

**T**HE huge mass of metal here labelled "A Century's Hard Cash" represents the gold, silver and bronze (including copper) moneys of this Realm which have been coined during the hundred years 1800-1899. It is a great cube, that measures more than 38 ft. each way, and it includes only those coins which have been made for use in these Islands—not the miscellaneous coins made in the Royal Mint for use in India and other countries.

At the top is a slab of solid gold over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick; then comes a slab of silver nearly  $12\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick, and the bronze base is nearly  $22\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick—a total height of nearly  $38\frac{1}{2}$  ft., which is also, of course, the measurement of the other sides of this great cube of British bullion.

The weight of this huge mass is just under 16,000 tons, or equal to the weight of 320 large express railway locomotives. The value is almost 385 millions sterling, or equal to sixty per cent. of the present amount of the National Debt. The number of coins that were made from this mass of metal was the astounding total of 2,439 millions (nearly), or almost sufficient to give two British coins to every man, woman and child now living in the whole world.

In order to obtain the results just briefly

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set down I had to examine the official records of the coinage during the century, and it was specially interesting to look at the accounts for the period 1800-1815. England was hard up, the great French war was draining the country of men and money, and the silver coinage was suspended, only a trifle of small silver moneys, under the denominational value of a sixpence, being coined during those years, the value of which was only £1,187 for the whole sixteen years. The coinage of gold was also reduced to the lowest limit—less than five millions' worth of gold coin was made during those sixteen lean years; no copper money was made at the Mint, but some was made by Mr. Boulton, at Birmingham. The average yearly value of the coinage during 1800-1815 was only £292,038, as compared with an average yearly value during 1816-1899 of £4,527,544, nearly sixteen times as large an output yearly. The average yearly value of coinage during the last ten years has been about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  millions sterling. The account from which I got these early records is dated 14th June, 1816—one year later than the battle of Waterloo, when the French war came to a close—and then, it seems, we began to look around and take stock of things which had been interrupted by the great war, including the accounts of the coinage.

The Summary Table No. 1 shows to us,

NAME OF COIN.	NUMBER MADE.	FACE-VALUE.
<i>Gold Coins.</i>		£
Five-Pound Piece . . . . .	73,360	366,800
Two-Pound Piece . . . . .	151,183	302,366
Guinea . . . . .	361,473	379,547
Sovereign . . . . .	273,263,194	273,263,194
Half-Guinea . . . . .	3,322,548	1,744,338
Half-Sovereign . . . . .	112,877,400	56,438,700
Seven-Shilling Piece . . . . .	7,278,687	2,547,540
TOTAL GOLD COINS . . . . .	397,327,845	£335,042,485
<i>Silver Coins.</i>		£
Crown . . . . .	8,745,206	2,186,301
Four-Shilling Piece . . . . .	2,689,830	537,966
Half-Crown . . . . .	85,675,937	10,709,492
Florin . . . . .	86,968,416	8,696,841
Shilling . . . . .	328,897,886	16,444,894
Sixpence . . . . .	253,888,730	6,347,218
Fourpence . . . . .	20,615,742	343,596
Threepence . . . . .	127,110,414	1,588,879
Twopence . . . . .	693,895	5,782
Penny-Halfpenny . . . . .	479,670	2,998
Penny . . . . .	801,240	3,338
TOTAL SILVER COINS . . . . .	916,566,966	£46,867,305
<i>Copper and Bronze Coins.</i>		£
Penny . . . . .	478,644,096	1,994,351
Halfpenny . . . . .	401,029,661	835,478
Farthing . . . . .	228,649,628	238,176
Half-Farthing . . . . .	16,438,104	8,562
TOTAL COPPER AND BRONZE COINS	1,124,761,489	£3,076,567
ALL COINS . . . . .	2,438,656,300	£384,986,357

for each denomination of coin made during 1800-1899, the number of each coin made and the face-value.

