

COINING AT OTTAWA.**Mint Is Closed Until January—Proclamation Details Its Function.**

The Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint, which was proclaimed open on November 9th, has been proclaimed closed again by the Imperial authorities.

It will re-open on January 1st, that is, if a good stout fence is erected around the premises. The absence of this protection was the reason for the closing of the institution.

A Royal proclamation, detailing the functions of the Mint, has been issued. From the mass of unnecessary legal phrases, which are contained in the proclamation, we have discovered particulars of some of the services of this new department.

Bring Gold and Mint Will Coin.

Gold coins of the same denominations, designs, weights, and fineness as those coined at the Mint in England, may be coined at the Ottawa Mint, and any gold so coined will be

subject to the allowance of the same remedy as gold coins coined at the Mint in England.

If any person brings to the Ottawa Mint any gold bullion and requires the Deputy Master of that branch to assay, coin into sterling gold coins and deliver out the same to him, the Deputy Master will comply with the requisition upon payment for every ounce troy of gold of standard fineness of a charge of three cents where the amount brought at one time does not exceed five hundred ounces, and of two cents in any other case. This rule is subject to certain provisions:

Subject to any regulations and conditions which may be made by the Master of the English Mint, the Deputy Master of the Ottawa branch Mint shall coin at the Mint any gold, silver, bronze, or other coin which the Governor-General of the Dominion requires, but they are not for the purposes of the Coinage Act, 1870, to be deemed to be coins made at, or issued from, the English Mint.

The Governor-General in Council will inspect the store of bullion and coin at the Ottawa Mint half-yearly, and report to the Deputy Master of the Mint, stating the exact amount of bullion and coin inspected by them.

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Dec. 30, 1899	ASSETS
Dec. 31, 1900	\$96,418.20
Dec. 31, 1901	\$230,297.11
Dec. 31, 1902	\$460,888.76
Dec. 31, 1904	\$712,983.32
Dec. 30, 1905	\$1,400,777.17
Dec. 31, 1906	\$1,671,843.05
	\$1,871,864.85

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A wide-spreading prairie fire swept the country north of
Shero, Sask., destroying a large quantity of hay.

Inspector Howe, of the C.F.U.A., reports concerning the
City of Guelph, that while in many respects the fire system is
good, it is defective in the following points: More hydrants
are needed in the business section; a hose tower is required
high enough to suspend hose to dry; the supply of hose
should be increased to 4,000 feet, and the number of play
pipes to 14, because the hydrant branches are not screwed
to Standard thread which defect prevents the appliances of
larger cities being available in the event of a conflagration.
Mr. Howe urges the installing of an additional pump of not
less than 3,000,000 imperial gallons per 24 hours capacity,
for placing the system in suitable duplicate for present popu-
lation, for which purpose the Standard requires a rate of
4,400,000 imperial gallons per 24 hours.

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