

satisfactorily while it lasted. It was done away with in 1768.

The Act of 1758, besides fixing the rate at which British coins should be valued, prohibited the circulation of any copper coins except such as were in use in Great Britain and Ireland. In subsequent years other Acts were passed dealing with clipping, counterfeiting, and otherwise debasing the coins in circulation.

In the closing years of the century, and after a complete occupation of the country by the British Government, and well down to a little past the first decade of the present century, the chief coins in circulation throughout the province were of foreign varieties, French, Spanish, a few Portuguese, and still fewer English. Traders and citizens seemed mutually to agree on certain values for the different coins which came into the circulation. Accounts were kept in pounds, shillings and pence, according to English numeration, but there were few of those coins, comparatively, in the country to represent the values expressed by them. Now and then an officer coming out to join his regiment, or the arrival of a man-of-war, or some official arriving in the colony, introduced, perhaps, a few shillings or a guinea or two, but coins bearing the royal effigy were not at all common. One can only suppose that the reason for this scarcity of English coins was the state of the law, which at that time, and down to the first ten or twelve years of this century, I think, forbade the exportation of the coin of the realm. Whether from the prohibition of the law, or from whatever cause, a scarcity of English coins existed in the province. The Imperial Government found it necessary, however, to provide coin of some kind for the payment of the troops in the different garrisons and stations, and for the supplies of the navy, and the other branches of the public service. For these purposes Government imported large quantities of Spanish milled dollars, and paid them out to the troops, and for other public expenditures, at the rate of 4s. 6d. sterling each. The Spanish dollar, though in use before, and recognized as an important member of the circulation of the province, became by this Imperial recognition of it a much more representative coin, as the sterling value attached to it established it as a standard in business trans-