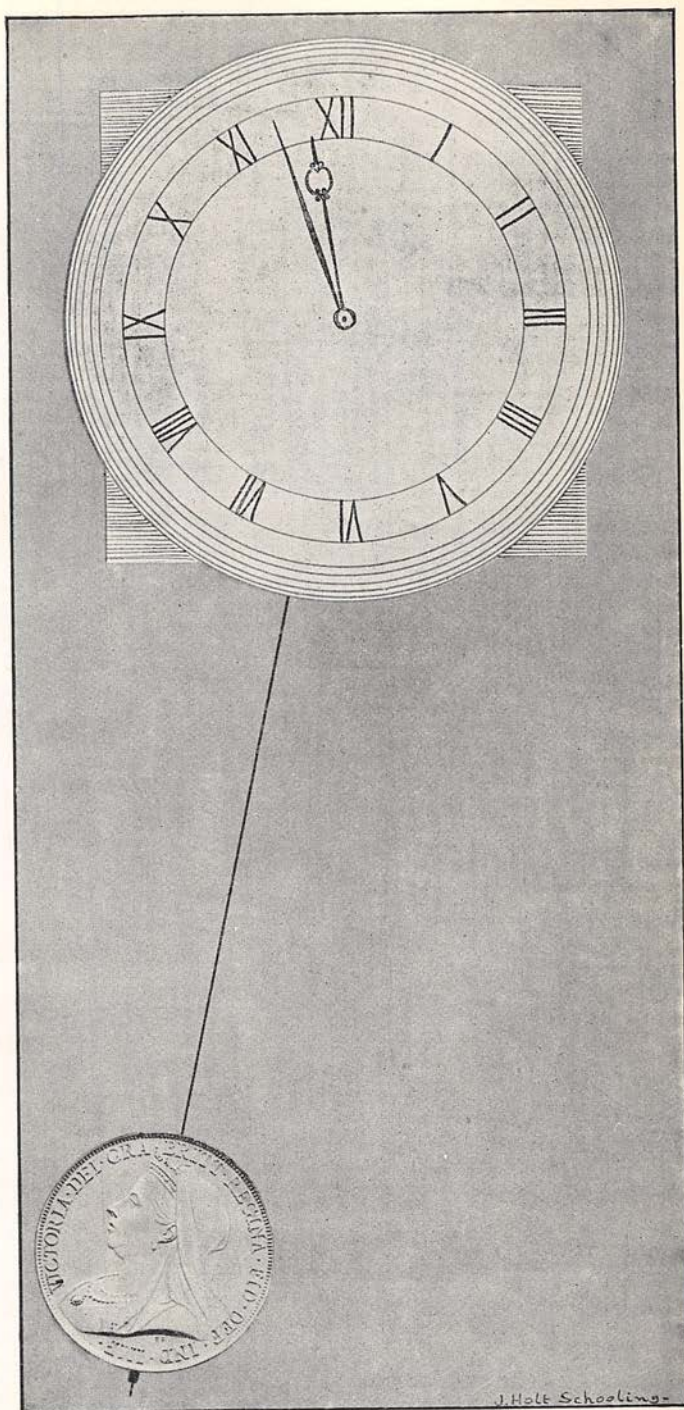
Five-pound gold pieces were first coined in 1887, on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, but I find double sovereigns—or two-pound pieces—as far back as the year 1823. The third gold coin on our list—the guinea (so called, by the way, because it was first made of gold brought from Guinea, on the West Coast of Africa)—has been coined once, and only once, during the century—*viz.*, in 1813, in which year the half-guinea and the third-guinea, a seven-shilling gold piece, were also coined for the last time.

The sovereign first comes on this century's list in 1817, although gold coins called sovereigns were made as far back as Henry VII.'s reign. They were issued up to the time of James I., and then the sovereign fell out of the coinage list until George III. issued it in 1817. The half-sovereign was also issued in 1817 for the first time in the nineteenth century.

