

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Newfoundland, passed in the year 1856.

19 Victoria – Chapter 11

An Act for Establishing the Legal Value of certain British and other Coins in this Colony. (Passed 12th May, 1856.)

Be it enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened:—

- I. That the British Sovereign, of the weight and fineness now or hereafter to be fixed by the Law of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall be equal to, and a Legal Tender for, One Pound Four Shillings of the present Current Money of this Colony; and the Half Sovereign, of full Weight and Fineness, at the rate of Twelve Shillings of the like Current Money.
- II. The Eagle of the United States, Coined after the First Day of July, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Four, and before the First Day of March in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two, and weighing Ten Penny Weights, Eighteen Grains Troy, shall pass and be a Legal Tender for Two Pound Nine Shillings and Three Pence Currency; and the Half Eagle, of full Weight and Fineness, at the rate of One Pound Four Shillings and Seven Pence Half Penny of the like Current Money.
- III. The Gold Coins of Great Britain and Ireland, or of the United States, Coined before the day last aforesaid, being multiples or divisions of those hereinbefore mentioned, and of proportionate Weight, shall, for proportionate sums, pass Current and be a Legal Tender to any amount by tale, so long as such Coins shall not want more than Two Grains of the Weight hereby assigned to them respectively, deducting One Half Penny Currency for each Quarter of a Grain any such Coin shall want of such Weight; provided always, that in any one payment above the sum of Fifty Pounds, the person paying may pay, or the person to receive may insist on receiving, the said British Gold Coins by Weight, at the rate of Ninety Three Shillings and Six Pence Currency per Ounce Troy; and in like manner any sums tendered or to be received in the Gold Coins of the United States, may be weighed in bulk as aforesaid, and shall be a Legal Tender at the rate of Ninety One Shillings and Seven Pence Half-penny Currency per Ounce Troy, when offered in sums of not less than Fifty Pounds Currency.
- IV. Such Coins representing Pounds Currency, or multiples or divisions of Pounds Currency, as Her Majesty shall see fit to direct to be struck for the purpose, shall, by such names, and at such rates as Her Majesty shall assign to them respectively, pass Current and be a Legal Tender in this Colony, the Standard of Fineness of the said Coins when of Silver or Gold being the same respectively as that now or hereafter to be adopted for Coins of the United Kingdom, and the intrinsic value of the said Coins when of Gold bearing the same proportion to that of the British Sovereign as the sum for which they are respectively to pass Current shall bear to One Pound Four Shillings of the present Currency; and the intrinsic value of such Coins when of Silver or Copper bearing the same proportion of their nominal or current value which the intrinsic value of British Silver or Copper Coins respectively bear to their nominal or current value; provided always, that such Coins shall be a Legal Tender to any amount by tale so long as they shall not want more than Two Grains of the Standard Weight to be assigned to

them respectively by Her Majesty, subject to the same deduction for want of Weight as is provided by the preceding Section with regard to British and American Gold Coins, and shall also be a Legal Tender to any amount by weight in sums not less than Fifty Pounds Currency, or Two Hundred Dollars, at the same rate and on the same conditions as provided in this Act with regard to British Gold Coins; and provided also, that such British Silver Coins shall not be a Legal Tender to the amount of more than Two Pounds Ten Shillings Currency, or Ten Dollars, in any one payment, nor any Copper Coins to the amount of more than One Shilling Currency; provided further, that the holder of the notes or obligations of any person or Body Corporate to the amount of more than Two Pounds Ten Shillings Currency, or Ten Dollars, shall not be bound to receive in such Silver Coins more than that amount in payment of such notes or obligations if presented at one time, although each or any of such notes or obligations be for a less sum.

V. The Governor of this Colony, with the advice of the Executive Council, may, by Proclamation, extend all the provisions of this Act having reference to the Gold Coins of the United States, Coined before the First Day of March, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two, to any Gold Coin of the said United States Coined on or after the First Day of March in the year last aforesaid, of the Weight and Denominations mentioned or referred to in this Act; which having been Assayed at the Royal Mint shall have been found equal in fineness to the Coins mentioned or referred to in this Act.

