

to the colonies, especially as it promised to facilitate the constant payments which the Home Government had to make in most of them. It was resolved to make the attempt, and to introduce and promote the change by means of the payments to the troops and the purchase of military supplies in the various colonies.

The Lords of the Treasury, in a Treasury Minute dated 11th February, 1825, set forth the conclusions at which they had arrived, and the grounds on which they were based. They have had under their consideration the state of the currencies in the several British colonies and possessions abroad, as they affect the expenditure for the public service, both military and civil. The present time of peace affords an excellent opportunity to remedy the many evils and inconveniences which have accumulated during and since the last war. In most of the colonies the Spanish dollar is at once the prevailing coin in circulation, and the standard by which the values of all other coins are determined. Yet the rate at which it is paid out by the Government, namely 4s. 8d. stg., is not in accordance with its intrinsic value. As compared with British standard silver, the value of the dollar is slightly less than 4s. 4d., while at the prevailing market price for silver it is scarcely above 4s. Recent complaints with reference to the rates at which the Spanish dollars are paid are therefore well founded.

But, in further considering the subject, it has been found that recent conditions affecting the supply and standard of the dollar make it necessary to look for some other and better means of payment. Under the circumstances it appears to the Lords of the Treasury that at once the fittest medium for the payment of the forces, and the best standard of circulation for the colonies, will be the silver and copper currency now in circulation in Great Britain. Means, however, must be afforded of converting the currency at will into the standard gold coins of the United Kingdom, by means of bills of exchange to be issued at a specific rate.

They fully expect that since the British silver currency is issued at a nominal value higher than its bullion value, it will tend to remain in the colonies as a permanent circulating medium; while its ready convertibility into bills on Britain,