

mentioned two or three of the class I have now undertaken to describe, this article caused much agitation among collectors and dealers some of whom denied the truth of my allegations in strong terms ; but as yet no proof has been produced to sustain their allegations regarding the genuineness of the coins in question.

As many of these fabrications were omitted from that article and many more have since been issued the list will be too long to give in full detail. By the term fabrications, which I use here, is meant coins or medals struck for no other purpose than to sell to collectors. It would not have been profitable to have produced these fabrications had there not been such a demand for rarities and novelties in Canadian coins, and had not the prices demanded and cheerfully paid been exceptionally, if not extravagantly high. Even now these fabrications are sold at prices varying from fifty cents to five dollars each.

There was just such an experience in England about a hundred years ago when what are known as eighteenth century Tradesmen Tokens were issued in great variety. So beautifully executed were many of them and so interesting was the whole series that many numismatists were attracted to its study. In a short time the collecting of these tokens became so fashionable that the search after rare varieties caused a regular furore among collectors. And those who are ever ready to profit by such wants soon arranged that rare varieties should be forthcoming. New tokens were designed, rare trial pieces showing different stages of the unfinished dies were struck, and mule pieces in endless variety were turned out, to be sold at outlandish prices as great rarities to hungry collectors. Mules were multiplied indefinitely by means of the lettered collar then so fashionable for inscribing the edges of coins. These were changed and interchanged with obverses and reverses until the most painstaking collectors were bewildered and many at length became so disgusted that rarities for which two or three pounds had been paid were permitted to be sacrificed for hardly more than as many pence. If this traffic in Canada be not stopped the same results will follow. The practice should be discouraged by all lawful means and that too without delay ; for in the long run it will cure itself as it did in England, to the great loss of honest collectors and dealers. Those who have invested largely in genuine Canadian coins at high prices will soon find their treasures greatly reduced in value by this *fabricating* business.