

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the fourth session of the fourth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1808.

48 George III – Chapter 8

**An Act for better regulating the weight and rates at which certain Coins shall pass current in this Province; for preventing the falsifying, counterfeiting or impairing of the same; and for repealing the Act and Ordinance therein mentioned. (14th. April, 1808.)**

Whereas by the Act, now in force, the relative value of Gold Coins current, in this Province, is not accurately established. Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and, content of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of, and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth Year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America,' And to make further provision for the Government of the said Province," And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the Gold and Silver Coins, hereinafter mentioned, shall pass current and be deemed a legal tender in payment of all debts and demands whatsoever in this Province, at the weights and rates following, that is to say, of Gold Coins, when weighed by the single piece, the British Guinea weighing five Pennyweights and six Grains, Troy, at one Pound, three Shillings and four Pence; the Johannes of Portugal, weighing eighteen Pennyweight, Troy, at four Pounds; the Moidore of Portugal, weighing six Pennyweight and eighteen Grains, Troy, at one Pound, ten Shillings; the Milled Doubloon or four Pistole Piece of Spain, weighing seventeen Pennyweight, Troy, at three Pounds, fourteen Shillings and six Pence; the French Louis d'Or, coined before the year, one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, weighing five Penny weight and four Grains, Troy, at one Pound two Shillings and eight Pence; the French Pistole piece, coined before the same period, weighing four Penny weight and four Grains, Troy, at eighteen Shillings and three Pence; the American Eagle piece, weighing eleven Penny weight and six Grains, Troy, at two Pounds and ten Shillings: and of Silver Coins, the British Crown, at five Shillings and six Pence; the British Shilling at one Shilling and one Penny; the Spanish Milled Dollar at five Shillings, equal to four Shillings and six Pence, Sterling money of Great Britain; the Spanish Pistereen, at one Shilling; the French Crown, coined, before the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, at five Shillings and six pence; the French piece of four Livres and ten Sols, Tournois, at four Shillings and two Pence, the French piece of thirty six Sols, tournois, at one Shilling and eight Pence; the French piece of twenty four Sols, tournois, at one Shilling and one Penny; the American Dollar at five Shillings; and all the higher and lower denominations of the said Gold and Silver coins, shall, also pass current, and be deemed a legal tender in payment of all debts and demands whatsoever in this Province, in the same proportions, respectively.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for every grain which any piece of the aforesaid British, Portugal, or American Gold coins shall respectively weigh more than the Standard aforesaid, when weighed by the single piece, there shall be allowed and added, in all payments, two pence and one farthing, currency, and for every grain which any piece of the same, shall, respectively, weigh less than the Standard aforesaid, there shall be allowed and deducted in all payments, two pence and one farthing, currency, and for every grain which any piece of the aforesaid Spanish or French Gold coins shall respectively weigh, more than the Standard aforesaid, when weighed by the single piece, there shall be allowed and added in all payments, two pence and one fifth of a penny currency; and for every grain which any piece of the same shall respectively weigh less than the Standard aforesaid, there shall be allowed and deducted, in all payments, two pence and one fifth of a penny, currency.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person whatsoever, shall, after the passing of this Act, utter or tender in payment to any person or persons, any false or counterfeit money, counterfeit to any of the Gold or Silver coin of Great Britain, Portugal, the United States of America, Spain or France, as herein before specified, or to any of the higher or lower denominations thereof, knowing the same to be false or counterfeit, and shall be thereof convicted, such person so offending, shall suffer one year's imprisonment, and shall also be set in and upon the Pillory, for the space of one hour in some Market place; and if the same person shall afterwards offend a second time, in uttering or tendering in payment any such false or counterfeit money, as aforesaid, knowing the same to be so, and shall be convicted of such second offence, he, or she shall be and is hereby adjudged to be guilty of Felony, without benefit of Clergy.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person or persons, who shall, after the passing of this Act, import or bring or cause to be imported or brought, into this Province, any false or counterfeit Brass or Copper Money in order to sell or pass away the same, knowing the same to be false and counterfeit, every such person, shall, for every such offence, besides forfeiting such false and counterfeit Money, suffer imprisonment, at the discretion of the Court of King's Bench of the District wherein such person shall be tried and convicted. Provided always, that such imprisonment shall not exceed twelve Calendar Months; and provided also, that the prosecution for such offence, shall be commenced in Six Months After the offence committed, and not afterwards.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all such false or counterfeit Brass or Copper Money, may be seized by any person, having a warrant from a Justice of the Peace for that purpose, and shall be broken or defaced in open Court, after being found to be false or counterfeit, or in presence of a Justice of the Peace: and one moiety thereof, shall then belong to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, to be applied to the Public Uses of this Province, and the support of the Civil Government thereof; the due application of which shall be accounted for to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, through the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the time being, in such manner and form, as His Majesty shall

