

## THE



# Bombay Government Gazette.

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## PART VI.

### BILLS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

#### LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The following Bill was introduced into the Council of the Governor General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations on the 19th July 1870, and was referred to a Select Committee with instructions to make their report thereon in one month:—

#### Bill No. 16 of 1870.

*A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Coinage and the Mint.*

Whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to coinage and the mint; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble.

#### I.—Preliminary.

Short title.

1. This Act may be called "The Indian Coinage Act, 1870."

Repeal of enactments.

2. The enactments specified in the Schedule hereto are repealed.

Interpretation clause.

3. In this Act, the expression "Mint" includes the Mints at Calcutta, at Bombay, and at such other places (if any) as the Governor General in Council shall, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time direct.

#### II.—Gold Coinage.

Gold coins.

4. The under-mentioned gold coins only shall be coined at the Mint:—

- (1.)—A gold mohur or fifteen-rupee piece.
- (2.)—A five-rupee piece equal to a third of a gold mohur.
- (3.)—A ten-rupee piece equal to two-thirds of a gold mohur.
- (4.)—A thirty-rupee piece or a double gold mohur.

The weight of the said gold mohur shall be one hundred and eighty grains Troy, and their weight and standard shall be as follows:—eleven-twelfths or one hundred and sixty-five grains of pure gold, and one-twelfth or fifteen grains of alloy.

The other gold coins shall be of proportionate weight and of the same standard.

#### III.—Silver Coinage.

Silver coins.

5. The under-mentioned silver coins only shall be coined at the Mint:—
- (1.) A rupee to be called the Government Rupee.
- (2.) A half rupee.
- (3.) A quarter rupee, or four-anna piece.
- (4.) An eighth of a rupee, or two-anna piece.



The weight of the Government Rupee shall be one hundred and eighty Troy, and the standard grains shall be as follows—eleven-twelfths or one hundred and sixty-five grains of pure silver, and one-twelfth or fifteen grains of alloy.

The other silver coins shall be of proportionate weight and of the same standard.

#### IV.—Copper Coinage.

6. The under-mentioned copper coins only shall be coined at the Mint:—

- (1.)—A double pice or half anna.
- (2.)—A pice or quarter anna.
- (3.)—A half pice or one-eighth of an anna.
- (4.)—A pie, being one-third of a pice or one-twelfth of an anna.

The copper coins so coined shall be respectively of the following weights:—

A double pice shall weigh two hundred grains Troy.

The pice shall weigh one hundred grains Troy.  
The half pice shall weigh fifty grains Troy.

The pie shall weigh thirty-three and one-third grains Troy.

#### V.—Devices on Coins.

7. Until the Governor General in Council shall otherwise order under the power hereinafter conferred, the gold, silver and copper coins coined under this Act shall bear on the obverse the likeness and the name of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and the inscription "Victoria Queen," and on the reverse the designation of the coins in English filled by the word "India" with such date and embellishments on each coin as the Governor General in Council shall from time to time direct.

8. The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, by Power to order other devices. notification in the *Gazette of India*, direct the coining and issuing of all coins authorized by this Act, and prescribe in lieu of the likeness and inscription hereinbefore mentioned, such other likeness and inscription for all or any of the said coins as he shall think fit.

#### VI.—Legal Tender.

9. No gold coin shall be a legal tender in payment or on account:

Provided that the coins mentioned in section four shall be received in

Proviso as to sums due to Government. all the treasuries of British India and its dependencies, in payment of sums due to the Government according to the values therein mentioned,

and that sovereigns and half sovereigns of current weight coined at any authorised Royal Mint in England or Australia shall be received in such treasuries in payment of sums so due as the equivalents of such sums respectively as the Governor General of India in Council shall, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time prescribe.

10. The said rupee and half rupee shall be a Silver coins a legal tender in payment or on account:

Provided that the coin shall not have lost more than two per cent. in weight; and provided it shall not have been clipped or filed, or have been defaced or diminished, otherwise than by use.

