

the Receiver General, the Commissary General of the Forces and the cashiers of Quebec and Montreal banks to furnish statements of the numbers of the legally rated coins which they have had in possession on the first of each month, during the years 1828 and 1829, and to give any other information they can on the subject of the currency.

The Commissary General stated that the only coins received into the Military Chest were dollars, half-dollars and English money. French coins were not offered on account of being over-rated in circulation. Of the gold coins only a few sovereigns were received because they were accepted at their face value. The average amount of specie in his possession was about £200,000 in Upper and Lower Canada, of which he estimates £150,000 to be in foreign and £50,000 in British coins. The cashier of the Quebec Bank sends in a list which indicates that the chief coins in the possession of the bank were dollars, half-dollars, quarter dollars, French crowns and half-crowns. Of gold coins he has seldom more than £150 worth, including, however, samples of seventeen different coins, but chiefly sovereigns, half-sovereigns, half-eagles and Mexican doubloons. The cashier of the Bank of Montreal makes a very full report, showing that the chief silver coins in the hands of the bank were dollars and half-dollars, Spanish and American, French crowns and half-crowns, with a considerable quantity of pistareens or shillings. The statement of the coins in the Provincial Treasury shows that in quantity they range as follows:—Dollars, half-dollars, crowns, pistareens, half-crowns, quarter-dollars and York shillings or sixpences.

In addition to these statements, the committee was supplied with a great many important facts and some doubtful argument by Commissary General Routh, who presented the case for the British Government in a number of communications from October, 1829, to February, 1830.

While recognizing many of the difficulties in the way of adopting a change of standard, and especially the peculiar interests associated with the French coins in Lower Canada, he still urges the adoption of the sterling system and the breaking connection, as far as possible, with the Americans and their currency.