

REG. 26. 4. 26

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REVISING THE CALENDAR.

Proposals that the calendar, as civilization knows it, should be revised, are not new. Sages in almost all ages have expressed dissatisfaction with the methods of recording the duration of man's mundane existence; and, therefore, the plan of alterations which it is proposed to submit to the League of Nations arouses no excitement. There appears to be little doubt that the present calendar, which has withstood the critical test of nearly 2,000 years, satisfies the needs of civilization. Reckoning was originally calculated by "moons," as it was considered that the regular cycle of the earth's friendly satellite would allow the fixation of periods. The Egyptians, however, were of the opinion that the alternating recurrence of the seasons was a truer indication and a more trustworthy basis on which to form their calendar; accordingly they established what is now known as years. This system of reckoning was adjudged eminently suited to the requirements of humanity, and remained in vogue for a very long time. In 46 B.C. as a culmination to a series of bickerings in his Court, Julius Caesar made a drastic overhaul of the calendar, and, in remedying some obvious defects, gave the names, which are still observed, to the days. Pope Gregory XIII., in 1582, became impressed with the idea that a further change was necessary. There seemed good reason for a reform, inasmuch as a former miscalculation had resulted in there being 10 days discrepancy in the reckoning. To overcome this, what ordinarily would have been October 5 was recognised as October 15. Only one other attempt at modification was made, and that, strangely, immediately following the French Revolution. The National Convention of 1793 designed that a new epoch should begin on the "midnight preceding the autumnal equinox" of that year, and that the years thereafter should be numbered one, two, three, and so on. The year was to consist of 12 months, each of 30 days, to which new names were given. Weeks were abolished and three periods of 10 days substituted; and then five "complementary" days were added at the end of the year. An edict of Napoleon, however, in 1806, restored the Gregorian calendar.

The temperamental dislike of routine in this twentieth century is further expressed in a suggestion recently propounded that another effort should be made to standardize the calendar. The Public Actuary (Mr. L. G. Melville), before the South Australian branch of the League of Nations Union recently, said that the calendar had many disadvantages which could be obviated. The fact that Easter was observed at different times in successive years and that the lengths of the months varied, was a great hindrance to the making of statistical comparisons, and raised obstacles in the drafting of legal documents; weekly and fortnightly payments were also affected. America is noted for the revolutionary and novel character of its changes, and it is not surprising that suggestions emanating thence should be different from those made in other quarters. During December the American Merchants' Association met in New York to discuss calendar reform, and 137 proposals were adopted in order that they might be brought before the League of Nations. One suggestion was to begin the year on March 21 and divide it into 10 months—each month to contain six weeks each of six days (instead of seven), thus making the working week five days. Consequently there would be five days remaining. It was proposed to name them after Christ,

Columbus, Stephenson (inventor of the locomotive), Fulton (inventor of the steamship), and Henry Ford! Another proposition was that there should be 13 months, each of 28 days, with a fixed Easter on the second Sunday in April. The odd day would be designated as an international Sabbath or international holiday; but in Leap Year the second extra day would be placed at the end of June. The thirteenth month was to be named "Sol" and inserted in the almanac between June and July. Leaders of commerce, hotel keepers, church dignitaries, railway officials, and others all approve of some of the proposed changes. Railways, hotels, and caterers generally, have to alter considerably their arrangements by reason of Easter (and in England on account of Whitsun) because those festivals never occur on the same date two years in succession. Advantages are also claimed in that with a year of 13 months, pay days, market days, and other fixed events would return on the same fixed monthly date. It is doubtful whether the League of Nations (which the United States does not support in other matters) is competent to arbitrate in this matter; and it is even more questionable whether the world's public opinion would endorse any important changes in the measurement of times and seasons.

years ago, and received her early education at Maitland. Winning a primary scholarship she came to Adelaide to the Convent of Mercy, Angas street, and had a brilliant scholastic career, winning the junior, senior school, and old scholars' scholarships, in addition to an exhibition for students less than 14. She was dux of the school, and was awarded the Barr Smith prize. She has been attending the University during the past four years, the LL.B. degree being conferred on her last December. She served her articles with Messrs. Barwell, Kelly, & Hague.

Mr. Frank Lloyd Collison is a son of Mr. A. G. Collison, of Medindie. He was born at that centre 23 years ago. He attended Prince Alfred College from 1914 to 1920 and the University the following year. He was a member of the college football team and also represented Adelaide University in the inter-varsity football matches in 1923 and 1925. He served his articles with Messrs. Baker, McEwin, Ligertwood, and Millhouse.

Mr. John Meyrick Hague, a son of Mr. P. Hague, received his early education at Port Pirie High School, and thereafter attended St. Peter's College and the Adelaide University. He graduated for the LL.B. degree in March of this year. He is 23 years of age.