The quarter rupee and eighth of a rupee shall be legal tender only for the fractions of a rupee, subject to the provisions mentioned in this section.

11. The double pice shall be a legal tender for a thirty-second part of a rupee or for half an anna; the pice for a sixty-fourth part of a rupee or for one-fourth of an anna; the half pice for the one hundred and twenty-eighth part of a rupee or for one-eighth of an anna;

and the pie for an hundred and ninety-second part of a rupee or the twelfth of an anna:

Provided that none of the said copper coins shall be a legal tender, except for the fractions of a rupee.

12. All silver coin of the weight and standard specified in the Acts No. XVII. of 1835 and No. XXI. of 1838, issued since the passing of those Acts, respectively, and before the first day of November 1862, and declared by those Acts, respectively to be a legal tender,

and all copper coins of the weight specified in Acts No. XXI. of 1835, No. XXII. of 1844, and No. XVII. of 1855, issued since the passing of those Acts, respectively, and before the first day of November 1862, and declared by these Acts, respectively, to be a legal tender,

shall continue to be a legal tender for the amounts thereof, respectively, subject to the same conditions and provisions as under those Acts, respectively, anything herein contained notwithstanding.

#### VII.—Diminished, Counterfeit, or Called-in Coin.

13. When any coin purporting to be coined and issued under the authority of the Government of India is tendered to any person being a public servant as defined by the Indian Penal Code, who has reason to believe it to be diminished whether by reasonable wearing or otherwise, or to be counterfeit, or to be called-in by any proclamation, he shall cut, break or deface such coin, or cause it to be cut, broken or defaced.

14. If any coin so cut, broken or defaced has been diminished otherwise than by reasonable wearing, or is counterfeit, or has been called-in by a proclamation, the person tendering the same shall bear the loss thereof.

But if it has been diminished only by reasonable wearing, or is of due weight, and has been coined and issued by the authority of the Government of India, and has not been called-in by any proclamation, the person cutting, breaking or defacing the same shall receive it at the rate it was coined for.



15. Any disputes whether coin so cut, broken or defaced be diminished in manner aforesaid, or counterfeit, or called-in, shall be heard and finally determined, within the limits of the presidency towns by a Magistrate of Police, and, without those limits, by any person exercising powers not less than those of a subordinate Magistrate of the first class.

16. All public servants are hereby indemnified for anything done before the passing of this Act, which might lawfully have been done if this Act had been in force; and no suit or other proceeding shall be maintained against any such person in respect of anything so done.

#### VIII.—Duty on Coinage of Bullion.

17. A duty shall be levied at the rate of one rupee per cent. at the Mint on the produce of all gold bullion and on all gold coin.

18. All silver bullion or coin (not being struck at the Mint) which may be delivered into the Mint for coinage, shall be subject to a duty at the rate of two per cent. on the produce of such bullion or coin, and the amount of such duty shall be deducted from the return to be made to the proprietor.

19. Any person may have his silver bullion or coin converted into halves or quarters of a Government rupee on condition of paying a duty at the rate of one per cent. in addition to the duty of two per cent. imposed under section eighteen.

20. The Mint Master, on the delivery of gold or silver bullion or coin into the Mint for coinage, shall grant to the proprietor a receipt which shall entitle him to a certificate from the Assay Master for the net produce of such bullion or coin payable at the General Treasury.

The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, determine by notification in the *Gazette of India* the period for which such certificates shall run.

21. The proprietor of any gold or silver bullion or coin so delivered for coinage, who is dissatisfied with the Assay Master's report of its value, may withdraw such bullion or coin without being subject to the duties on coinage imposed by this Act.

22. For all gold bullion or coin, equal to, or better than, the standard prescribed for the gold mohur by this Act, which may be brought to the Mint for coinage, a number of gold mohurs coined under this Act, or Act No. XVII. of 1835, or of the halves and quarters of such mohurs, equal, as nearly as may be, to the produce of such bullion, shall be returned to the proprietor after deducting the said duty of one per cent.

