

institutions,¹ having applied to the Governor-General-in-Council for the necessary authorization, was accorded the privilege to import such coin to the extent of £5,000, any time before the 1st of January, 1845.²

Under this authorization the bank imported £2,000 in pennies and halfpennies in 1842. It would appear that a heavy duty had been placed on copper coin, for on the application of the cashier a permit was granted to import this coinage free of duty.³ In March, 1844, £2,000 worth was brought out and in June, 1845, £1,000 more which completed the £5,000 authorized in 1842. All the coins in both of these shipments which are dated 1844, are halfpennies, for no corresponding penny is known. This issue of 1844 is by far the largest of any one denomination, as it numbered 1,440,000 pieces. Consequently, it is still by far the most plentiful.

One of the documents states that in 1845 the Bank of Montreal obtained an authorization to import a further supply of copper coin to the extent of £1,200.⁴ But for some unrecorded reason, although dies were prepared, no such coinage was put into circulation. Two specimens exist struck from the dies of 1845. With this last attempt the Bank of Montreal drops out of the business of catering for the supply of a Canadian copper currency and the charge devolved upon another institution.

The design for the reverse of the coinage of 1842-4, is an exact copy of that of 1837 except the date. The obverse which presents a front view of the bank building while much better in execution and finish, is not so artistic in treatment as that on the coins of 1838. In fact a front view does not afford as favourable an opportunity for the exercise of artistic taste; while the inscription "Province of Canada, Bank of Montreal" being too full also detracts from the pleasing effect. For these reasons, as well as for their rarity, the side views have always been more popular among collectors than the front views.

The similarity of treatment and workmanship, as well as the fact that one of the dies of the 1837 tokens is muled with one of those of 1842,⁵ proves clearly that the latter was executed by Boulton & Watt of the Soho Mint, Birmingham.

No further effort was made to supply copper coin until 1850, when the Bank of Upper Canada took up the task relinquished by the

¹ Provincial Statutes of Canada, 1841, Chap. VII., clauses 1 and 2.

² Appendix F, Nos. 6 and 7. The former is a draft by the Solicitor General, and the latter the Order-in-Council as adopted.

³ Appendix F, No. 9.

⁴ Appendix F, No. 19.

⁵ Appendix A, No. 20.