

satisfied with the existing currency system. The business men of both the Canadas were anxious to get rid of a currency condition which both Montreal and Kingston papers agreed in describing as "a disgrace to any civilized nation." The country was at this time a very paradise for the coin collector, since its metallic circulating medium consisted of the odds and ends of the coinage of all the commercial nations. Had it not been that the bank notes formed the greater part of the circulating medium it would have involved much time and patience on the part of the merchants to simply keep account of the money received for their goods. The very difficulty of dealing with such a medley of coins greatly favoured the circulation of the bank notes, and thus reduced the chief practical evils of the metallic currency to the smaller coins used as change.

Gold coins were rarely met with. Now and again a glimpse of a sovereign was to be had while on its way from the pocket of an immigrant to the frontiers of the colony. The copper currency was in a worse condition, being composed chiefly of discarded British half-pence and farthings, various sorts of tokens, native and foreign, and even brass buttons beaten smooth. Still the supply was inadequate to the needs of the country. In Upper Canada the enterprising firm of Edward Leslie & Sons, who had stores at Dundas, York and Kingston, finding constant inconvenience from the want of small change, and especially coppers, determined to import on their own account a considerable quantity of copper tokens. Their first importations were absorbed so rapidly that they felt compelled to continue the operation from year to year. Other merchants sought supplies from them, but, being doubtful of the legality of their enterprise, they declined to furnish them and confined their issue to the needs of their own business. It was yearly expected that either the Government would meet the want or that one or more of the banks would be authorized to issue tokens. These expectations not being fulfilled Messrs. Leslie & Sons in 1831 formally applied to the Government to either furnish an adequate copper currency or sanction their method of meeting a public want. Governor Colborne, in forwarding this petition to the Home Government, stated that about