

### Earliest British Coins

At least two coins were issued from a patriotic point of view. These were in commemoration of the battle of Queenston Heights, and represented Sir Isaac Brock as the hero of Upper Canada. These appeared in 1815 and 1816, and were of halfpenny value.

Also in 1815 a penny coin produced by Sir Isaac Coffin, on the occasion of his visit to the Magdalen Islands, royal grant of which he had received from the Crown some years before. His intention was to supply the colony with these, and a half-penny coin as well, but the latter was never produced. This coin is shown.

The demand for a standard coin of fixed value was never fully met, however, until 1837, when the Bank of Montreal, Banque du Peuple, the City Bank and the Quebec Bank all united in producing halfpenny and penny coins from dies exactly alike in every respect, except for a very minute change in the name on the ribbon under the garter on the reverse of each coin. The full set are on the table. They were known as habitants because of the habitants upon them.

The Bank of Montreal, our oldest banking institution, issued, in the years 1838 and 1839, half and one penny coins having a side view of their building upon them. These are known to collectors as "side views," and are very rare.

On February 10th, 1841, Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec) were by the Canada Act united into one province, and the Bank of Montreal became the Government Bankers, Montreal having been chosen as the seat of government. This bank issued a new half penny and penny coin, in each of the years 1842, 1844 and 1845. These are represented on the table by three uncirculated specimens. There is only one copy known to be in existence of the issue of 1845. It, of course, is not here.

The Bank of Upper Canada issued half-penny and penny coins in the years 1850, 1852, 1854, 1857. You can see these complete with two pairs in die varieties.

### Provincial Copper Coins

In 1823 the Province of Nova Scotia issued a halfpenny coin, followed by half-penny and penny in 1824, 1832, 1840, 1843 and 1856; in 1861 half cent and one cent; 1862, one cent; 1864, half cent and one cent.

New Brunswick issued, on the authority of the provincial government, in 1843, half-penny and penny coins, and again in 1854, but apparently without the sanction of the

Imperial government. There does not appear to have been any trouble occasioned, but the coins have always been looked upon as only semi-official. In 1861 also were issued one cent coins by authority, and half cent by mistake; 5 cent, 10 cent and 20 cent silver coins were also issued by New Brunswick in the years 1862 and 1864.

Prince Edward Island, as you know, did not come into Confederation until July 1st, 1873. This accounts for the provincial government having issued over two million one cent copper coins in 1871. This is the only coin ever issued by the Island Province with the sanction of the Imperial government.

As westerners you will be interested to know that not only did the Hudson's Bay Company issue their own peculiar coins in the year 1857. These had a relative value of one-eighth, one-quarter, one-half and one beaver skin, the beaver skin, we are informed, always being the standard of value between the Company and the Indians at the outlying trading post, as our gold standard is 16 to 1.

Before this, however, and, of course, before the amalgamation of the two companies, the North-West Fur Company issued a token to represent a beaver skin also, in 1820.

Hallifax currency, of which probably not many here have ever heard before, was the value placed on certain money standards in 1772, from that date until 1858, in all the British North American provinces. Halifax currency was calculated on a basis of 12 pence equals 1 shilling, 5 shillings equals \$1.00, and \$4.00 or 20 shillings equals one pound, the dollar being the Spanish dollar, containing 385 grains fine silver.

In 1862 British Columbia established a mint and issued a few \$10.00 and \$20.00 gold pieces before it became known that such procedure was illegal until authority by a royal order-in-council was secured. These pieces are now valued up to \$500.00 each, notwithstanding the fact that they never had any authorized standing as money.

In 1858 the Province of Canada, that is, the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, issued 1,000,000 one cent, 1,500,000 five cent, 1,250,000 ten cent and 750,000 twenty cent, the first in copper and the other three in silver, of course. In 1859 an issue of 9,000,000 one cent coppers was made.

Confederation took place July 1st, 1867, but it was nearly three years before any issue of coins was made by the Dominion