

some slight changes was passed in Lower Canada and a somewhat similar act in Upper Canada. In these the American dollar was rated for the first time and at the same rate as the Spanish dollar, namely 5s. but no other changes were made in the ratings of the silver coins.

The practice of the Montreal merchants in following the York currency naturally extended to Upper Canada where most of the Loyalist settlers were from New York State. Thus though the Halifax standard of 5s. to the dollar was the official rate, the customary rate was 8s. to the dollar, the basis of which was the Mexican Real eight of which made up a dollar, whence the old name "piece of eight." In time this came to be identified with the English 6d. which was sometimes called a York shilling.

As the new American currency of dollars and their fractions gradually took the place of all other coins in the United States, the light and defaced coinage of other mints took refuge in Canada and added to the piebald character of its currency. Only the scarcity of any medium of exchange enabled much of this to circulate. In 1808 the rate of the gold coins was further amended as affecting the foreign exchanges of the colony.

During the whole of this period the Imperial authorities in Canada continued to keep their books in sterling and made payments to the troops on the same basis, rating the dollar at 4s. 6d. It was not, however British coinage which was brought to Canada to supply the Military Chest, but simply Spanish dollars. When these were issued to the troops at 4s. 6d. it simply meant that the soldiers were paid a bonus of 6d. on each dollar as the legal rate was 5s. In 1808 to partially overcome this advantage to the troops the dollars were issued at the rate of 4s. 8d. sterling, which in practice meant the reduction of 2d. on the dollar from the soldier's pay.

In 1812 to guard against replacement of the metallic currency of the Canadas by the army bills which were then being issued, it was provided in the Army Bill Act that no metallic currency or gold or silver bullion should be exported from Canada in any shape on pain of forfeiture if discovered. This last law continued in force until 1817.

After 1792 the old French coins circulating in Canada were no longer minted, though the French Canadians held to these coins as among the symbols of their nationality. Much as they disliked the new French coinage after the Revolution, yet they preferred it to anything British, and in 1819 by an act of the Lower Canadian Legislature the new French coinage was created legal tender at fixed rates; in Upper Canada, however, they received no official standing.

In the upper Province the conflict between the older form of York currency and the newer form of Halifax currency gave rise to no little