

recovery of just debts in the Courts of Justice in this Province, and is thereby likely to become the means of much fraud and injustice if it be suffered to continue in force." As a consequence of this experience we find that future governors were less rash in attempting to ride roughshod over the usages of trade and commerce as worked out in contact with the practical conditions of the time.

In the interval between the passing of the ordinance of 1765 and its repeal in 1768 we find that Murray, just as he was leaving Quebec on the 28th June, 1766, received instructions with reference to the currency, among other matters, upon which he was unable to take any action. Pending the arrival of Murray's successor, Sir Guy Carleton, President Irving of the Council took over the government. Apparently in accordance with the instructions sent to Murray, he immediately prepared in Council the draft of an ordinance for the regulating and establishing of the currency of the Province to take the place of the two ordinances then in force.

This draft specifically refers to the Act of Queen Anne, and reciting the clause limiting the piece of eight to 6s. currency, adopts that rating as the standard, and adjusts the other gold and silver coins as nearly as may be in proportion. In the list of rates given the only changes from the ordinance of 1764 are the raising of the weight of the standard Johannes to 18 dwt. 17 grs., increasing the value of the Spanish or French pistole from £1 1s. to £1 2s., and dropping from the list the French silver pieces other than the crown, and the British coppers. In place of the objectionable ordinance of 1765 a clause was introduced simply making the coins as rated in the ordinance legal tender for all debts and contracts, past or future, made within the Province, except where there is a special written or witnessed agreement to the contrary. The value of the copper currency was rated at 18 British copper half pence, 36 farthings, or 48 sols marquez to be the equivalent of 1s. currency, the limit of legal tender in copper coins at one payment to be 5s. This proposed ordinance was dated 7th July, 1766, and in sending it to the British authorities, Irving explained in an accompanying letter that the louis d'or and the French crowns were somewhat over-rated with the object of keeping these coins in the country,