

own names and emblems for its coins, which are simply to be made uniform in weight and value, to pass side by side, in perfect equality, throughout the world, without recoinage, brokerage, or other impediment, thereby materially cheapening international commerce and intercourse.

THE USE OF GOVERNMENT STAMPS BY BREWERS.—We find upon enquiry that the most conscientious and honest brewers, as well as the subordinate Revenue officers, all agree that the use of stamps would prove the fairest and most effective method of collecting the excise duties. The fact that such stamps are now used for the collection of the duty on tobacco, cigars, promissory notes and other documents, ought to be sufficient to convince the Board of Finance that the use of stamps ought to be extended to beer and whiskey. If the plan were tried we are convinced that there would be a great and instantaneous increase in the amount of the excise duty collected on beer by the Revenue officers. A worse system than the one which is now practised could not be devised, and therefore any change must be an improvement on it.—*Hamilton Times*.

REDEMPTION OF CENTS.—Numerous letters are daily received at the U. S. Treasury Department, making inquiries as to the redemption of cents—whether any premium is allowed upon them, particularly those of 1857, &c. It appears that dealers in various parts of the country have accumulated so many of this description that it is an interesting question with that class how to dispose of them. It was in view of reducing the quantity of cents in circulation and of obtaining a partial supply of nickel in convenient form that the Director of the United States Mint was authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury, some time ago, to purchase the nickel cents, paying the nominal value in three and five-cent nickel pieces. This was commenced on the 10th of June, and is continued under the following rules: 1. Persons sending or bringing the nickel cents will receive a certificate of the weight thereof and the amount payable in three or five-cent pieces, or both, as they desire; and with their endorsement thereon such certificates will be paid as soon as the coins are ready. 2. They must be careful not to send any but the kind mentioned, which are readily known by the color and size, and by the dates 1857 to 1864. 3. The pieces will be taken, not by count, but by avoirdupois or grocer's weight; no lot under ten pounds, nor fraction of a pound, will be received; and no spoiled, doubtful or illegible pieces will be taken. 4. The reasonable expense of the transportation of the three-cent pieces in sums of thirty dollars, and the five-cent pieces in sums of fifty dollars or upwards to any point accessible by railroad or steamboat, will be paid by the Mint, but the expense of transporting the nickel cents to the Mint must be paid by the parties sending them. 5. This arrangement will be revoked as soon as it is found that the issue of three and five-cent pieces, is likely to become too large, or that the abatement of cents is sufficient. The public may be assured that none of the cents herein mentioned have any special value. The sole object of this operation is to confer a public benefit. Henry R. Linderman, Director U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.—In all cases the address must accompany the package.

EXPORTS FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The *Charlottetown Patriot* says:—"On her Tuesday's trip to Pictou, 60 fine lambs and several sheep formed part of the freight of the *Princess of Wales*. We believe they were all intended for the Halifax meat market. This season we have exported to the West Indies, neighbouring Colonies, &c., from the port of Charlottetown alone, 99 horses."—The same paper says the total value of the fish exported last year was £41,313 Island currency, or \$13,220.60. Of the above articles the United Kingdom took \$4,704 worth; Canada, £1,286; Nova Scotia, £2,855; New Brunswick, £2,491; West Indies, £2,401; and the United States, £27,593. Of the exports to the latter country, the chief item is American caught mackerel transhipped by steamer. To the United Kingdom, 1,612 quintals cod, and 3,318 quintals scale fish, are the principal articles. Of the value of our exports to Canada, 4,675 bushels oysters make up more than one-half. Codfish is in value the largest article sent to Nova Scotia and the West Indies. The quantity of oysters shipped to New Brunswick was 6,867 bushels, of which a considerable proportion was intended for the United States market.

