque, Iowa	United States	Yes.
Hoxie, Capt. R. L.	Field Observatory	Willets Pt., N.Y.	United States.	Yes.
Jacoby, Harold	Columbia College Observatory	New York	United States.	No.
Johnson, Rev. S. J	Private Observatory	Bridport	England	Yes.
Johnston, Alex	McGill University	Montreal	Canada	Yes.
Kammerman, A	Geneva Observatory	Geneva	Switzerland	No.
Kirk, Ed. Bruce	Private Observatory	Barrhend	Scotland	Yes.
Knobel, Ed. B	Late President Royal Astro-			
	nomical Society.	London	England	Yes.
Knopf, Dr. Otto	Grand Ducal Observatory	Jena, Saxe Wei-	C	3.7
Pakald Da II	Huingraite Obsarvatory	mar Strasbourg	Germany	Yes.
Kobold, Dr. H	University Observatory Naval Observatory	Nicolaïeff	Germany Russia	No. Yes.
Kreutz, Prof. Dr. II.	Royal Observatory	Kiel	Germany	No.
Krone, Herman	Royal Technical School	Dresden	Germany	Yes.
Krueger, Prof. Dr. A.	Royal Observatory	Kiel	Germany	No.
Küstner, Dr. F	"	Bonn	Germany	No.
Laughton I K	Royal Naval College Obser-			
Laughton, J. K	vatory	Greenwich	England	Yes.
Ledger, Rev. E	Gresham College Observatory		England	Yes.
Legge, Dr. Alf. di	Capitol Observatory	Rome	Italy	Yes.
Lehmann, P	Royal Observatory	Berlin	Germany	No.
Leite, Duarte	Polytechnical Academy	Porto	Portugal	No.
Lenahan, Henry A.	Sydney Observatory	Sydney	Australia	Yes.
Lewis, Thomasi	Royal Observatory	Greenwich	England	Yes.
Lindelöf, Dr. L	Counsellor of State	Helsingfors, Fin-	Russia	Yes.
Lohse, Dr. O	Astro-Physical Observatory.	Potsdam	Germany	Yes.
Lorentzen, Dr. G	Rameis Observatory	Bamberg	Germany	No.
		3		
Mayer, Lt. Chas	Private Observatory	Parenzo	Austria	No.
Mazelle, Edouard	Marine Observatory	Trieste	Austria	Yes.

NAME.	Observatory, Etc.	Place.	COUNTRY.	Ans.
Micknik, H Monnichmeyer, Dr. C	University Observatory University Observatory	BreslauBonn	Germany	No. No.
Naccari, Prof. Dr. Joseph Niesl, Prof. G. von.	Naval Observatory Technical University Obser-	Venice :		Yes:
Niesten, L Nobile, A Noble, Capt. Wm	vatory	Briinn, Moravia . Uccle	Belgium Italy	No. Yes. No.
Numsen, W. H Nyrien, M	Denmore Observatory Imperial Observatory	field		Yes. Yes. No.
Oppenheim, Prof. Dr. H Oudemans, Prof. J.	Private Observatory	Berlin		Yes.
A. C	University Observatory	Utrecht	Holland	No.
Parkhurst, Henry M Pasquier, Prof. Dr.	Private Observatory	Brooklyn, N.Y	United States	Yes.
E. L. J Pavey, Henry A Penrose, F. C Peter, Dr. B	Royal Observatory Private Observatory Coleby Field Observatory University Observatory	Louvain	Belgium	Yes. Yes. Yes. No.
Peters, Prof. C. F. W. Pettit, H	Private Observatory	Kænigsberg Belmont, Ont	Canada	No. Yes.
Pittei, Dr. Constantine	Royal del Museo	Florence Warendorf, West-		Yes.
Pluvinel, Ay de la- Baume Pond, Lt. Chas. F	Meudon Observatory	Paris  Mare Island, California	France United States	Yes. Yes.
Porro, F Pritchett, H. S	University	Turin	Italy	Yes.
Quimby Alden W	Private Observatory	Philadelphia	United States	Yes.
Quimby, Alden W Quintana, —	National Astronomical Observatory			Yes.
Rambaut, Prof. A. A. Rechenberg, G Reiz, F	Dunsink Observatory University Observatory Imperial Observatory National Astronomical Obser-	Dublin Breslau Pulkova	Ireland	Yes. No. No.
Rey, F. R	vatory	FX3 1	Mexico	Yes.
Riggenbach, Prof. Dr. A Riggs, Joseph Rivero, F. D	Bernoulliam Observatory Creighton Observatory National Astronomical Obser-	Basle Omaha, Neb	Switzerland United States	
Rizzo, Dr. J. B . Roberts, Isaac Rockwell, Chas Romberg, Hermann.	Vatory University Observatory Private Observatory Private Observatory	Tacubayo Turin Crowborough Tarrytown, N.Y. Pulkova	England	Yes. Yes. Yes. No. No.
Safarik, Dr. A	Bohemian University Observatory	Prague	Austria	No.
Scherbner, Prof. Dr.			Germany	