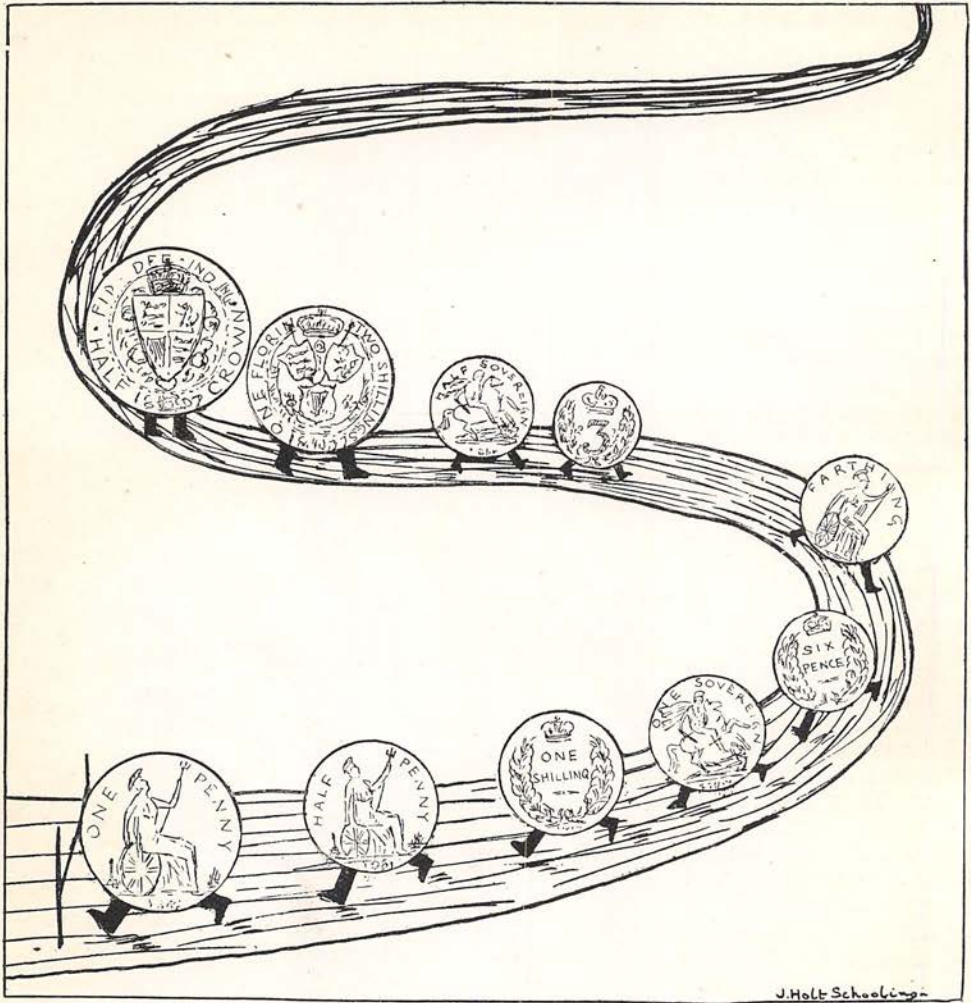
Of the denominations of the silver coin in this summary-table, the Mint now makes only crowns, half-crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences, threepences, and silver Maundy money from one penny to fourpence.

The copper half-farthings, of which £8,562 worth were made during 1800-1899, were first coined in 1843.

The vast total of this summary of the century's coinage — £384,986,357 — may be better understood if I say that at three per cent. interest this amount of money would yield a per-



2.—THE VALUE OF THE MONEY COINED DURING 1800-1899 IS EQUAL TO HALF-A-CROWN BEING MADE FOR EVERY TICK OF THE CLOCK THROUGHOUT THE CENTURY, DAY AND NIGHT, WITHOUT CESSATION.



3.—THE PENNY WINS THE RACE FOR POPULARITY BETWEEN THE TEN LEADING COINS OF THE CENTURY.

petual income of very nearly one million sterling per calendar month. Its value is also given by the statement illustrated in No. 2—viz., that the value of the coinage during 1800–1899 has been (approximately) at the average rate of half-a-crown’s worth of money coined for every second of time throughout the century, day and night, without cessation.

It is interesting to learn from No. 1 the degree of popularity of the coins, for these are made to supply the demand for them, and people get from the Mint the coins that they ask for. We of the nineteenth century have asked for pennies, and have got them.

