

Generals, they reported that the Order-in-Council was quite legal. It was therefore sent to the colonies with instructions to have it enforced.

Lord Dalhousie, then Commander of the Forces in North America and Governor of Lower Canada, reports to Bathurst on Dec. 20th, that he had called upon the King's law officers in Lower Canada to prepare the draft of a proclamation for giving effect to the instructions sent him, "respecting the establishing of the British metallic currency in this colony." But he has received from them a report, which he encloses, giving it as their opinion that such a proclamation would be an infringement of an act of the Legislature of the Province regulating the currency. By the existing act the sterling value of the dollar is fixed at 4s. 6d., while the proposed measure would reduce it to 4s. 4d. The object of the proclamation, they say, can only be accomplished by an act of the Canadian Legislature. Dalhousie sees no alternative, therefore, but to wait for the meeting of the Legislature in January and recommend the measure to it, yet he has to confess that he has little hope of the Legislature altering the existing regulation of the currency.

When this despatch with the enclosed report was laid before Stephen for his advice as to the next move, he simply said "I told you so," and recommended that the law officers of the Crown, who had over-ruled his opinion, should be called upon to show how the Governor of Lower Canada could remove the objection and issue his proclamation. The matter was of some importance, for, as he remarked, now that the measure is hlocked in Lower Canada the other colonies having representative government will get wind of it, and will be apt to follow the example set. However, they declined to take up the challenge, and Dalhousie was left to do what he could with the Legislature of Lower Canada.

On Jan. 21st, 1826, Dalhousie laid the matter before the Assembly, together with the regulations and instructions sent him. His unpromising forecast of the attitude of the Legislature towards the measure was quite fulfilled, for the Assembly showed no anxiety to deal with the subject. When, over a month later, they took it up, apparently at the special request of the Governor, it was only to refer the whole matter, with the