

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Newfoundland, passed in the year 1844.

7 Victoria – Chapter 4

An Act to prevent the importation and circulation of Spurious Copper Coin within this Colony and its Dependencies, and to make provision for a good and sufficient Copper Coinage therein. (Passed 29th April, 1844.)

Whereas large quantities of spurious Copper Coins have been imported into and are now in circulation within this Colony and its Dependencies to the great injury of Merchants and others, and it is expedient to make provision for a good and sufficient Copper Coinage to be substituted within the said Colony and its dependencies for such spurious Coins aforesaid.

- I. Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, that there be granted to Her Majesty; Her Heirs and Successors, a sum not exceeding One Thousand Pounds; to be appropriated, from time to time, in procuring for circulation and use in payment, within this Colony and its Dependencies, a good and sufficient Copper Coinage of Pence and Half-pence, each of Which Pence and Half-pence shall respectively pass current at the value of one fourteenth and one twenty-eighth part of a Shilling Sterling.
- II. And be it further enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whomsoever to import into this Colony or any of its Dependencies, for circulation and use in payment, as Pence, or as any parts of a Penny, any Coin whatsoever other than such Copper Coin as may and do legally pass current in Great Britain or Ireland, or other than such Copper Coin as may hereafter be issued by the Government of this Colony by virtue of the provisions of this Act; and that if any Person or Persons shall from and after the time aforesaid import into this Colony or any of its Dependencies, for the purpose aforesaid, any Coin whatsoever other than such as are hereinbefore enumerated, such Person or Persons shall, for every such offence, forfeit a sum not exceeding Fifty Pounds.
- III. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any Officer of Her Majesty's Customs to seize and secure any Coin which may hereafter be imported into this Colony or any of its Dependencies, for circulation and use in payment as aforesaid, contrary to the provisions of this Act; and all such Coin shall, upon Oath, in writing, of the fact of such seizure, being made before any Justice of the Peace, be by him declared to be forfeited and shall be delivered by such Officer to the Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, to be by him destroyed or appropriated to the use of the Colony, as the Governor or Administrator of the Government may direct and appoint.
- IV. And be it further enacted, that from and after such time as may by Proclamation of the Governor or Administrator of the Government be hereafter limited and appointed, it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whomsoever to vend, circulate, use, offer, or receive in payment, as a Penny or as Pence, or as any part or parts of a Penny, within this Colony or any of its Dependencies, any Coin whatsoever other than such Copper Coin as may and do legally pass current in Great Britain or Ireland, or other than such Copper Coin as may hereafter be issued by the Government of this Colony by virtue

of the provisions of this Act; and that if any Person or Persons shall, after the time to be limited and appointed as aforesaid, vend, circulate, use, offer, or receive in payment, as a Penny, or as Pence, or as any part or parts of a Penny, within this Colony or any of its Dependencies, any Copper Coin whatsoever other than such Copper Coin as in this section are before enumerated, such Person or Persons shall forfeit a sum not exceeding Five Shillings for every such offence.

V. And be it further enacted, that all penalties imposed by this Act maybe recovered, with costs of suit, by action of debt to be brought in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Record, or in a summary manner before any two or more of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and shall be levied by distress and sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, and shall be paid one half to the Prosecutor, and one half to the Treasurer for the uses of the Colony; and that in any case where sufficient Goods or Chattels of such Offender or Offenders shall not be found to answer the judgment in any such action or suit aforesaid, such Offender or Offenders shall, if convicted under the second section of this Act, be subject to imprisonment for any period not exceeding thirty days; and if convicted under the fourth section of this Act, be subject to imprisonment for any period not exceeding five days.

VI. And be it further enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be of any force or effect until Her Majesty's pleasure therein shall be made known.