No. 3 illustrates the race for popularity during the century between the ten leading coins, which, as No. 1 shows, are :—

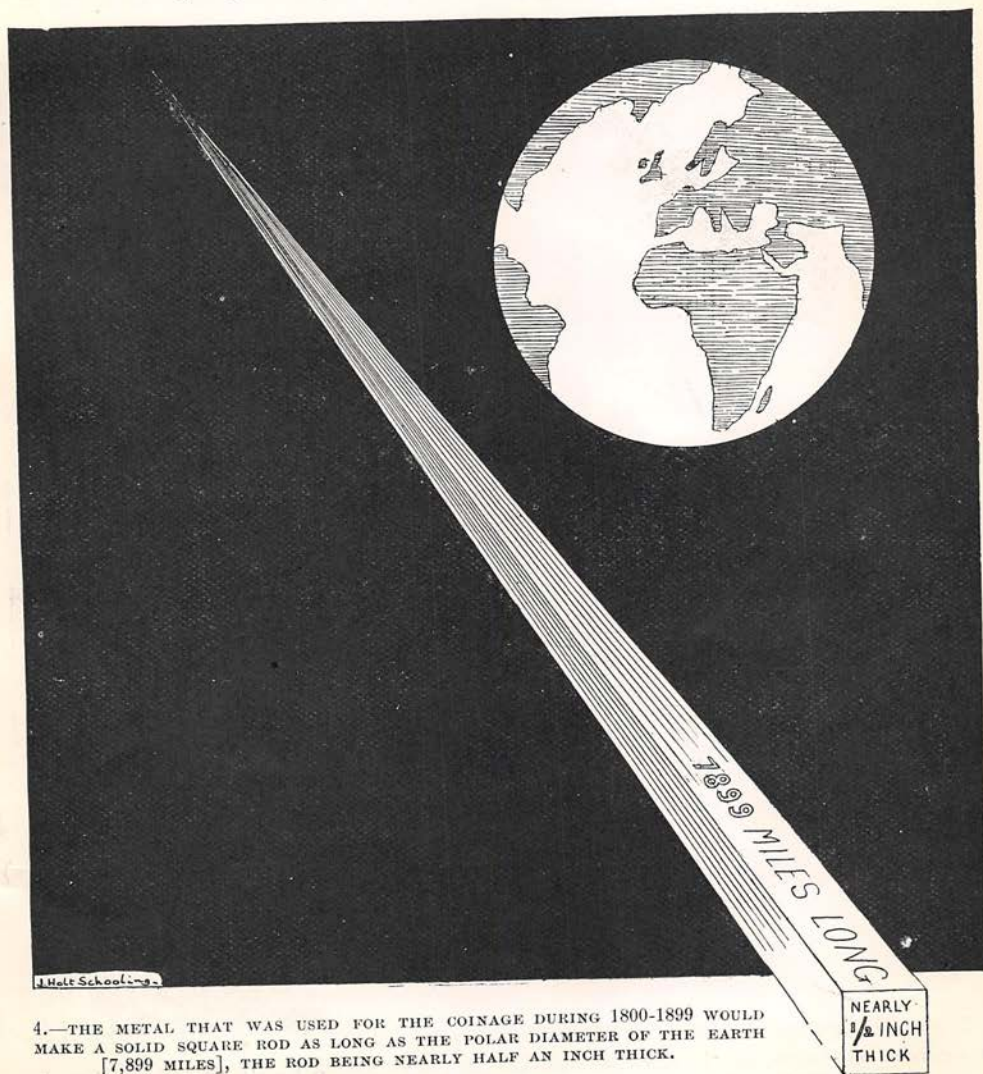
	Millions of each coin made during 1800-1899
1. The Penny . . . . .	479
2. The Halfpenny . . . . .	401
3. The Shilling . . . . .	329
4. The Sovereign . . . . .	273
5. The Sixpence . . . . .	254
6. The Farthing . . . . .	229
7. The Threepence . . . . .	127
8. The Half-sovereign . . . . .	113
9. The Florin . . . . .	87
10. The Half-crown . . . . .	86
The ten leading coins . . . . .	2,378
The twelve other coins . . . . .	61
All coins made during 1800-1899	2,439

There is, as Table 1 shows, a big drop between the half-crown, which is the last of the ten most popular coins, and the fourpence, which is the leading coin of the twelve miscellaneous coins that have not been sufficiently popular to win a place in our first ten. This drop is from 86 millions of half-crowns to only 20 or 21 millions of fourpences, and the other coins tail off quickly until we reach the despised five-pound piece, which comes last on our list of twenty-two coins with the poor total of 73,360 made; people don't want five-pound-pieces—they prefer pennies—and so the Mint has made but a few of these handsome gold coins.

