

## A NEW DECIMAL CURRENCY FOR THE NEW DOMINION.

MR. EDITOR:—As it becomes necessary for us to have uniformity of currency under the New Dominion, and as it is very desirable that in adopting any system of decimals for the whole country, such system should be the best that can be found suited to our wants and requirements, I am anxious to obtain a little space in your new magazine, in order to point out to you and your readers how very easy and convenient a system of decimal currency we may adopt, if we were only to make use of the decimal properties of the British gold and silver coins we now have so plentifully in use among us.

The choice of systems is, by some, supposed to lie entirely between your Canadian system and ours in Nova Scotia; they, apparently, ignoring the possibility of a still better system than either, or even than any other, being within our easy and convenient reach.

I do not know much about the working of your decimal system in Canada, but in this country your twenty-cent pieces being mixed up with our twenty-five-cent pieces, and being in size so nearly alike to the English shilling, is the cause of many of the unwary getting cheated out of five cents.

I do not pretend to say that your system, or even ours, is not as good as it need be, in itself; but this I do maintain, that unless the coins in common use are of such a decimal denomination as shall suit the mode of accounting by decimals, no decimal system, though sufficiently good in itself, will run, or work more evenly or smoothly, than would a well-built, and pleasant first-class railroad car, if attempted to be run upon a road not specially fitted or adapted to it.

To adopt a decimal mode of accounting, and "pay and receive" in a halting and fractional set of coins, is like our taking a light and easy city carriage or waggon, and running it over some of the old corduroy roads I have seen in Canada West.

If there were no alternative, this might

be put up with; but if it can be shown that the common roads, or, to drop metaphor, the British coins in common use amongst us are so beautifully decimal in themselves, that a system of accounting decimals, equally as beautiful and convenient as our present or any other system of accounts, could be devised to suit those coins,—would it not be advisable and just to examine into such a system, and adopt it, if found suitable to the wants and requirements of the Dominion?

All nations and countries using the gold and silver coins of old England, can out of them have the choice of three systems of decimal coins.

The sovereign or 20s., the half-sovereign or 10s., the crown-piece or 5s., have each inferior silver coins that are their pure decimals. For instance, the florin or 2s. piece is a tenth of the sovereign; the shilling is a tenth of the half-sovereign; and the sixpence is the tenth of the crown-piece.

Of the three systems, that of which the half-sovereign is the head, is the most perfect, and would, I think, prove the most convenient, as all the silver coins are either in pure decimal or half-decimal proportion of it. For example, take the gold ten-shilling-piece, as the coin of chief value, and call it 100, we find that all the decimals, as 10, 20, 30, etc., can be paid in British silver coins without the help of coppers; and also, with the aid of the sixpence piece as a half-decimal, all numbers having the figure 5 or half-decimal in the column of units, as 5, 15, 25, etc., can be paid without the aid of copper coins; a convenience which I believe does not belong to any other set of decimal coins in the world.

Now just look at our mode of representing sums of money on paper.

We seldom, if ever, represent the number of coins we pay a sum in, by figures corresponding with the number of coins used. For instance, we use 15s. English, in payment, and mark it down as 3.75. We hand over 7s. 6d. English, and down goes