

set aside by the king for the assistance of the colony should be sent out in the shape of money, not in the form of goods. The reason for this was that the merchants desired to have the entire supply of goods in their own hands. This, Talon says, would simply result in the people paying twice as much for their supplies as the rate at which they are now furnished from the king's stores. Besides the present arrangement permits him to exchange the goods for grain with the settlers. He has undertaken to send goods to convenient places for exchange and to bring back wheat. Without doing this some of the new settlements would be entirely ruined. This plainly indicates that Talon was the author of the ordinance, already referred to, making wheat a legal tender at a certain price. It will be observed that there is no lack of harmony between Talon's approval of a special coinage for the colony and his disapproval of having the king's contribution to the colony sent in the shape of money, which, under the circumstances, would simply return to France for the purchase of fresh goods for the merchants.

Replying to Talon the following spring, 11th Feb., 1671, Colbert says: "Before the king can adopt any resolution with reference to the striking of a coinage for Canada, it will be necessary to know the required denomination and weight, also the circulation it would probably have in the colony. After that His Majesty will announce to you his intentions on the subject." This would seem to indicate that the coins already struck for the West Indies were not intended for use in Canada.

In a letter to Talon the following year, dated June 4th, 1672, Colbert writes: "His Majesty has considered the proposal to strike a special coinage for Canada, and as he considers it good and advantageous, he will issue the necessary orders to have it struck and sent out the following year." This purpose, however, was never carried out. It was apparently determined in the meantime to have the ordinary coins of France circulate in the colonies at an enhanced value. Thus we find an *arret* passed by the Council of State, Paris, 18th November, 1672, stating that the money issued for the Islands, etc., has been found to be of very great benefit, hence not only is it to be continued, but the current money of France is to be permitted to circulate