

extraordinary and unprecedented price for a Canadian copper coin. This price was considered by other collectors to be much beyond its



value; for while they were as desirous of securing a specimen for their collections, they did not despair, believing that somewhere in the "Great Lone Land" a hoard would some day be discovered, and that there were other values besides the one already known. Letters were written to the factors in the North-West, and search instituted, but for a time nothing could be discovered.

Two years afterwards this search proved successful, and the expectations realized, for one day a collector, who had dealings with the Company, exhibited to his friends, not simply a duplicate of the coin first discovered, but three others—companion pieces—similar in design, differing only in size and the numeral indicating the value. These were one, one-quarter and one-eighth. Of each of these four denominations two specimens were shown. Although the duplicate set was offered at a reasonable price, compared with that paid for the first specimen, no sale could be effected. The impression that other discoveries would soon be made had still farther depressed the value.

During the summer of 1888 this impression was confirmed, for two members of the Geological and Natural History Survey, Messrs. A. P. Low and C. H. McNutt, who were detailed to prospect the country east of Hudson Bay, discovered nine complete sets of this coinage at Little Whale River. This is the most northern of the Company's posts on the east coast. One of these sets I purchased from Mr. Low at a reasonable price. I am indebted to him for the facts relating to their discovery and use. A number of specimens of this coinage have been discovered at Fort Churchill, and probably