

STATISTICS OF THE COINAGE FOR CANADA
AND NEWFOUNDLAND.

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OME can still remember the last issue of the old pennies. These coins having the impress of St. George and the dragon—rather “Bank Tokens” as they were inscribed because not officially sanctioned by the Imperial Government—bright and new as they were paid out by the Bank of Upper Canada. That was in 1857. In 1858 a new order was introduced; we were no longer to make up our accounts by the antiquated pounds, shillings and pence or the still more obsolete *livres* and *sous* but by act of Parliament, were to count by dollars and cents. The old “token” and other copper currency, with British and foreign silver, could not be made to fit the new standard. A new coinage was therefore believed to be necessary, and one sanctioned by the home government was ordered from the Royal Mint. Thus in 1858 were struck, strictly speaking, the first true coins for Canada, and a regular coinage for the Dominion has been continued, with longer or shorter inter-

NUMBER OF COINS STRUCK FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA, INCLUDING ITS SEPARATE PROVINCES AND NEWFOUNDLAND FROM 1858 TO 1890.

YEAR.	NOMINAL VALUE IN DOLLARS	NUMBER OF PIECES.								TOTAL.
		GOLD. Two dollar pieces.	Fifty cent pieces.	Twenty-five cent pieces.	SILVER. Twenty cent pieces. Ten cent pieces. Five cent pieces.			BRONZE. One cent pieces. Half cent pieces.		
PROVINCE OF CANADA.										
1858	360,000				750,000✓	1,250,000✓	1,500,000✓	1,000,000✓		4,500,000
1859	90,000							9,000,000✓		9,000,000
Total.....	450,000				750,000	1,250,000	1,500,000	10,000,000		13,500,000
PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.										
1861	10,000							1,000,000		1,000,000
1862	50,000				150,000	150,000	100,000			400,000
1864	55,000				150,000	100,000	100,000	1,000,000		1,350,000
Total.....	115,000				300,000	250,000	200,000	2,000,000		2,750,000
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.										
1861	10,000							800,000	400,000	1,200,000
1862	10,000							1,000,000		1,000,000
1864	10,000							800,000	400,000	1,200,000
Total.....	30,000							2,600,000	800,000	3,400,000
PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.										
1871	20,000							2,000,000		2,000,000
DOMINION OF CANADA.										
1870	750,000		450,000	900,000	1,500,000	2,600,000✓				5,650,000
1871	372,500		245,000	400,000	800,000	1,400,000✓				2,845,000
1872	777,500		35,000	2,240,000✓	1,000,000	2,000,000✓				5,275,000
1874	400,000			1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000				3,000,000
1875	400,000			1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000				3,000,000
1876	40,000							4,000,000✓		4,000,000
1880	400,000			400,000	1,500,000	3,000,000				4,900,000
1881	470,000		150,000	820,000	950,000	1,500,000✓		2,000,000✓		5,420,000
1882	340,000			600,000	1,000,000	1,000,000✓		4,000,000✓		6,600,000
1883	570,000			960,000	3,000,000	600,000				4,560,000
1884	50,000				150,000	200,000		2,500,000✓		2,850,000
1885	138,000			192,000	400,000	1,000,000✓				1,592,000
1886	240,000			400,000	650,000	1,200,000		1,500,000✓		3,750,000
1887	175,000			240,000	500,000	1,000,000		1,500,000✓		3,240,000
1888	270,000		60,000	400,000	500,000	1,000,000		4,000,000✓		5,960,000
1889	136,600			66,341	600,000	1,200,000				1,866,341
1890	165,000		20,000	200,000	450,000	1,000,000		1,000,000✓		2,670,000
Total.....	5,694,600		960,000	9,818,341	15,200,000	20,700,000		20,500,000		67,178,341
Total for the Dominion.....	6,309,600		960,000	9,818,341	1,050,000	16,700,000		22,400,000	37,100,000	88,828,341
NEWFOUNDLAND.										
1865	44,400	10,000			100,000	80,000		240,000✓		510,000
1870	50,000	10,000	50,000		50,000	30,000		40,000		180,000
1872	55,000	6,000	48,000		90,000✓	40,000		40,000	100,000✓	324,000
1873	30,000		32,000		40,000	20,000		40,000	200,000	332,000
1874	40,000		80,000							80,000
1876	28,000		28,000		50,000	10,000		20,000	200,000✓	308,000
1880	27,500	2,500	24,000		30,000	10,000		40,000	400,000✓	506,500
1881	49,000	10,000	50,000		60,000	40,000		40,000		160,000
1882	100,000	25,000	100,000		100,000	20,000		60,000✓		305,000
1885	40,000	10,000✓	40,000		40,000	8,000		16,000	40,000✓	154,000
1888	55,500	25,000	20,000		75,000	30,000		40,000	50,000	240,000
Total.....	519,400	98,500	472,000		635,000	248,000		416,000	1,230,000	3,099,500
Grand total.....	6,829,000	98,500	1,432,000	9,818,341	1,635,000	16,948,000		22,816,000	38,330,000	91,927,841

vals, until the present time as the needs of the people required.