direct; and the other moiety thereof, shall belong to the person who shall have served and prosecuted for the same.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall be obliged to receive at any one payment, more than the sum of one Shilling, currency, of this Province, in Copper Money.

VII. And whereas it would be a great facility in making payments if Gold coin, in certain cases, was weighed in bulk, and not by the single piece, as herein before mentioned. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in every payment, exceeding the sum of Twenty Pounds, currency, which shall be made in Gold coin, after the passing in this Act, where one of the parties making or receiving the same, shall require it, such Gold shall be weighed in bulk, and not by the single piece, that is to say; the Gold coin of Great Britain, Portugal, and America together; and that of Spain and France together; and the Gold coins of Great Britain, Portugal, and America shall be computed at the rate of eighty nine Shillings, currency, for each ounce, Troy, according to the Table hereunto annexed, marked A. and that of Spain and France, at the rate of eighty seven shillings and eight pence, half penny, currency, for each ounce, Troy, according to the table hereunto annexed, marked B. and on each of such weighings, a deduction shall be made of one half of a grain, Troy, for each piece of Gold coin so weighed, as a compensation to the Receiver or Receivers for the loss that may accrue to him, her or them in afterwards paying away the same, by the single piece, which deductions shall be computed, respectively, at the rates aforesaid, or according to the Table aforesaid to which the description or descriptions of the Gold coin so weighed, may belong.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person or persons to whom any Gold, Silver or Copper money, shall be tendered in payment, any piece whereof shall by the stamp, impression, colour or weight thereof, afford reason to suspect that the same, or any piece thereof, is false and counterfeit, such person or persons to whom the same is presented, may cut, break or deface every such piece, and if any piece so cut, broken or defaced, shall be found to be false and counterfeit, the person tendering the same, shall bear the loss thereof; but if the same shall be found to be good and lawful money, the person that cut, broke or defaced the same, shall receive the same according to its actual weight, in proportion to the value it was coined for: and if any question shall arise, whether any piece so cut, broke or defaced, be false or counterfeit, it shall be determined by a Justice of the Peace, who, if he shall have any doubts touching the same, may summon three skilful persons to give their opinion thereon, whose opinions, or the majority thereof, shall be final.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any false or counterfeit Gold or Silver coin, shall Be produced, in any Court of Justice in this Province, the Judges shall cause the same to be cut in pieces, in open Court, or in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, and then to be delivered to, or for the person or persons to whom it belongs.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the passing of this Act, an Act passed in the thirty sixth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for the better regulating the weight and rates at which certain coins shall pass current in this Province, for preventing the falsifying, counterfeiting or impairing the same; and for repealing the Act or Ordinance therein mentioned;" as also, the Act or Ordinance therein mentioned, made in the seventeenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Ordinance for regulating the Currency of the Province," are, and the same and each of them, is, and are hereby repealed.

A.  
 TABLE.

Exhibiting the value of British, Portugal and American Gold, when weighed in Bulk.