VI. It shall be lawful for the Governor of this Colony, with the advice of the said Executive Council, out of any unappropriated Monies in the Receiver General's hands, to defray the cost of obtaining and importing such quantity of Copper Coins as the Governor, with the advice aforesaid, shall, from time to time think fit, for the interest of the Colony, to obtain and import.

VII. All British Silver Coins, not herein enumerated, and how in circulation, shall be a legal Tender for sums not exceeding Two Pounds Ten Shillings, at Six Shillings for the Crown Piece, Three Shillings for the Half Crown, and all other British Silver Coins after the same rate as the Sovereign, in the same proportion as such respective Coins bear thereto.

VIII. The Foreign Gold Coin called the Doubloon, being not less than Four Hundred and Fifteen Grains each, containing Three Hundred and Sixty Three Grains of Pure Gold, shall pass and be a Legal Tender at and after the rate of Three Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Nine Pence Currency; and the Peruvian, Mexican, Columbian, and old Spanish Dollar, being of the full Weight of Four Hundred and Sixteen Grains, and containing not less than Three Hundred and Seventy Three Grains of pure Silver, shall be a Legal Tender at and after the rate of Five Shillings Currency each; and the - French piece of Five Francs, or French piece of One or Two Francs, to the same amount, viz:—Five Francs at the rate of Four Shillings and Seven Pence Currency.

IX. That it shall be lawful for the Governor, by Proclamation in the Royal Gazette of this Island, to stop the Circulation of all Copper Coins not authorized by this Act, or made Current by any Law of the United Kingdom; and the Receiver General of this Island shall, within a time to be mentioned in the said Proclamation, purchase up such Copper Coins upon such terms, as may be prescribed by the Governor in Council, and pay therefor in such Copper Coinage as may be provided under and by virtue of this Act: Provided that no more than Two Pounds Currency in such unauthorized Copper Coinage shall be

received by the Receiver General of this Island, from any one person, until he shall first make Oath before a Stipendiary Magistrate for the Central District of this Island, that he has neither imported the same into this Colony, nor procured the same in any other way than in the due course of his ordinary trade and business, for the purpose of making a profit thereon, under any of the terms of this Act, or any Proclamation to be issued by virtue thereof.

X. And Whereas by this Act One Pound of British Sterling Money is hereafter to be represented by One Pound and Four Shillings Currency, according to the respective rates or value of the several Coins hereinbefore mentioned, and at which they are by this Act fixed and determined, and to be hereafter a Legal Tender; and whereas there exist Leases, Bonds, Debentures, and other Monetary obligations voluntarily entered into by the parties thereto previous to the passing of this Act, reserving Rents and other Monies, payable in and setting forth that the payments therein expressed to be made shall be payable in Sterling, or Sterling Money of Great Britain; and it therefore becomes necessary to declare that the provisions of this Act are not intended in any way or manner to affect such Leases, Bonds, Debentures, or other Monetary obligations; Be it therefore enacted and declared, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to affect any Lease, Bond, Debenture, or other Monetary obligation, made and entered into before the passing of this Act, wherein the Rent reserved, or Money payable thereunder, is expressed to be payable in Sterling or Sterling Money of Great Britain; but the same shall be and remain subject to the same legal interpretation and construction in every respect as the same would by Law have been subject to provided this Act had never been made, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

XI. That any Person who shall knowingly and unlawfully Counterfeit any of the Foreign Coins hereinbefore mentioned, or who shall knowingly and unlawfully utter such Counterfeit Foreign Coins, shall be guilty of the like offence respectively as knowingly and unlawfully Counterfeiting any of the Queen's Coins, or knowingly and unlawfully uttering such Counterfeit Queen's Coins, or of knowingly unlawfully uttering the same.

XII. This Act shall not be in force until Her Majesty's Royal approbation be first obtained thereon, nor until a day thereafter to be fixed by Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, duly published in the "Royal Gazette" of this Island.