

decimal character, and of such denominations and intrinsic values as always to serve for tokens of subdivisions of the proposed twenty-five franc piece, if established as an international standard, as well as of the sovereign and of the five-dollar gold piece when assimilated to the twenty-five franc piece.

In Nova Scotia, as is well known, the values placed by law on the British sovereign and the British shilling are \$5 and 25 cents respectively; so that the currency of Nova Scotia is at present suited for the decimal system, and the coins in circulation there bear a decimal relation to each other.

By the Act passed on the 22nd May, 1868 (31 Vict., cap. 45), Canada has placed herself in a position to adapt her currency to an international decimal system of coinage, so soon as the great commercial nations of Europe and America have agreed to establish such a system, an event which your Committee hope may not be far distant, as they fully concur in the opinion of the Royal Commissioners already cited that such a system would be productive of great general advantage.

All which is respectfully submitted.

T. RYAN,
Chairman.

APPENDIX.

27 & 28 VICTORIÆ.

Cap. CXVII.

An Act to render permissive the use of the Metric System of Weights and Measures.

[29th July, 1864.]

‘Whereas, for the promotion and extension of our internal as well as our foreign trade, and for the advancement of Science, it is expedient to legalize the use of the Metric System of Weights and Measures’:—Be it enacted by the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the “Metric Weights and Measures Act, 1864.”—
2. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act of Parliament to the contrary, no contract or dealing shall be deemed to be invalid or open to objection, on the ground that the weights or measures expressed or referred to in such contract or dealing, are weights or measures of the metric system, or on the ground that decimal subdivisions of legal weights and measures, whether metric or otherwise, are used in such contract or dealing.
3. The table in the schedule hereunto annexed shall be deemed to set forth, in terms of the weights and measures in force in this country, the equivalents of the weights and measures therein expressed in terms of the metric system, and such table may be lawfully used for computing, determining, and expressing, in weights and measures, weights and measures of the metric system.

SCHEDULE TO WHICH THIS ACT REFERS.

Schedule of tables of the values of the principal denominations of measures and weights on the metric system, expressed by means of the legalized denominations of measures and weights in Great Britain and Ireland.