

# THE CANADIAN MONETARY TIMES

## AND INSURANCE CHRONICLE.

DEVOTED TO FINANCE, COMMERCE, INSURANCE, BANKS, RAILWAYS, REAL ESTATE, MINES, INVESTMENT,  
PUBLIC COMPANIES, AND JOINT STOCK ENTERPRISE.

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SUBSCRIPTION \$2 A YEAR.

### Mercantile.

#### J. E. Boustead.

PROVISION and Commission Merchant. Hops bought and sold on Commission. 82 Front St., Toronto.

#### Buntin, Brother & Co.,

WHOLESALE STATIONERS, and Paper, Envelope, and Bank Book Manufacturers, Nos. 3 and 4 Commercial Buildings, Yonge Street, south of King Street, Toronto.

#### Wm. Croft & Co.,

MANUFACTURERS of Needles, Fish Hooks, Tackle, &c., Importers of Cutlery, Thimbles, Pears and Buttons, Hooks and Eyes, Pins, Combs, and Small Wares in general. 37 Colborne Street, Toronto, Ont.

#### Childs & Hamilton.

MANUFACTURERS and Wholesale Dealers in Boots and Shoes, No. 7 Wellington-Street East, Toronto, Ontario.

#### L. Coffee & Co.

PRODUCE and Commission Merchants, No. 2 Manning's Block, Front St., Toronto, Ont. Advances made on consignments of Produce.

#### Candee & Co.,

BANKERS AND BROKERS, dealers in Gold and Silver Coin, Government Securities, &c., Corner Main and Exchange Streets, Buffalo, Y. N. 21-1v

#### John Fiskin & Co.

ROCK OIL and Commission Merchants, Wellington Street East, Toronto, Ont.

#### Gundry and Langley,

ARCHITECTS AND CIVIL ENGINEERS, Building Surveyors and Valuers. Office corner of King and Jordan Streets, Toronto.  
THOMAS GUNDRY. HENRY LANGLEY.

#### Lyman & McNab.

WHOLESALE Hardware Merchants, Toronto, Ontario.

#### W. D. Matthews & Co.

PRODUCE Commission Merchants, Old Corn Exchange, 16 Front St. East, Toronto Ont.

#### R. C. Hamilton & Co.

PRODUCE Commission Merchants, 119 Lower Water St., Halifax, Nova Scotia.

#### H. Nerlich & Co.,

IMPORTERS of French, German, English and American Fancy Goods, Cigars, and Leaf Tobaccos, No. 2 Adelaide Street, West, Toronto. 15

#### Parson Bros.,

PETROLEUM Refiners, and Wholesale dealers in Lamps, Chimneys, etc. Waterrooms 51 Front St. Refinery cor. River and Don Sts., Toronto.

#### Reford & Dillon.

IMPORTERS of Groceries, Wellington Street, Toronto, Ontario.

#### W. Rowland & Co.,

PRODUCE BROKERS and General Commission Merchants. Advances made on Consignments. Corner Church and Front Streets, Toronto.

#### Sessions, Turner & Cooper.

MANUFACTURERS, Importers and Wholesale Dealer in Boots and Shoes, Leather Findings, etc., 8 Welton St. West, Toronto, Ont.

#### R. Malcolm,

NO. 181 KING STREET EAST, and 8 Rossin House Block, Toronto, Manufacturer and dealer in Saddles, Harness, Trunks, Travelling Equipments, and every article usually kept in first-class saddlery establishments.  
Wholesale and Retail.

### Financial.

#### NUMISMATICS.

The subject with which this science deals derives many charms from the peculiar advantages offered for it in this country. It is not difficult of acquirement, and the means of following it up are to be found close at hand. A great deal of annoyance is felt all over Canada at present from the confused state of the currency; all calculations are confused by it, and endless perplexity arises. This is no new feature in our history; many will recollect the "Pistareen" troubles, many more the days of "Sterling and Halifax" troubles, and now we have them in the shape of United States silver. The consequence is, that we have a currency such as was probably never seen in any other country, and a history of the coins commonly to be met with in Canada would fill a volume. At the same time, to a numismatist, such a condition of things has its benefits, for it affords an extensive field to cull from. It is a matter of surprise that no move has been made towards profiting by our advantages in this respect, and that as yet no national collection has been formed in any of our cities. When it is once understood and felt that the coinage of a country is one of the most durable monuments of its history, and is considered a fair criterion of its civilization, perhaps this indifference may cease, and some steps may be taken towards the desired end.

The science of numismatics treats of coins and medals. For a satisfactory description, an account of their inscriptions, devices, and perhaps their composition, would be necessary. Their artistic treatment would be discussed, and an account given of the process by which a shapeless lump of metal became a shining sovereign or a glittering shilling. A comparison of the coins of different nations, and of their relative values, would be included; and to render the account complete, there would be properly comprised an account of the laws of exchange, and of the penalties which have at different times been provided by statute against the utterance of forged coin. With a range so extensive, it would be strange if there were not in this study an interest, not perhaps seen at first sight, but certainly felt on closer enquiry. This, however, is not the sole knowledge to be derived from numismatics. As an illustration to history, and to kindred branches of knowledge, the science of coins affords important help. Its corroborative evidence is very valuable, and in one remarkable instance it has fairly set history right. The existence of a long line of kings has been clearly demonstrated

from their coins alone, and a lost language restored—namely, of Bactria and North Western India—when no other record of either was left, and their memory had passed away. Coins are, however, especially valuable as preserving some of the most remarkable features of both ancient and modern civilization. Many disputed points have been settled by a reference to them alone, and frequently facts have been established by their aid which without assistance of this kind would have been still in doubt. When the sequence of coins is once brought before us, we recognise at once that we have in them a clear and almost imperishable evidence of events which would otherwise have been completely lost sight of. The Greek coins are the earliest in point of time. Their period extended from between 700 and 800 B. C., to about 200 A. D.—a thousand years. To these succeeded the Roman Imperial, which were followed in their turn by the Byzantine coins of the Emperors of Constantinople, and they gave way to the various coinages of the different European States. Such is a brief epitome of their succession. Their testimony with regard to antiquity, may be referred to under the following heads; our limits but allow of our mentioning them.

1. Their general historical value has been touched upon.
2. Their assistance in geographical researches is very important. One instance will suffice—the serpent which accompanies the rose on the coin of Rhodes, has been thought to express the insular position of that state. This specimen is also an example of the use of coins in establishing the natural productions of the various countries where they were struck. Another instance might be added to prove this, the ear of barley on the coins of many of the ancient cities in Southern Italy, contains an allusion to their fertility.
3. Many of the confused attempts at arrangement in ancient mythology could be easily refuted by reference to coins.
4. A complete chain of the history of art could be made out, link by link, from the medals of antiquity. The statuary and painting of the Romans and Greeks are, in a great measure, a mere memory. The coins are actually present, and they can never be obliterated.
5. There is always a desire in the human breast to have constantly present the likeness or image of those it reverences. Among the early Greeks there was a positive fear of incurring the wrath of the gods, that forbade the practice of stamping such images on coins; but after the time of Alexander the Great it became common. States tha-