It has been thought well to publish a list of the number of each denomination struck during each year, and, as this task has been assigned to me, I will make the attempt to enliven the dry columns of figures with such running comments as may seem to me interesting.

1858.

This first Canadian coinage consisted of twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces. There was also struck a pattern for a cent smaller than and differing in design from the regular issue. The coinage was commenced so late in the year that the bulk of the large order for cents had to be completed in 1859. The number of these cents ordered (ten millions) was far in excess of the peoples, wants for that year. When we consider that the population of the old Province of Canada did not exceed two millions, and that the ample supply of old coppers had not been withdrawn from circulation, we can easily understand that an additional five cents copper change for each soul or ten cents for each buying and selling member of the community, was more than could be readily taken up.

Then, too, when we know that the total number of cents ordered during the succeeding thirty-two years, including those for the Lower Provinces, did not exceed twenty-seven millions, that during this time the old coppers had been withdrawn from circulation and that the population of the Dominion had nearly trebled, we can understand why it took the government agent over ten years to push these cents, ordered in 1858, into circulation at a discount of twenty per cent. I have myself been sent on more than one occasion to the Bank of Upper Canada to purchase these cents at a cost of eighty cents per hundred. They were put up in cotton bags two hundred in each.

1859.

The record of the Mint shows no coinage for this year, but, as the cents of 1858 are comparatively rare and those of 1859 still common, I have assigned one million as the number coined in 1858 leaving nine millions for 1859. Many speci-

mens occur struck from altered dies in which traces of the eight can be seen underneath the nine. This indicates that the coinage was actively going on when the year closed, and that in the hurry to complete the order new dies of 1859 could not be prepared in time to keep the presses in operation.

1861

During this year the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick adopted the decimal system and, to accommodate the circulation to the new order, cents and half cents were coined for each. But we have no mention, in the report of the Mint, of a coinage of half cents for the latter province, nor was an order for any given by its government. We may therefore infer that, having received the two orders at the same time, the engravers at the Mint prepared half cent dies for both and that, before the mistake was noticed, a number of New Brunswick half cents were sent out along with those ordered for Nova Scotia.

As Nova Scotia adopted a standard of her own in which the pound sterling was reckoned at five dollars; differing from that adopted by the other Provinces which reckoned the pound at \$4.86 $\frac{2}{3}$. The shilling passed at twenty-five cents and the sixpence at twelve and a half. Thus no new silver coins were required but a half cent was necessary to make proper change when the sixpence was tendered. Pattern cents and half cents were struck differing in design from that adopted. But of these patterns I intend to say something in a future paper.

1862

Twenty, ten and five cent pieces were coined for New Brunswick during the year, for the difficulty in accommodating the coins of the Mother Country to the new standard made a coinage of silver necessary. Although the Mint report for this year gives the coinage for Nova Scotia as one million cents, that is two hundred thousand more than either the preceding or succeeding coinages, the Nova Scotia cent of 1862 is the rarest of the series, selling readily in good condition for twenty-five cents,

1864

The coinage for New Brunswick, for this year, consisted of twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces, and that of Nova Scotia one and half cent pieces. A series of patterns were struck for Newfoundland, but not for circulation; these were two dollar, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces.

1865

The decimal system having been adopted by Newfoundland, in 1864, a new coinage was ordered for that Province, in 1865, consisting of two dollar pieces in gold, (the only gold struck for any of the North American Colonies) besides twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces. There is also a pattern for a two dollar gold piece differing from the regular issue.

1870

During the depreciation of the currency in the United States, caused by the war of the rebellion, the bulk of its silver coins, not being used in that country, were brought into Canada. This caused such a redundancy of the silver circulation that, for banking purposes, it was subjected to a discount of from four to six per cent. Sir Francis Hincks the Finance Minister made arrangements to relieve the country of this burden by exporting all the foreign silver. This necessitated a new silver coinage, which coinage consisted of fifty, twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces, It was the second largest in value of the Canadian coinages; amounting to seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. A coinage was also struck for Newfoundland consisting of two dollar, fifty, twenty, ten and five cent pieces. There must have been some dissatisfaction with the two dollar pieces as another pattern appeared during the year, differing in design from the regular issue.

1871.

The Coinage for Canada for this year consisted of fifty, twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces. The Royal Mint began so be taxed to fill the home orders that the Colonial orders had to be sublet to Messrs Ralph Heaton & Son, Birmingham. Coins so struck bear the letter "H" for Heaton. Part of the order for fifty, twenty-five and ten cent pieces bear

the Birmingham mark. A mule occurs with the obverse of a Newfoundland and the reverse of a Canadian ten cent piece this is the more curious as no coins were struck for Newfoundland, at Birmingham, until 1872. During this year Prince Edward Island, the last of the Provinces to give up the old system, had a coinage of two millions of cents struck at the Royal Mint for its small population of 75,000.

1872.

This year represents the largest coinage, amounting to \$777,500, ever struck for Canada. The withdrawal of the foreign coins from circulation, commenced in 1870, was now complete. The denominations are the same as for the previous year, all struck at Birmingham. A coinage consisting of two dollars, fifty, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces was struck for Newfoundland, all except the two dollar piece, at Birmingham.

