

documents furnished by the Governor, to a committee of five with instructions "To enquire into and report on the expediency of enacting that no coin shall be held to be a legal tender, other than such coins as are legal tender in the United Kingdom, or in the United States of America, or what other alterations it may be expedient to make to the laws now in force declaring what coins shall be a legal tender." And that is the last we hear of it in that quarter.

The Legislative Council, however, to whom the matter had also been referred by special message, in an address to the Governor gave reasons for their opposition to the measure. They admit that it is a matter of indifference what the real value of a money token may be, so long as it is redeemable in coins of standard value or their equivalent. But the British silver which the Home Government is anxious to introduce as the Canadian medium and standard is of such a character that if, on account of the fluctuations in exchange it were found expedient to send it to Britain, it would not be received there as legal tender for more than forty shillings. The remainder would simply drop to the value of bullion, which is considerably below its face value. As regards the mere circulation of the British silver in the colony, they are quite willing that it should be encouraged; but this requires no alteration of the existing law which provides for its circulation on a par with the Spanish dollar. Finally, they object to the proposed change as injuriously affecting the large number of feudal rents and dues in the province, where accounts are kept in livres and sols connected with the Spanish dollar in the ratio of six livres to the dollar. Such was the attitude of the Council, whose tone was normally strongly British, and therefore usually in conflict with that of the Assembly, which was equally strongly French Canadian.

In the meantime the Lords of the Treasury, being informed of the difficulties which had arisen in Lower Canada in connection with the carrying into effect of the proclamation, stated that they would refrain from giving any further instructions on the subject until they learned what action the Legislature of Lower Canada proposed to take. But they took occasion to point out to the Colonial Office that the absence of British coins from the currency of Canada was due to the incorrect manner