

it would be well to apply for such authority. This suggestion Scholefield senior followed.¹ And after correspondence between the lords of the treasury and the secretary for the colonies the matter was referred to Lord Gosford, the Governor of Lower Canada, who after consulting with his advisers replied that as a supply of copper change was most necessary for the trade of the province, it was highly desirable that the request be granted. At the same time he suggested that as no copper coin had heretofore circulated in Canada for more than a halfpenny, it was undesirable that any larger denomination be coined.² But the suggestion came too late, as the pennies had already been ordered and probably the dies engraved.

In an ordinance of the Special Council, passed in 1839, which while purporting to prohibit the importing and manufacture of "spurious copper or brass coin" provided for the supply of acceptable copper coin, by permitting importation by individuals or corporations under proper restrictions on the authorization of the executive. This ordinance in this connection officially recognizes the coinage of 1837 in the clause which states that "provided always, that all coins shall have the same relation to the British penny and halfpenny with those recently imported by the Bank of Montreal."³ This clause was inserted as an amendment, after the bill had been introduced, at the instance of the Hon. Peter McGill and Turton Penn;⁴ the one the president and the other a director of the Bank of Montreal.

As the alternative order in case the other banks should not join in the coinage was for £2,500, it may be inferred that the issue of the Bank of Montreal was £2,000, and the City Bank, La Banque du Peuple and the Quebec Bank £1,000 each. The only change in the coins issued by the different banks was, that their name appeared as the motto on the ribbon. Even those issued in Quebec by the Quebec Bank bore the arms of Montreal.

In 1838 the Bank of Montreal gave Albert Furniss another order for £2,000 in tokens, half of which, that is 120,000 pieces was to be in penny pieces and the other half 240,000 in halfpenny pieces. This coinage arrived in June, 1839, and on its being opened by the bank authorities it was found to be "of such a very inferior grade that the cashier instructed the notary to protest against Mr. Furniss."⁵

¹ Appendix E, No. 2.

² Appendix E, No. 6.

³ Ordinances of Special Council of Lower Canada, Vol. IV., Montreal, 1839, chap. V.

⁴ Journals of Special Council of Lower Canada, Vol. IV., Montreal, 1839, page 11.

⁵ Appendix C.