

vals, until the present time as the needs of the people required.

It has been thought well to publish a list of the number of each denomination struck during each year, and, as this task has been assigned to me, I will make the attempt to enliven the dry columns of figures with such running comments as may seem to me interesting.

1858.

This first Canadian coinage consisted of twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces. There was also struck a pattern for a cent smaller than and differing in design from the regular issue. The coinage was commenced so late in the year that the bulk of the large order for cents had to be completed in 1859. The number of these cents ordered (ten millions) was far in excess of the peoples wants for that year. When we consider that the population of the old Province of Canada did not exceed two millions, and that the ample supply of old coppers had not been withdrawn from circulation, we can easily understand that an additional five cents copper change for each soul or ten cents for each buying and selling member of the community, was more than could be readily taken up.

Then, too, when we know that the total number of cents ordered during the succeeding thirty-two years, including those for the Lower Provinces, did not exceed twenty-seven millions, that during this time the old coppers had been withdrawn from circulation and that the population of the Dominion had nearly trebled, we can understand why it took the government agent over ten years to push these cents, ordered in 1858, into circulation at a discount of twenty per cent. I have myself been sent on more than one occasion to the Bank of Upper Canada to purchase these cents at a cost of eighty cents per hundred. They were put up in cotton bags, two hundred in each.

1859.

The record of the Mint shows no coinage for this year, but, as the cents of 1858 are comparatively rare and those of 1859 still common, I have assigned one million as the number coined in 1858 leaving nine millions for 1859. Many specir