

## FRANCE.—Continued.

## Land Measure.

	The Centiare	.01 of the are or square mètre.
4sq.perches } nearly.	" Arc.	1. one hundred sq. mètres.
2½ acres } nearly }	" Hectare.	100. 10,000 sq. mètres.

It would be impossible to devise a decimal system more perfect and harmonious in its parts, coupled with a nomenclature so expressive of the multiple or division of the unit of weight or measure it represents: as remarked by Mr. Adams in his admirable report to Congress on this subject, in 1821, "no two words express the same thing, and no two things are signified by the same word."

Beautiful, however, as this system is admitted to be in theory, it was, from its inception, met with the most overwhelming difficulties in practice. A population of millions, accustomed for ages to a particular mode of domestic trade, could not readily give up the use of the weights and measures with which they were familiar, and they so pertinaciously clung to their old system, that the Government of France was forced to make, at different times, such concessions to popular usages, and so to modify the laws,

that the result, for nearly forty years, was to produce enhanced confusion in reference to the weights and measures of the country.

It was not until the reign of Louis Philippe that this great metrical system may be said to have been, as a whole, imposed upon France. The law of the 4th July, 1837, which abrogated the decree of the 12th February, 1812, permitting under certain restrictions the use of old weights and measures with their former designations, utterly swept away the old system, so far as a legal enactment could do it, and bodily substituted in its place the decimal metric system, which I have just described. The use, however, of the old weights and measures was tolerated until the 1st January, 1840, after which date heavy penalties were attached, not only to the use of such old weights and measures, but even a reference to them in contracts was prohibited, and a notary who should in any deed of conveyance describe lands by the abrogated terms of measurement instead of using the language of the new metrology, was not only fined, but the deed itself was declared to be null and void. Such is the present stringency of the law upon this subject in France.

The French metrical system now prevails also in Holland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Greece, and Brazil.

## CANADA.

We now come to the weights and measures as established by law in Canada. The leading statute upon this subject is an Act of the Legislature of Lower Canada, the 30th Geo. III., cap. 7, which is to be found in the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, cap. 62. Under this, three sets of various kinds of beams and scales, and four sets of standard weights and measures were imported from England, and these were declared to be the standard weights and measures of the Province.

The weights and measures thus imported, were all made of brass, and consisted of—

1. *Avoirdupois* weights in sets as follows: From one drachm to four ounces.  
" ½ ounce to 4 pounds, and  
" 4 lbs. to 56 lbs., the standard being respectively 4, 7, 14, 28, and 56 lbs.
2. *Troy* weights in sets—  
From ½ a grain to 1 ounce,  
" ¼ of an ounce to 64 ounces, and 7lbs. to 28 lbs., in weights of 7, 14 and 28 lbs.
3. Wine measures, in sets from 1 gill to 1 gallon.
4. Winchester measures, in sets from 1 gill to 1 gallon.
5. Winchester bushels and half bushels.
6. Canada measures (old French measures) from a *poisson* to a *pot*.
7. The *minot* and ½ *minot*.
8. "The English standard foot rule."
9. "The Paris standard foot rule."
10. "The English standard yard."
11. "The English standard ell."

1.—The pound *avoirdupois*, "with its parts, multiples, and proportions," was made the standard weight "for weighing all goods, wares, and merchandise, butcher's meat, flour, meal, bread, biscuit, and other commodities whatever commonly sold by weight" ("gold, silver, coin, bullion, drugs, and precious stones only excepted.")

2.—The pound *Troy* was the standard for weighing gold, silver, bullion, drugs, and precious stones, as above excepted from the applications of the *avoirdupois* weight.

3.—The *wine gallon* was made the standard liquid measure of Lower Canada for "wine,

cider, beer, and spirituous liquors of all kinds, treacle and molasses, and all other liquids commonly sold by gauge or measure of capacity."

4.—The *Canada minot* was the standard for measuring "all rents, payable in wheat or other grain, and also for measuring all grains or seeds, fruits or roots whatever, in cases in which no other special provision is made in any Act, and likewise for lime, sand, ashes, or any other kind of commodity, usually sold by measure of capacity, where no special contract is made to the contrary."

5.—The English *Winchester bushel*\* is made the standard for measuring salt, wheat, oats, peas, barley, and other grains or seeds, in cases *only when such articles have been specially sold or contracted for by such measure*, and in cases in which no special provision is made for the mode of sale in any other Act.

6.—The *Paris foot* was applicable to the measurement of lands, or lots granted or sold by the arpent or foot, and also to the measurement of all kinds of wood, timber, and stone, and "all manner of masons', carpenters', and joiners' work, or any other article of any other kind of work commonly measured by the foot or other measure of length, etc., where no special contract exists to the contrary."

7.—The *English foot* is applicable to the measure of lands granted by the British Crown, and also to the measure of wood, timber, etc., as above; *provided a special contract has been made for that purpose*.

8.—The *English yard* is made the standard for measuring all kinds of cloth or stuffs made of wool, flax, hemp, silk, or cotton, or any mixture thereof, and all other kinds of goods, wares, and merchandise commonly sold by measure of length.

9.—The *English ell*, "containing 3 feet 9 in. of the standard English foot" above mentioned, is declared to be the standard measure by which cloths or stuffs of wool, flax, &c., may be sold *when specially sold or contracted for by that measure*.

We thus find that the legal weights and measures of Lower Canada have been borrowed from the old English standards as they

\* 18½ inches diameter, 8 inches deep. Contents, 2150.32 cubic inches. The present imperial bushel contains 2218.1907 cubic inches.—(SIMMONDS.)