

Pistareens and French silver, and for excluding all gold coins but the British sovereign and half sovereign. It failed to pass, however, its changes being regarded as too radical.

In both Provinces temporary measures were passed making some slight adjustments. The Lower Canadian measure rated the Pistareen at 10d. instead of a shilling and the half Pistareen at 5d. The Upper Canadian act merely excluded from legal tender the worn and defaced coinage then forming a large part of the circulation, such as worn British coins, the Pistareens, and French crowns and half crowns. But as no new coinage was provided to take the place of that which had been disfranchised the situation was not much improved. Matters were simply left to be dealt with by practical agreements among the merchants and others.

Meantime the miscellaneous trash, constantly imported into Canada and circulating under the name of coppers, became an intolerable nuisance. The banks of Lower Canada undertook to remedy matters by issuing a series of copper bank tokens of definite standard which were accepted at their face value. The first issue was dated 1837 but did not pass into circulation until the spring of 1838. The banks providing them were the Bank of Montreal, the City Bank, the Quebec Bank, and the Banque du Peuple. Later the Bank of Upper Canada also obtained and exercised the right to issue copper bank tokens. This movement only partly remedied matters. As a further condition of relief the Bank of Montreal imported \$10,000 worth of 5 and 10 cent pieces from the United States Mint. This certainly improved the situation, but in doing so further determined the country in the direction of the American and not the English standard.

For some time the changing ratio of silver to gold had caused the American rate of 15 to 1, by undervaluing gold, to drive it out of the country. Hence in 1832 the new ratio of 16 to 1 was adopted. This however had the opposite effect, and as gold increased faster than silver, the latter passed to a premium and disappeared from circulation. American silver disappeared from Canada also, increasing the difficulties of the Canadian situation. Once more therefore the rating of the coinage had to be changed in Upper Canada. This was accomplished by the act of 1835. The British crown was rated at 6s. and the British shilling at 1s. 3d.

British coinage continued to act as an exchange on England and was therefore rated at its exchange value, not at either its currency value or its bullion value. Thus instead of the pound Halifax currency being equivalent to 17s. 4d. sterling, as formerly under the Act of 1836, it became equivalent to 16s. 8d. or, in the shape of the British shilling, to 16s.