

## 4.—MEASURES OF CAPACITY.

<i>Metric Denominations and Value.</i>			<i>Equiv. exp. in terms of the Stand. of Can.</i>
—	<i>Cubic Metres.</i>	<i>Litres.</i>	<i>In wine galls. &amp; dec. parts of a wine gall.</i>
Kilolitre .....	1	1000	264·2864
Hectolitre.....	1-16	100	26·42864
Decalitre.....	1-100	10	2·64286
Litre .....	1-1000	1	·26428
Decilitre .....	1-10000	1-10	·02642
Centilitre .....	1-100000	1-100	·00264

The Act authorizes the Governor in Council to procure Standards of Metric Weights and Measures, and to make regulations for facilitating and authorizing their use, whenever it is thought necessary or desirable. In the United States these standards were some time ago procured by the President and distributed to the State Governments. We think it is desirable that similar action should be taken in Canada.

Of the great importance to civilization of a system of Weights and Measures which shall be at once uniform throughout the world, and decimal and simple in character, there cannot be the slightest doubt in the mind of any educated man.

To some persons the Metric system from its unusual nomenclature may appear a little difficult; but this will entirely disappear upon half an hour's study. The real

difficulty to overcome is to accustom a population to any change of standard, however slight. The very best means to meet this in a gradual manner was suggested by the Senate Committee (See extract from report in *Year Book* of 1871 above referred to.) It was to provide that the system should be taught in all schools which receive public support. The absolute superiority of the system impressed on the youth of one generation would compel its adoption in the next.

In the meantime this step is gained by the Act above referred to; all transactions which may be hereafter expressed in Canada in the weights and measures of the Metric system are legal.

We may add, we see it stated in the newspapers, that the Metric system goes into operation in Prussia on the 1st of January, 1872; which fact is in itself an evidence of great weight in its favour. And it is a proof, moreover, of rapid scientific progress by the German people.

The Metric system, as stated, is already permissive in Great Britain; and a Bill was introduced during the last Session of Parliament to extend its use in the British Islands. But the time has not arrived when such a measure could be enforced there by legislation. The British people are very conservative and slow to change, in this case, an unmeaning for a simple and scientific system. It is the difficulty of changing the popular nomenclature that has to be overcome; and this will take, at least, a generation. The measure, however, found very strenuous and earnest advocacy in the House of Commons; and its success not only in Great Britain but throughout the civilized world is only a question of time.

## Arbitration between Quebec and Ontario.

In the *Year Book* for 1871 (page 113) a statement of the question between Ontario and Quebec, with respect to the division and adjustment of the debts, credits, liabilities, properties and assets of the old Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was fully given, together with an analysis of the award of the arbitrators.

Since that publication the correspondence in the case has been laid before the House of Commons. With respect to this it may be briefly stated that the protest of the Province of Quebec is of a very extreme character; while the demand of the Province of Ontario that the award be acted upon, is equally positive.

The Minister of Justice made a report on the case; which was approved by Order in Council on February 21st, 1871. In this he stated, after reciting the facts of the case, that the Government of the Dominion had no power or means of intervening between the parties, either to enforce the award as valid, or to set it aside as invalid; or to grant the redress or measure of protection sought for by the Legislature of Quebec.

He added that if the Government of Ontario desired to enforce the award, it must take such steps as it might be advised that the law allowed for that purpose. On the other hand it was for the Province of Quebec to

take necessary legal steps to resist such action on the part of Ontario.

The Minister indicated that if the question became a matter of litigation, either province would have the power of carrying it by appeal from the decision of an inferior tribunal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as the Court of last resort.

If the Governments of the two Provinces were to agree upon a statement or special case, with the view of submitting the question to the Judicial Committee, it would be the duty of His Excellency the Governor General, on being prayed to do so, to transmit such special case to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request to have it so submitted under the 4th clause of the Imperial Act 3rd and 4th William IV, cap. 41.

If the two Governments did not agree upon a joint submission of the case, it would be within the power of either to pray Her Majesty to refer the case, as stated by it, for the opinion of the Judicial Committee.

The Minister of Justice added, it was not advisable that the Dominion Government should express any opinion in the question in dispute, as the Province against which such opinion would be given would not either accept or submit to it, and it would have no legal force whatever.