

COMMENT ON THE FOREGOING ARTICLE

BY WILLIAM F. ALLEN

Proposer and Promoter of the present Standard Time

COMMODORE BEEHLER suggests that it would be advantageous to the navy if the time of the 75th meridian should be used everywhere throughout the United States, because of the confusion which at the present time may arise in transmitting orders. A simple remedy would be to provide that the name of the standard used should always accompany the time mentioned. If a single standard is necessary, Greenwich Time, which is kept by every chronometer on shipboard, could be used by the navy in all parts of the world.

If it were true that most of our occupations are regulated by clock-time and not by the sun, then curious conditions would prevail should the clocks be turned forward one, two, and three hours. For instance, on the meridian where the two hours' change would be made, "breakfast at 8, dinner at 12, and supper at 6" by the clock, would be respectively at 6 A.M., 10 A.M., and 4 P.M., by the sun, and the day would end at 10 P.M.

In testifying before the "Select Committee on the Daylight-Saving Bill," appointed by the British Parliament on the proposition to adopt a time in England one hour faster than Greenwich Time, Sir David Gill states the question simply in asking, "Are people to be cheated into getting up earlier in the morning, or are they to get up honestly earlier?"; while the Royal Astronomer, Sir W. H. M. Christie, says that the proposition is "tampering with the fundamental principle of time-reckoning."

If the American people could really save \$219,000,000 annually by getting up earlier, why should they not do it "honestly" without tampering with the clocks? As a matter of fact, would this result follow? In beginning work at 7 A.M., or later by mean solar time, the morning hours of daylight are available to the women of the household to prepare the morning meal before the men depart for their work. Shifting the hour of work ahead throughout the year would therefore inconvenience

the women in the morning, and require them to use artificial light, for half the year, one or more hours longer than they do now. The expense saved to factories in artificial light in the evenings would not only be imposed upon the workmen in their houses in the mornings, but, owing to its wide distribution, the total expenditure could not fail to be largely increased.

A common-sense expedient is employed by the people to adjust the working hours to Standard Time at points where the latter differs as much as half an hour from mean solar time, as at Detroit. When Central Time was adopted there, one merchant says, "We changed our closing from 6 sun time to 5:30 Standard Time. In every shop that I have heard of, this was done, if the men wanted it." Another states that "the factories have their noon-hour from 11:30 to 12:30 o'clock." Experience has shown that the extent to which this adjustment can be made without inconvenience is about thirty minutes.

In the latter part of 1908, it was urged that Eastern Time should be adopted at Detroit, on the ground that it would produce "more daylight," and a vote was taken at the November election as to the use of one of the three standards, Eastern, Central, or mean local time. The people decided by a large majority to retain the use of Central Time, Eastern Time receiving the smallest vote.

It would be hopeless, judging from past experience, to expect that the change proposed, even if desirable, could be brought about among the people by simultaneous action. Numerous State laws and city ordinances would have to be repealed or amended. The effect of partial action can be tested by any one trying it upon the domestics of his own household.

The railway companies, which are in close touch with the practical wants of the business men of the communities they serve, have no desire to depart from the present system of time-keeping.

THE BOYHOOD OF JOHN HAY

BY A. S. CHAPMAN

JOHN HAY'S literary beginnings date back to the quaint old town of Warsaw, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, in which he lived from the age of three years till he entered public life at Springfield as assistant secretary to President Lincoln. According to the memory of his sister, Mrs. Mary Woolfolk, who still lives at Warsaw, he had in his boyhood "the habit of stringing words together into rhymes."

Warsaw remains to-day much as it was more than forty years ago, when the co-author of "Abraham Lincoln" and future Secretary of State left it. Perhaps this is because of the isolated position of the town at the end of a single branch line of railroad. Half a century ago, it had hopes of becoming a city. It is still fruitful in reminiscences of John Hay. The house built by his father, Dr. Charles Hay, is pointed out to the visitor as one of the notable sights. It stands on the brow of the bluff, commanding a wide view up and down the Mississippi. A few miles away rise the smoking chimneys of Keokuk, Iowa, the city of which Warsaw was once a rival. Railroads came to Keokuk; only one to Warsaw. Three States, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, lie within the prospect. From these heights Mr. Hay viewed the sunsets which he afterward declared "were more beautiful than those of Italy." In his boyhood, smoke rose from the tall stacks of a fleet of steamboats plying on the Mississippi. The glory of the old river days is gone, indeed, for to-day a packet twice a week and an occasional excursion boat are the extent of the river shipping. True, there remains one reminder of ante-bellum days,—the "show boat,"—which brings the theater to the landing-place of people

who cannot go to it, except that vaudeville has been substituted for burnt-cork and minstrelsy.

Had the Secretary of State revisited the homestead in recent years, he might have found trouble in recognizing it, for it has been extended into a double house, and its exterior appearance has been changed by the addition of porches.

The little brick school-house in which he began his studies faces the public park. It is vacant, its outer woodwork is going to decay, and cracks are beginning to creep between the bricks. When it was abandoned for school purposes, and there was talk of tearing it down, Mr. Hay made a protest. Out of deference to his wishes, it was allowed to stand.

More recent in construction than either the homestead or the school-house is the home erected by Dr. Hay after his prosperity had become assured. It is a fine, old, square brick house, dignified and hospitable in appearance. Like the older dwelling, it is on the crest of the bluff, commanding an equally wide view of the surrounding country. It is occupied by Mr. Hay's sister, Mrs. Mary Woolfolk. Secretary Hay never lived in it himself; but he often visited under its roof, and in a way he regarded it as his home. After the death of his parents, his visits became farther and farther apart. Nevertheless, his interest in his old home never diminished.

To-day the visible sign of Warsaw on the river front is an old warehouse and a landing-place, where in steamboat days passengers and freight were taken on and put off. A stony road climbs the face of the bluff, becoming at the top a street, which farther on is built up as the main business thoroughfare. Old brick build-