Mr. Arthur Lawrence Pickering was born 21 years ago. He received his early education in the State schools, and then a Government bursary won by him took him to St. Peter's College. From that institution he won a scholarship in law which enabled him to continue at the Adelaide University, and he won his degree in December last. He served his articles with Mr. Harry Thomson. He is a son of Mr. E. E. Pickering, of Unley Park, and grand son of the late Mr. John Pickering, who was Comptroller of Accounts of the South Australian Railways.

Mr. Beasley James William Kearney was born at Wilmington. For five years he was prosecuting officer for the State Children's Department. He finished his

law course at the Adelaide University about two years ago. Mr. Kearney served his articles with Mr. J. McGee. He has taken a prominent part in football, having been practice captain of the Norwood team and played with the redlegs for five years. He is a son of the late Mr. James Kearney, and will now enter into partnership with Mr. McGee.

Mr. John Scott Hardy, who is a son of Mr. J. T. Hardy, dentist, of North terrace, was born in Adelaide 24 years ago. He attended St. Peter's College, and completed his law course at the Adelaide University. He was articled to Mr. G. C. Ligertwood, and was appointed associate to Mr. Justice Angus Parsons on April 7, 1926.

Mr. Evan Anderson Goode is the older son of Mrs. A. K. Goode. He was articled to Messrs. Varley, Evan, & Thomson, and during the last few months has been engaged in legal work at Cowell. Mr. Goode is a keen cricketer and baseball player and an enthusiast in golf.

Mr. Bernard Griff was born in Ireland 22 years ago, and was brought to Australia in his boyhood. He attended St. Peter's College in 1920 and 1921, and obtained his LL.B. degree in December last. He has resided at St. Mark's College, and has been treasurer of the college club. He was a member of the Adelaide University debating team which took part in the inter-university debates in Sydney. He was articled to Messrs. Coventry & Roberts, and will now be associated with Messrs. Ingleby & Wallman.

Mr. Frederic Stephen Hødby was born at Yongala, and was engaged in commercial pursuits for some years. He later joined the staff of the National Bank of Australia. He subsequently resigned from that institution when acting as teller and accountant at Wallaroo to study law, and won the Andrew Scott prize for Latin at the University in 1925. He was articled to Mr. R. W. Bennett.

Mr. Anthony Harper was born in Adelaide 23 years ago, and attended St. Peter's

M W S 27. 4. 26



Law Students who have been admitted to the Bar at the Supreme Court
Back Row—Messrs. F. S. Hodby, F. L. Collison, A. Harper, B. J. W. Kearney, J. S. Hardy.
Front Row—A. L. Pickering, B. Griff, Miss C. S. Harris, E. A. Goode.

NEWS 24. 4. 26

LAW GRADUATES

Ten Admissions to Bar

BEST WISHES FROM BENCH

Fond parents and relatives crowded the galleries of the Civil Court this morning to witness the admission to the Bar of 10 graduates in law. The Bench consisted of Mr. Justice Napier and Mr. Acting Justice Richards. After the candidates had been sworn in by Major W. L. Stuart (Master of the Court), Mr. Justice Napier addressed them. His Honor said that now they had been admitted as practitioners, he asked them to accept from him in the name of the Court congratulations and good wishes for their success in the profession which they were about to enter. He adjured them to remember that the one qualification for a practitioner of that court was honesty of purpose. Whatever they undertook they should do with their utmost ability. The new lawyers are:—**Miss Clare Sparkes Harris**, a daughter of Mr. W. Sparkes Harris, of Maitland, she was born at Port Broughton 22

College from 1915 to 1921, after which he continued his studies at the University. He had the LL.B. degree conferred on him in December last. At the University and St. Peter's College he had a brilliant scholastic career. He served his articles with Mr. J. H. Vaughan.

ECONOMIC SOCIETY

Appeal for Members

The formation of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand was the outcome of a meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science held in Adelaide in August, 1924. The branch in South Australia has a membership of 49, which members of the committee think is not sufficient. It is asking for further support and personal adhesion to enable the society to develop the work which it has begun. The aims of the society include the publication of research work, the discussion of economic problems, and the linking up of men and women interested in the advancement of economic knowledge.

NEWS. 28. 4. 26

Music Examinations

Delegates to the conference of the Australian Music Examinations Board, who arrived in Adelaide by the Melbourne express this morning, are:—Professor Arnold Orchard, Mus. Bac., and Messrs. N. L. Salmon (Sydney), Sutton Crow (Melbourne), and A. J. Leckie, Mus. Bac. (Perth). Professor Bernard Heinze and Mr. W. A. Laver from Melbourne were prevented by indisposition from attending. The conference opened this afternoon and will be concluded on Saturday.

Nov. 29. 4. 26

Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., leaves for England to-day by the P. & O. steamer *Malia*.