

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University
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Title: The Metric System

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but we have not bothered to make use of his idea, which has been considered by certain broad-minded men as being one of his greatest contributions to mankind. Other nations grasped the opportunity to make use of that in which this nation and England could not see the advantage.

The metric system is known to most of us, but some of us do not recognize the full advantage to be derived from the use of the decimal metric system of weights and measures. The uniformity which exists in our present system of coinage, prevails throughout the entire metric system. The simplicity of the decimal metrics is obvious to one after he has examined them thoroughly. A change to this simpler method of measurement can be brought about with very little difficulty. It can be adopted readily by the average person, as was proven by the American soldiers during the World War.

Due to its simplicity, the metric system has been adopted already by the most of the nations of the world. Its use is extensive throughout the European countries, the Orient, Latin America, and Southern Africa. The uniformity in standards of weights and measures is promoting the popularity of the system among international tradesmen.

The best thinkers of the nation have asserted themselves as being in favor of the proposed transfer and they point to evidence which shows that this change is necessary. Without question, our international trade relationships will be bettered. Encroachments upon our foreign trade have constantly become more evident as other nations have flocked to the metric standardization. This movement toward a uniform and simple system of weights and measures means the eventual use of decimal metrics throughout the entire world. We are only making ourselves conspicuous as antique aristocrats by maintaining an obstinate stand against the abolishment of our present puzzling units of measurement. The translations lead to inaccuracies and each tradesman doubts if he is being dealt with fairly. A standard will assuredly eliminate all of this confusion and suspicion.

Edison, Bell, Westinghouse, and other great Americans of inventive ability have advocated the acceptance of the proposed decimal metric system. Finance supports the proposed change. Labor supports it. Science supports it. Electrical and all other engineering branches are strongly in favor of the passage of the pending metric legislation.

In the dawning era of aeronautics, we shall need to be concerned with deeper study of the bird-man's art, his machine, and the complicated figures involved in the work of aircraft construction. A simple method of measurement will assuredly facilitate the work of the Aeronautic Engineer in the years to come.

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THE METRIC SYSTEM



THE mind of a genius, one whose inventions created the modern industrial era and made possible the greatness and prosperity of the United States and Great Britain, conceived and proposed a plan on which are based the decimal metric weights and measures. We have made use of the mechanical inventions of James Watt,



A sermon in stones

CECIL RHODES, the diamond king, had a real idea which he passed on to diamonds in the rough.

“Be well-rounded men, broad in your sympathies,” he said, and he made this the basis for selection of Rhodes scholars.

Surely there’s a lesson for every man—graduates alike in arts, in pure science or in applied science—to balance the student in him with the athlete, the individualist with the man of sociability, the specialist with the “citizen of the world.”

For Rhodes’ idea was no theory. It is shared by hard-headed business men today.

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THE METRIC SYSTEM

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As an asset to education it will prove of value. It has been shown that the time now required to educate the average school boy or girl will be reduced by one year, thereby reducing the cost of education in the United States approximately \$800,000,000 annually.

Additional statistics show that had the metric system been standardized by the allies during the world war, that conflagration would have been shortened by two months, and about 600,000 more men would have returned home unharmed. As a prosperous nation we should adopt a more conservative policy in this matter.

Since the saving in all lines of engineering and manufacturing work would be very great if the metric system should be adopted as the standard system in the United States, it is to our advantage to hasten the adoption of such a system of weights and measures, thereby getting in line with the rest of the world's foremost nations.

—Brice Reay, Arch. '30.