The universal penny is an easy winner.

He wins by a margin of nearly 80 millions as compared with the halfpenny, who runs into the second place. The shilling comes third, followed by the sovereign, who in point of actual value, but not of number, takes the first place (see Table 1), where the sovereign leads the value list with a fine total of over 273 millions sterling.

Then, in No. 3, the sixpence and the farthing sprint gamely round the bend, and each secures an honourable place—fifth and sixth respectively. The four other coins lag in the race, and the heavy old half-crown has, as we see in No. 3, ceased to persevere, seeing the lead that all the other competitors have obtained. The half-crown is a nice, genial, tipping, Christmas-boxy old boy, and



J. Holt Schooling.

4.—THE METAL THAT WAS USED FOR THE COINAGE DURING 1800-1899 WOULD MAKE A SOLID SQUARE ROD AS LONG AS THE POLAR DIAMETER OF THE EARTH [7,899 MILES], THE ROD BEING NEARLY HALF AN INCH THICK.

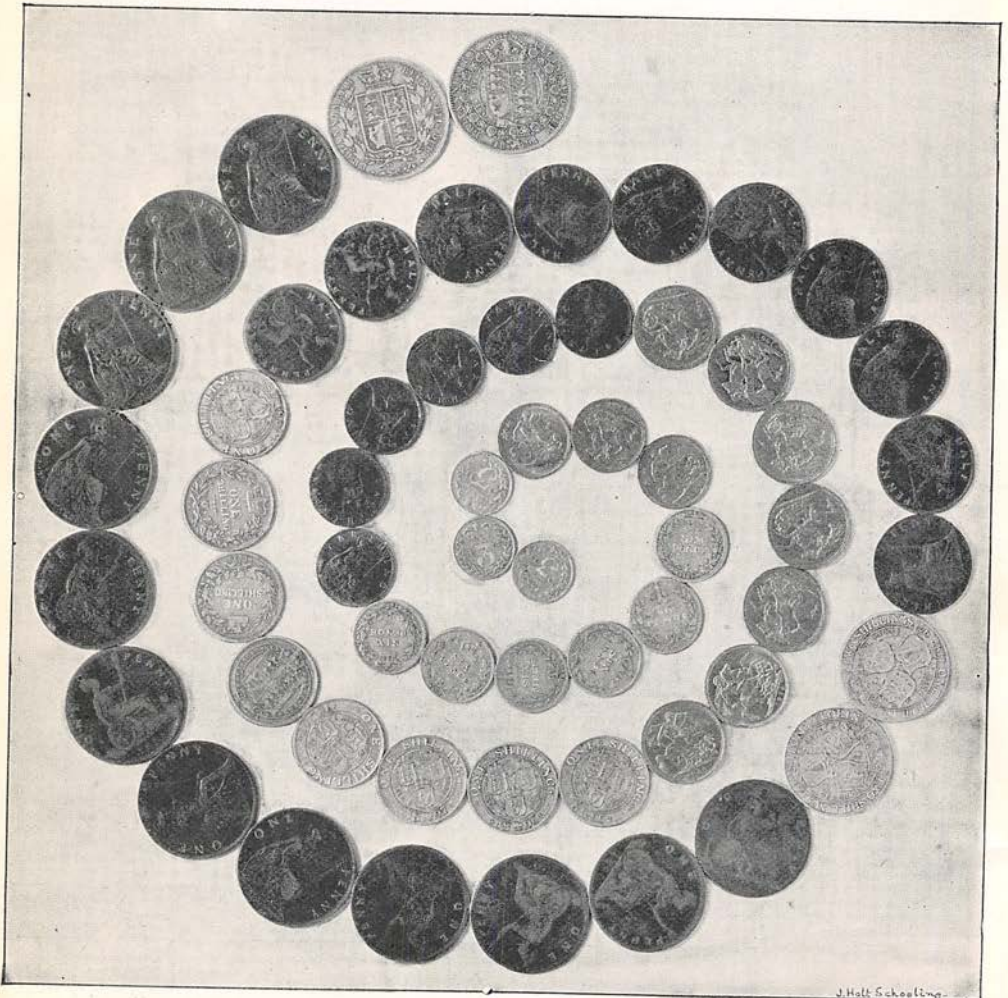
I am glad he gets a place in the ten most popular coins of the century—but he's pretty nearly done up by his effort.

