

## THE HISTORY OF CANADIAN CURRENCY, BANKING AND EXCHANGE\*

### I. EARLY METALLIC CURRENCY AND ITS REGULATION

HAVING undertaken to contribute a further series of articles on the history of Canadian Banking, I have found it necessary to an intelligent treatment of the subject, to take into consideration the closely allied and interdependent fields of the currency and exchange of the country. To accomplish this it is necessary to trace, up to our new point of departure in 1825, the various attempts to regulate the metallic currency of the colony, which were only incidentally referred to in the first series of studies dealing with the preparation for the earliest banks and their actual establishment. To supply this missing link is the object of the present article.

We have already followed the history of the introduction and valuation of the various coins current in Canada during the French period. Driven to cover, during the closing years of French rule, by an overwhelming invasion of paper money, these coins reappeared at the Conquest, and took their places as media of exchange along with the coins introduced by the purveyors for the British troops, or brought by the British and colonial merchants who established themselves at Quebec and Montreal. The Quebec merchants long continued to be closely

\*Chief sources:

Ordinances made for the Province of Quebec by the Governor and Council of the said province, since the establishment of the Civil Government. Quebec, 1767.

The Laws of Lower Canada, Vols. I—IV.

Statutes of Upper Canada, as published in 1812, 1819, 1823.

Dominion Archives, State Papers, Lower and Upper Canada.

A History of Currency in the British Colonies by Robert Chalmers, B.A., of Her Majesty's Treasury. With Appendix of Documents. London, 1893.

Letter Books of the Hon. Richard Cartwright. 1787-1815. In manuscript.