Grains.						Pennyweights.					Ounces.		Pounds.					
	Pounds	Shillings	Pence	Farthings	Parts		Pounds	Shillings	Pence	Farthings	Parts		Pounds	Shillings		Pounds	Shillings	Pence
1	:	:	2	:	9-10	1	:	4	5	1	6-10	1	4	9	1	53	8	:
2	:	:	4	1	8-10	2	:	8	10	3	2-10	2	8	18	2	106	16	:
3	:	:	6	2	7-10	3	:	13	4	:	8-10	3	13	7	3	160	4	:
4	:	:	8	3	6-10	4	:	17	9	2	4-10	4	17	16	4	213	12	:
5	:	:	11	:	5-10	5	1	2	3	:	:	5	22	5	5	267		:
6	:	1	1	1	4-10	6	1	6	8	1	6-10	6	26	14	6	320	8	:
7	:	1	3	2	3-10	7	1	11	1	3	2-10	7	31	3	7	373	16	:
8	:	1	5	3	2-10	8	1	15	7	:	8-10	8	35	12	8	427	4	:
9	:	1	8	:	1-10	9	2	:	:	2	4-10	9	40	1	9	480	12	:
10	:	1	10	1	:	10	2	4	6	:	:	10	44	10	10	534		:
11	:	2	:	1	9-10	11	2	8	11	1	6-10	11	48	19	11	587	8	:
12	:	2	2	2	8-10	12	2	13	4	3	2-10				12	640	16	:
20	:	3	8	2	:	13	2	17	10	:	8-10				13	694	4	:
30	:	5	6	3	:	14	3	2	3	2	4-10				14	747	12	:
40	:	7	5	:	:	15	3	6	9	:	:				15	801		:
50	:	9	3	1	:	16	3	11	2	1	6-10				16	854	8	:
60	:	11	1	2	:	17	3	15	7	3	2-10				17	907	16	:
70	:	12	11	3	:	18	4	0	1	0	8-10				18	961	4	:
80	:	14	10	:	:	19	4	4	6	2	4-10				19	1014	12	:
90	:	16	8	1	:										20	1068		:
100	:	18	6	2	:													
200	1	17	1	:	:													
300	2	15	7	7	:													
400	3	14	2	:	:													
500	4	12	8	2	:													
600	5	11	3	:	:													
700	6	9	9	2	:													
800	7	8	4	:	:													
900	8	6	10	2	:													
1000	9	5	5	:	:													

For every Grain over or under, when weighted by the single piece, add or deduct 2d:<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and when weighed in Bulk, one half a Grain so to be deducted for each Piece so weighed, the Value of which deduction, may be easily found in the Table.

B.  
 TABLE.  
 Of French and Spanish Gold at 87s. 8½d. per Ounce.

Grains	Value.			Dwts.	Value.				Oun	Value.			Libs.	Value.		
	Sgs.	Pce.	Far.		£	Sgs.	Pce.	Far.		£	Sgs.	Pce.		£	Sgs.	Pce.
1	0	2	0½	1	0	4	4	2½	1	4	7	8½	1	52	12	6
2	0	4	1½	2	0	8	9	1	2	8	15	5	2	105	5	0
3	0	6	2	3	0	13	1	3½	3	13	3	1½	3	157	17	6
4	0	8	3	4	0	17	6	2	4	17	10	10	4	210	10	0
5	0	10	3½	5	1	1	11	0½	5	21	18	6½	5	263	2	6
6	1	1	0½	6	1	6	3	3	6	26	6	3	6	315	15	0
7	1	3	1	7	1	10	8	1½	7	30	13	11½	7	368	7	6
8	1	5	2	8	1	15	1	0	8	35	1	8	8	421	0	0
9	1	7	2½	9	1	19	5	2½	9	39	9	4½	9	473	12	6
10	1	9	3½	10	2	3	10	1	10	43	17	1	10	526	5	0
11	2	0	2	11	2	8	2	3½	11	48	4	9½	20	1052	10	6
12	2	2	1	12	2	12	7	2	12	is one Lib.						
20	3	7	3	13	2	17	0	0								
30	5	5	3	14	3	1	4	3								
40	7	3	2½	15	3	5	9	1½								
50	9	1	2½	16	3	10	2	0								
60	10	11	2	17	3	14	6	2½								
70	12	9	1½	18	3	18	11	1								
80	14	7	1½	19	4	3	3	3½								
90	16	5	1	20	is one Ounce											
100	18	3	1													
200	36	6	2													
300	54	9	3													
400	73	1	0													
500	91	4	1													
600	109	7	2½													
700	127	10	3½													
800	146	2	0½													
900	164	5	1½													
1000	182	8	2½													

For every Grain over or under, when weighed by the single piece, add or deduct 2 1-5 and when weighed in bulk one half of a grain to be deducted for each piece so weighed, the value of which deduction may be easily found in the Table.