The metal that has been coined into the stupendous amount of money made by the Mint during 1800-1899 would suffice to make a square-sided rod as long as the polar diameter of the earth, 7,899 miles, and this rod would be nearly half an inch thick. I've left the end of the rod sticking out from No. 4, and the end you there see is of the actual size that this rod would be. It would, as I say, be long enough to extend right through the earth from the South Pole to the North Pole. This is not a bad record of work for the Royal Mint, when one considers that each of the 2,439 millions

of coins whose metal is contained in this 7,899 mile rod has been separately made and most carefully tested and examined before it has been passed as a true coin of the Realm.

With this vast amount of money facing one, one feels inclined to ask, "What is my share of it? Where do I come in?" On examination, my present share of the century's hard cash is, as I find by turning out my pockets, only £7 9s. 3d., and this does not seem enough.

Taking the present population of the United Kingdom at forty millions, and dividing the total face-value of the coins made during 1800-1899 (see Table 1) among this population, the average share for each



J. Holt Schoelling.

5.—THIS IS YOUR SHARE OF THE TEN MOST POPULAR COINS MADE DURING 1800-1899—£9 12s. 3½d; YOUR SHARE OF ALL THE OTHER COINS AMOUNTS TO 2½d.—TOTAL £9 12s. 6d.

one of us works out to £9 12s. 6d. apiece.  
[I thought my share was too small.]

The ten leading coins of the century, shown in No. 3, make up nearly the whole of this individual share of £9 12s. 6d., which, as No. 5 shows, is composed as follows:—

*This is Your Share of the Coinage during 1800-1899.*

	£	s.	d.
Two Half-Crowns . . . . .	0	5	0
Twelve Pennies . . . . .	0	1	0
Two Florins . . . . .	0	4	0
Ten Halfpennies . . . . .	0	0	5
Eight Shillings . . . . .	0	8	0
Seven Sovereigns . . . . .	7	0	0
Six Farthings . . . . .	0	0	11½
Six Sixpences . . . . .	0	3	0
Three Half-Sovereigns . . . . .	1	10	0
Three Threepences . . . . .	0	0	9

9 12 3½

Your share of other coins, which are not among the ten leading coins of the century, is . . . . . 0 0 2½

Total . . . . . £9 12 6

I hope you have your share.

Finally, it is interesting and suggestive to compare the coinage per head of population in 1800, in 1850, and at the present time. Here are the facts:—

	Value of Coinage.	Population.	Yearly Coinage per Head of Population.		
			£	s.	d.
In 1800 . . . . .	190,028	15 millions	0	0	3
In 1850 . . . . .	1,621,381	27½ „	0	1	2
Now . . . . .	7,500,000	40 „	0	3	9

This little statement tells us that the great increase of population since 1800 and since 1850 has been quite outpaced by the increase in the yearly amount of coinage per head of population. The present amount of yearly coinage per head of population is fifteen times as great as it was in 1800, and more than three times as great as in 1850. This is a sign of material prosperity that should not escape notice when the events of the nineteenth century are being reviewed.

One does not wish to attach undue importance to this remarkable increase in the amount of hard cash, for there are many things other than mere money that are of more value to a community as a sign of progress; but, despite this reservation, such an increase as is here shown must be regarded as distinctly satisfactory.

## SONG.

BY L. G. MOBERLY.

Do you remember still  
The sunny sweetness of that April day,  
The purpling hazel copse,—the larks' clear  
lay?—

Do you remember still?

Have you forgotten yet  
The robin's song, borne on the autumn  
breeze,—  
September's golden touch upon the trees?—  
Have you forgotten yet?



Might it not ever be  
That some to-morrow,—in the far away,—  
Should bring again the joy of yesterday?—  
Might it not ever be?