posals which have been made for remedying partial inconveniences arising from this state of things would only have added further sources of discrepancy.

By the existing regulations in Canada, the Eagle of the United States, coined since 1834, containing about 232 grains of pure gold, which coin at present forms the basis of the currency of the Colony, is rated at 50s. currency.

In New Brunswick the old Eagle coined previously to the alteration of the Mint Law of the United States in 1834, and containing about 247 grains of pure gold, is rated at 50s.; but it is probable that the new Eagle, though a coin of inferior value, passes at the same rate.

In Canada the silver dollar is rated at 5s 1d., and in this rating are included Spanish and South American, as well as United States coins of this denomination, though differing slightly in intrinsic value.

With this exception, which is only trifling, the rate of 5s. 1d., was a correct adjustment (taking the price of standard silver at 5s. per ounce) of the dollar to the pound sterling after the currency of the Province had become depreciated from the old rate of 5s. for the silver dollar, by the admission of the new Eagle into circulation as equivalent to fifty shillings Canadian currency, which sum had been formerly payable only by ten silver dollars.

In New Brunswick the rate assigned to the United States dollar is 5s.

In Nova Scotia the dollar is rated at 5s. 2½d., and other coins are adjusted to that rate, calculating silver relatively to gold at the average of 5s. per ounce for standard silver.

In Newfoundland there is no legal rating for any coins, but a dollar is considered to be worth 5s.

In Prince Edward's Island, where the greatest depreciation has taken place, a dollar is rated at 6s. 2d., and the half dollar at 3s.

The discrepancies in the currencies of the different Colonies are not the only, or indeed the most pressing inconveniences which have arisen from the present state of things. As the denomination of account employed does not in any case correspond with the subdivisions of the coin in circulation, there is great difficulty in adjusting the smaller coins to their proportional rates in reference to the larger coins, and, in order to avoid inconvenient fractions, the former frequently pass in retail transactions at a value differing from that which they bear by the law.

The rating of all these coins in different colonies is derived with more or less discrepancy from the conventional rate of 5s., or one fourth of a pound, assigned in old times to the Spanish dollar, which was then the usual medium of exchange in the British Colonies. This rate which was originally an over valuation of the coin, was nominally adhered to after the dollar became depreciated in value, and as is usually the case when coins are rated to a new denomination upon no fixed principle, other coins came into circulation without due regard to their relative intrinsic value, and that coin which was most over-valued in any colony became for the time the measure of its currency.

In Prince Edward Island an extravagant issue of Treasury Notes and Bonds has carried the depreciation to a very much greater length.

These sources of error were increased by the course pursued in the United States in regard to their currency.

In adopting the decimal system with the dollar as the unit of account, the Spanish dollar was proposed as the basis of the currency of that country, but in the regulation of its coinage, the proportion of fine silver assigned by law to the United States dollar was less than that contained in the Spanish dollar, and the currency was further depreciated in 1834, by an alteration of the gold coins, which diminished the quantity of pure gold in the Eagle, and reduced its value according to the relative price of silver and gold, below the intrinsic value of ten silver United States dollars.

The effect upon the currency of Canada, where the dollars and eagles are both legal tenders, has been a corresponding depreciation, for, whereas formerly 50s. currency would only be paid by ten Spanish dollars, it might have been paid for some years by ten United States dollars, and it may now be paid by an United States eagle, which is of less intrinsic value, not only than ten Spanish dollars, but than ten silver dollars of the United States.

The disproportion above adverted to between the gold and silver coins of the United States has been recently increased by the fall in the value of gold, in consequence of the large supplies of that metal from California. It is understood that some measures are in contemplation for an alteration of the Mint Law of the United States, with the view of remedying the inconvenience which is at present felt from the want of silver coin.

The uncertainty which at present exists with regard to the relative value of the precious metals, while it brings under more prominent notice the inconveniences of the present system, increases the difficulty of adjusting the relative rates of gold and silver coins. It would also be very desirable to know what measures may be adopted by the United States Government upon the subject of their currency, as it obviously would be a convenience to the inhabitants of our Colonies bordering on the United States, if their currency can be made readily convertible into some denomination of that of the United States.

The existing circumstances also show very strongly the evils which have arisen from partial and unconnected proceedings in different Colonies, and give additional reasons against a course of legislation which, proceeding on the principle of correcting inconveniences as they arise, and with little (if any) reference to general principles, or more enlarged views, tend only in the end to aggravate the difficulties of dealing with the question satisfactorily. It is desirable, therefore, to consider whether some course may not be adopted for placing the currency of the whole of the North American Provinces on a sound and uniform basis.

The most obvious measure for this purpose would be that which has been formerly suggested, of superseding the various local currencies and reverting to the sterling money and denomination of account of this country, as has been done in our West Indian Colonies.

There are, however, some practical difficulties in doing this, and it is understood that some objections are entertained in some of the Colonies to this course. The constant intercourse which takes place between the United States and the British Provinces bordering on them, affords a reason for not unneces-