1873.

A coinage for Newfoundland was struck at the Royal Mint consisting of fifty, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces.

1874.

The coins struck for Canada were twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces. They all bear "H" the mark of the Birmingham Mint. A fifty cent piece for Newfoundland was struck at the Royal Mint. The half dollar is a much more popular coin in Newfoundland than in Canada, for, while in the former no coinage but the first was issued without the largest silver coin, in the latter there have been only two issues of it since the first three great coinages.

1875.

A coinage of twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces was struck for Canada at Birmingham.

1876.

A coinage of cents was struck at Birmingham for Canada, the first since the great coinage of cents of 1858. Fifty, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces were struck for Newfoundland also at Birmingham. The old coppers, that had

continued to circulate in Canada, were called in during the year, hence the necessity for the cents.

1880.

This year there was a coinage of twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces struck at Birmingham for Canada ; and for Newfoundland two dollar, fifty, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces struck at the Royal Mint.

1881.

A coinage of fifty, twenty-five, ten, five, and one cent pieces was struck at Birmingham for Canada ; and for Newfoundland two dollar, fifty, twenty and five cent pieces struck at the Royal Mint. The ten cent piece does not seem to be a popular coin in Newfoundland, as not half as many have been struck as of the fifty or twenty cent pieces ; while in Canada the ratio is reversed.

1882.

The coins for Canada were twenty-five, ten, five and one cent pieces and for Newfoundland two dollar, fifty, twenty, ten and five cent pieces all struck at Birmingham.

1883.

A coinage for Canada of twenty-five, ten, and five cent pieces was struck at Birmingham.

1884.

The coinage for Canada was ten, five and one cent pieces struck at the Royal Mint. As the enlargements at the Royal Mint, that had been going on for some time, had been completed during the previous year, the colonial orders could be again undertaken without having to sublet to Messrs. Ralph Heaton & Son.

1885:

Twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces were struck for Canada, and for Newfoundland two dollar, fifty, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces, all at the Royal Mint.

1886.

Twenty-five, ten, five and one cent pieces were struck for Canada, at the Royal Mint.

1887.

The same coins were struck at the Royal Mint, for Canada, as during the previous year. A deputy receiver

has been appointed in the chief town of each of the provinces, who sends to the Receiver General at Ottawa an estimate of the number of each denomination he will require for the next year. These estimates are made up and sent at the beginning of the year to the Mint to be forwarded to the different Provinces as ordered.

1888.

The coinage for Canada consisted of fifty, twenty-five, ten, five and one cent pieces; and for Newfoundland two dollar, fifty, twenty, ten, five and one cent pieces, struck at the Royal Mint.

1889.

Twenty-five, ten and five cent pieces were struck at the Royal Mint for Canada.

1890. †

This year the coinage consisted of fifty, twenty-five, ten, five and one cent pieces struck at Birmingham. The fifties, of which the number struck was comparatively small were sent to one of the outlying Provinces; as none have yet appeared in this part of the Dominion. The return to striking of the coins at Birmingham, after a lapse of seven years, indicates that there is again a rush of business at the Royal Mint.

On scanning over these columns we find the total nominal value of coins, struck for Canada, to be a little over six millions of dollars or about a dollar for each inhabitant. But estimating one third of this as having been withdrawn from circulation, through loss or wear, we find the real amount in circulation reduced below seventy cents per inhabitant. The total number of coins struck, nearly ninety millions, or about fifteen for each individual; or, deducting fifty per cent. for losses as the minor coins disappear faster than the larger; an average circulation of seven coins each remains. We therefore, cannot but come to the conclusion that our coins are used for change only; that the people are not given to hoarding; and that a metallic circulation, so small when com-

pared with the commercial activity of the people, could only be used for the smallest transactions. The extension of the banking system, with bank bills and cheques, has done away with the necessity of bullion in large transactions. The greater number of small coins struck and the increasing demand for these point in the same direction. Things are somewhat different in the sparsely settled colony of Newfoundland, for which the total value struck since 1865, amounts to nearly six hundred thousand dollars, or about two dollars for each inhabitant ; while the number of coins—three millions—would give ten for each. As, too, the gold coinage and the larger silver pieces are the more popular we may infer that larger coin payments are often made on account of the want of extended banking facilities in the outlying districts. Another analysis goes further to prove this ; averaging the value of the total number of pieces struck ; we find it to be seven cents for Canada while it is seventeen for Newfoundland.

In comparing our modern coinages with those of the past, when payments could be made in coin only, we may learn what changes have been brought about by rapid transit, machinery and banks. In early English history each town had its mint, where, with the rudest appliances, the circulating medium necessary for the wants of the immediate neighborhood was struck ; and the supply was often sorely inadequate. At present one mint in London supplies the whole United Kingdom ; taking the place of the sixty or more provincial mints of old besides having to attend to the wants of colonies as populous many thousand miles away. Large as these coinages for Canada, during the past few years, seem to be, when compared with the scanty supply of our colonial days, when the full tide of immigration sets in upon us, we expect, it so to expand, that in the course of time, a mint far exceeding that of London, in capacity must needs be established in our midst,