"course of legislation, which, proceeding on the principle of correcting inconveniences as they "arise, and with little (if any) reference to general principles or more enlarged views, tend "only in the end to aggravate the difficulties of dealing with the question satisfactorily. It is "desirable therefore to consider whether some course may not be adopted for placing the Cur- "rency of the whole of the North American Colonies on a sound and uniform basis.

"The most obvious measure for this purpose, would be that which has been formerly sug- "gested, of superseding the various local currencies and reverting to the sterling money and "denomination of account of this country, as has been done in our West Indian Colonies.

"There are however some practical difficulties in doing this, and it is understood that objec- "tions are entertained in some of the Colonies to this course. The constant intercourse which "takes place between the United States and the British Provinces bordering on them, affords "a reason for not unnecessarily disturbing a system, which though defective in itself, has the "advantage of easy adaptation to the currency of the neighbouring country, with which so "much intercourse takes place even in small retail transactions, and thus facilitates this des- "cription of traffic across the border. It would appear therefore to be the most expedient "course to introduce amendments on the basis of the system, which with minor variations and "points of difference prevails in four of the British North American Colonies, rather than "attempt a complete alteration of the existing currency.

"The coins which at present constitute the basis of the circulation in Canada are, as has "been observed, the gold coins of the United States, which correspond in value very conve- "niently with the denominations of Canadian currency. The pound sterling is rated in "Canadian currency at £1 4 4; and therefore, looking to the intrinsic value of the eagle as "compared with the sovereign or pound sterling, this *latter* coin is correctly rated at 50s. "currency. The legal currency of New Brunswick, though presenting some anomalies, and "differing to a slight degree in its relation to British sterling, probably in practice assimilates "to that of Canada, and might be adjusted without much difficulty to like rates.

"In Nova Scotia it does not appear that the United States eagle is rated for circulation, "but gold and silver coins of Spain, Mexico, &c., are correctly adjusted (according to recent "valuations) to the local currency, at the rate of £1 5s. currency to the pound sterling.

"In Prince Edward's Island the United States eagle is slightly undervalued relatively "to the sovereign, and the currency has been depreciated to the proportion of £1 10s. "currency to the pound sterling.

"In these two Colonies, any change for the purpose of introducing a sound and uniform "system, must lead to some alteration of the value assigned to the pound currency, and in "this case it will be necessary to make provision for the payment of existing contracts.

"In Newfoundland, as has been observed, the rates at which the coins in circulation are "current, are merely conventional; but as what is usually termed Halifax currency, or the "rating of the dollar at 5s., appears to be considered as the basis of the currency of "the Island, it approximates to that of Canada.

"Assuming then the Canada pound as the basis of a new arrangement of the currencies of "the North American Colonies, it would appear that a pound of that value might be advanta- "geously adopted as the pound of all the currencies of the North American Colonies; and "that with the object of giving a clear and fixed value to this denomination of "Pound North "American currency," a coin might be struck at Her Majesty's Mint, containing 101.32 grains "of standard gold, or 92.877 grains of fine gold, which is the proportion in quantity to the "sovereign, which the pound in Canadian currency bears in value to the pound sterling, and "that such a coin, to be termed the North American pound, might be taken as the unit to "which the various currencies of the British Colonies in North America should be adjusted.

"If the principle of fixing a gold standard with a coin representing an unit peculiar to "those Provinces is adopted, it will be necessary to consider what arrangements should be "made for a subordinate silver and copper currency.