

In Quebec, it is provided that coals shall be sold by the chaldron or bushel, and that the chaldron shall contain six Imperial Winchester bushels, a measure which, it is believed, does not exist.

In Nova Scotia, the law defines the weight of a ton of coals as 2,240 lbs. avoirdupois.

In New Brunswick, coals are, by law, sold per ton weight, and the ton is fixed at 2,000 lbs. avoirdupois.

In Ontario, the ton weight, without any reference to coals, is fixed at 2,000 lbs. avoirdupois.

In Lower Canada, now Quebec, the old measures of the "*arpent*," the "*minot*," and the Paris foot, though obsolete, in France, are still in use; and as the *arpent* is smaller than the English acre, and the *minot* somewhat larger than the bushel, it is clear that misconceptions may readily arise as to the comparative value and productiveness of land in Lower Canada estimated on this basis, and that even statistical returns, without great care on the part of those who furnish as well as those who collect them, may be stated erroneously and to the disadvantage of that Province as compared with others where the English statute acre and the bushel are alone in use.

In view of all these circumstances, your Committee are of opinion that no time should be lost in establishing by law an uniform system of weights and measures throughout the Dominion. The duty of initiating legislation on a subject of such general importance necessarily devolves upon the Government; and your Committee are of opinion that another Session should not be allowed to pass without a comprehensive measure being submitted to Parliament.

With regard to the metric system, your Committee consider that it is excellent in principle, simple in its construction, and capable of being acquired with great facility, and as such they strongly recommend its introduction in Canada. As, however, so large a proportion of the trade of this country is carried on with Great Britain, your Committee suggest that her example may be safely followed, and that the metric system may, as in England, be made at first permissive and be adopted, as there, conjointly with her system of imperial weights and measures. This course would secure an uniform system of weights and measures for the various Provinces of this Dominion, and at the same time in conformity with that of the mother country, an object much to be desired.

In contemplation of the early adoption of the metric system, and with a view that the youth of the country be made acquainted with it, your Committee would call the attention of the House to the propriety of suggesting to the Government the importance of causing this system to be taught in all schools over which they have control directly or indirectly. It is simple, easily learned, and not readily forgotten; and young men instructed in it will thus acquire additional facility in understanding the trade with countries where this system prevails exclusively. If this suggestion meet the approval of the Government a knowledge of the metric system might also with advantage be required on the part of candidates for the Civil Service.

The attention of your Committee was next directed to the subject of an uniform international system of coins.

In 1867 the British Government was invited by the French Government to depute Commissioners to attend a Conference at Paris of representatives of various States, for the purpose of deliberating upon the best means of securing a common basis for the adoption of a general international coinage.

The Lords of the Treasury accordingly instructed the Master of the Mint and an officer of their Department to attend the Conference.

These delegates reported that the Conference had agreed to recommend—

- 1st. The adoption of a single gold standard.
- 2nd. The adoption of $\frac{1}{10}$ as the proportion of fine gold in the coins.
- 3rd. That all gold coins thereafter struck in any of the countries, parties to the proposed convention, should be either of the value of 5 francs or multiples of that sum.
- 4th. That a gold coin of the value of 25 francs should be struck by such countries as prefer it, and be admitted as an international coin.