.Name.	Observatory, Etc.	PLACE.	Country.	Ans.
Schiaparelli, J. V Schorr, Dr. Richard Schur, Prof. Dr. W.	Royal de Brera	Milan	Italy	No: No. No.
Searle, G. M Serviss, Garrett P Seyboth, J Sidgreaves, Walter	Catholic University Observa- tory	Washington Brooklyn Pulkova	United States United States Russia England	Yes. Yes. No.
Smith, H. L Solar Physics Committee, per Capt. Abney	Hobart College Observatory.  South Kensington Depart-	Stonyhurst Geneva, N. Y.	United States	Yes.
Stechert, Dr. C Sternock, LtCol. R. von	of Science	London Hamburg Vienna	England Germany	Yes. No. Yes.
Stockwell, John Stone, E. J Stoney, G. Johnstone	Private Observatory	Cleveland, Ohio . Oxford Dublin	United States England Ireland	No. No. Yes.
Stroobant, Dr. P Struvé, Otto	of Rosse	Uccle St. Petersburg	Belgium	Yes.
Swift, Lewis	Warner Observatory	Rochester, N. Y.	United States	Yes.
Tatlock, John Tennant, Lt. Gen. J. F	Private Observatory	New York	United States England	Yes.
Thirion, J Tillo, Gen. Alexis de	Jesuit Observatory Corresponding Member Academy of Science, Paris	St. Petersburg	Belgium	Yes.
Trouvelot, E. L Turner, H. H	Astro-Physical Observatory. Royal Observatory	Meudon Greenwich	France England	Yes. Yes.
Valle, F	National Astronomical Observatory	Tacubayo	Mexico United States .	Yes. Yes.
Veeder, Dr. A. M Very, Frank W Vinot, J Vogel, Prof. Dr. H.C.	Alleghany Observatory Astro-Physical Observatory Astro-Physical Observatory	Alleghany Paris Potsdam	United States France	Yes. Yes. No.
Wanach, Dr. B Weinek, Dr. Ladis-	University Observatory	Strasburg	Germany	No.
laus	Imperial & Royal Observatory University Observatory Melbourne Observatory	Prague, Bohemia. Kiel Melbourne	Austria	Yes. No. Yes.
Williamson, Prof. J. Wilson, Wm. E Wittram, Prof. Dr.	Kingston Observatory Private Observatory	Kingston Rathowen	Canada	Yes. Yes.
Th	Imperial Observatory Private Observatory University Observatory	Pulkova Leipzig Heidelberg	Russia	No. No. Yes.
Yendell, P. S	Private Observatory	Dorchester, Mass.	United States	No.
Zenger, Chas. Venc.	Polytechnic School Observatory	Prague	Austria	Yes.
Zelbr, Dr. Karl	Private Observatory	Brijnn	Austria	No.

REPLIES.

## Classified according to the Countries from which they have been received.

5	TOTALS.	YEAS.	NAYS	S.	Мајо	RITIES.
Austria	. I2	7	 5		In favour	
Australia	. 2	2	 0		In favour	
Belgium	. 6	6	 0		In favour	
Canada	. 5	5	 0		In favour	
Colombia	. I	I	 0			
England	. 20	16	 4		In favour	
France	. 4	4	 0		In favour	
Germany	. 38	7	 31			Against.
Greece	. I	І	 0		In favour	
Holland	. 1	0	 I			. Against.
Italy	II	8	 3		In favour	
Ireland	. 4	4	 0		In favour	
Jamaica	. I	І	 0		In favour	
Madagascar	. I	I	 0		In favour	
Mexico	5	5	 0		In favour	
Norway	. I	0	 I			. Against.
Portugal	. I	. 0	 I			Against.
Roumania	. I	I	 0		In favour	
Russia	. 11	6	 5		In favour	
Scotland	. r	І	 0		In favour	
Spain	. 2	2	 0		In favour	
Switzerland	4	. 2	 2			Equal.
United States	38	. 28	 10		In favour	
Totals	171	108	 63	-	18	4