THE COAL OIL QUESTION.—In consequence of the action of the City Council, Kingston, in relation to the removal of coal oil and benzine to some

place of safety which would be approved of by the Mayor, the High Bailiff waited on all the dealers in the article yesterday and to-day, and insisted on the by-law being carried out, and the action of the Council attended to. The Police Magistrate a short time since very properly had the coal oil removed from the premises of dealers, for the general safety of the city, when a large portion of it was stored in the old "Garrett building" near the brewery of Hayward & Downing, in consequence of which several persons living in that vicinity petitioned the City Council to have it removed. The Council ordered its removal within twenty days. The owners of the oil promise to put it into some place where property will not be endangered by it, and also to store it in such a manner that, should an accident happen to any portion of it, it cannot affect the remainder.

THE CANADIAN

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The Canadian Monetary Times.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26, 1867.

SINCE the removal of the Crown Lands Department for Ontario to Toronto, the Government, by a verbal order, suspended the sale of mineral lands. We trust it may prove that this measure is either incidental to the movement of the Department, or preparatory to some new and improved regulations regarding the sale of mineral lands. It is unfortunate that there should have been a necessity for even a temporary suspension of sales, at a time when a considerable amount of money is seeking investment in our mineral lands. The season is rapidly wearing away, and in a few weeks it will be gone.

There may be good reasons for the contrast but the activity on the American side of Lake Superior, and the backwardness on the Canadian side, strike every visitor very forcibly. The comment, we may be sure, is not at all to the advantage of Canada. The Americans have more realized capital, available for mining enterprises, than we have; and they have acquired the necessary experience. But they took their time to do it; and all things considered, our backwardness is not without some excuse, though none that can fully justify it. Twenty years ago, there was a great stir about the north shore copper region. Several companies were formed, and immense tracts of land taken up; stock was floated, money made and lost in stock-jobbing, but very little

real work was done. Only one or two companies went to work in earnest; the remainder played dog in-the-manger for sixteen or seventeen years; when, in cases where the payment of the land had not been completed, the sales were very properly revoked. It was thought a better system was then inaugurated; but beyond the alienation of a certain portion of the lands, at a dollar an acre, very little has been done under it.

There are owners of mineral lands on the south shore who fancy themselves rich, but who know they are poor. They possess sure sources of wealth, but lack the means of development. Whether this arises from their putting too high an estimate on their property, or whether they are unable to convince capitalists of the richness and value of the deposits, certain it is that the thing hangs fire. It may become necessary for the Government of Ontario to take some step that will put the value of the mineral region on the north of Superior beyond all doubt. This could unquestionably be done. We do not at present go into a detail of the means. The confidence of English capitalists was sadly shaken by the speculations of 1847; and as most things Canadian are more or less in disfavor in England, the existing doubts must be dissipated, if we are to obtain capital from England to develop those mines. As things stand at present, the Americans, who know them better, are more likely to perform this service. It is obviously desirable that every facility for the development of this region should be afforded by the Government. Experience shows that this is not to be done by dross and speculative monopolies, which did nothing themselves and prevented everybody else from doing anything. Nor is the exaction of a royalty, on the product, likely to assist. It seems too often to be forgotten that nations strive to compete as well as individuals. No royalty is payable on the American side, and the imposition of one on ours is a discrimination against ourselves. If we burthen ourselves with weights, how can we hope to win the race? The royalty will have to go by the board, and the sooner the better. What have we made out of it? Nothing, or next to nothing; while it is evidently chargeable in some degree with the too general state of inactivity that broods over the north shore.

If all we hear be true, there are subordinates in the Crown Lands Offices whom it would not be prudent to trust too far with any discretion in manipulating the sale of those lands. We shall repeat no scandals, though they are commonly enough repeated on the street. All we say is, that the sale of these lands should be put upon that simple footing, which would preclude the possibility of subordinates turning their official position to improper account. Somebody must be trusted, and we presume there are honest people in the world. But the making an improper use of information obtained officially should be guarded against; and if discovered visited with due punishment.

We trust there will be no unnecessary delay in issuing new and improved rules for the sale of mineral lands. The great object should be to encourage the working of the mines. The mere