

still in force at the time of the Conquest. The unit was the Spanish dollar, the sterling value of which was 4s. 6d., but allowed to be rated as high as 6s. in the colonies. Gold coins, however, had received no special rating. At the time of the Conquest the dollar was rated in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, among other colonies, at 5s., whereas in New York it was rated at 7s. 6d. and not long afterwards at 8s. Both these standards were introduced by the merchants coming to Canada. There was also uncertainty as to the rating of the French and other coins already in the colony. Thus Governor Murray found it necessary to pass an ordinance, soon after the treaty of peace, establishing the legal tender rating of the chief coins circulating in the country.

This was the ordinance, passed 14th September and published 4th October, 1764, "for regulating and establishing the currency of the Province." It will be observed that it proceeds upon the legal ground of the proclamation and act of Queen Anne, having as its basis the rating of the dollar at 6s. The preamble states that "it is highly necessary to fix a certain value upon every species of coin now in this colony upon one certain and uniform plan." After considering the currencies of the various colonies upon the continent, the following ratings are established:

COINS		WEIGHT	RATING		
		dwt. grs.	£	s.	d.
<i>Gold</i>	Johannes of Portugal .....	18 6	4	16	0
	Moydore .....	6 18	1	16	0
	Carolyn of Germany .....	5 17	1	10	0
	Guinea .....	5 4	1	8	0
	Louis D'Or .....	5 3	1	8	0
	Spanish or French Pistole .....	4 4	1	1	0
<i>Silver</i>	Seville, Mexican and Pillar dollar ..	17 12		6	0
	French Crown, or six Livre piece....	19 4		6	8
	French piece, passing at present for				
	4s. 6d. Halifax currency .....	15 16		5	6
	British shilling .....			1	4
	Pistereen .....			1	2
	French nine-penny piece .....			1	0
	Twenty British coppers .....			1	0

All higher or lower denominations of the said gold and silver coins were to be current in due proportions. After January 1st, 1765, these coins were to be legal tender according to these rates where there was no special agreement to the contrary.