23. All gold bullion or coin inferior to the same standard, which may be brought to the Mint for coinage, shall, in addition to the same duty, be subject to such charge on account of the loss and expense of refining, together with such deduction on account of the inferiority of standard, as the Governor General of India in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time prescribe.

#### SCHEDULE.

Number and year of enactment.	Title or subject of enactment.
Bengal Regulation II. of 1812.	A Regulation for levying a duty on the coinage of silver bullion and on the re-coinage of rupees, and other coins with certain exceptions at the Mints established at Calcutta, Furruckabad, and Benares; for defining the weight and standard of the Benares Rupee; for modifying the rates of duty at present levied in the coinage of gold bullion in the Mint of Calcutta; and also for establishing certain rules for the conduct of the business of the above-mentioned Mints, respectively.
Bengal Regulation XIV. of 1818.	A Regulation for altering the standard of the Calcutta sicca Rupee and Gold mohur, and for further modifying some of the rules in force respecting those coins.
Bengal Regulation V. of 1819.	A Regulation for modifying certain parts of the rules in force in regard to the conduct of the business of the Mints subordinate to this presidency.
Act XVII. of 1835.	Gold and silver coinage.
Act XIII. of 1862.	An Act to provide for a new silver and a new copper coinage.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The primary object of this Bill is to make provision for defacing light-weight, counterfeit and called-in coin. This it proposes to do by three sections (13, 14 and 15), modelled on the Statutes 24 & 25 Vic., c. 95, s. 26, and 33 Vic., c. 10, s. 7.

The opportunity has been taken of consolidating the three Bengal Regulations (II. of 1812, XIV. of 1818, and V. of 1819) and the two Acts (XVII. of 1835, and XIII. of 1862), in which the law relating to the Mint and the coinage of British India is now contained. The notification of 28th October 1868, as to receiving sovereigns and other gold pieces in payment of sums due to Government, has also been embodied in the Bill. The provisions as to the relative value of the old silver coins and as to contracts for payment of Calcutta sicca rupees, which are found in Act XVII. of 1835, have been omitted as obsolete.

(Signed) J. F. STEPHEN.

SIMLA;  
The 24th May 1870. }  
WHITLEY STOKES,  
Secretary to the Council of the Governor General  
for making Laws and Regulations.



[Published with the "Bombay Government Gazette" of the 11th August 1870.]

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the Governor General in Council shall, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time, direct.

#### II.—Gold Coinage.

Gold coins.

4. The under-mentioned gold coins only shall be coined at the Mint:—

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- (2)—A five-rupee piece, equal to a third of a gold mohur.
- (3)—A ten-rupee piece, equal to two-thirds of a gold mohur.
- (4)—A thirty-rupee piece or a double gold mohur.

The weight of the said gold mohur shall be one hundred and eighty grains Troy, and the standard shall be as follows:—eleven-twelfths or one hundred and sixty-five grains of pure gold, and one-twelfth or fifteen grains of alloy.

The other gold coins shall be of proportionate weight and of the same standard.

#### III.—Silver Coinage.

5. The undermentioned silver coins only shall be coined at the Mint:—

Silver coins.

- (1) A rupee to be called the Government Rupee.
- (2) A half rupee.
- (3) A quarter rupee, or four-anna piece.
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The weight of the Government Rupee shall be one hundred and eighty grains Troy, and the standard shall be as follows:—eleven-twelfths or one hundred and sixty-five grains of pure silver, and one-twelfth or fifteen grains of alloy.

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- (2)—A pice or quarter anna.
- (3)—A half pice or one-eighth of an anna.
- (4)—A pie, being one-third of a pice or one-twelfth of an anna.

The copper coins so coined shall be respectively of the following weights:—

A double pice shall weigh two hundred grains Troy.

The pice shall weigh one hundred grains Troy. The half pice shall weigh fifty grains Troy.

The pie shall weigh thirty-three and one-third grains Troy.

#### V.—Devices on Coins.

7. Until the Governor General in Council shall otherwise order under the power hereinafter conferred, the gold, silver and copper coins coined under this Act shall bear on the obverse the likeness and the name of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and the inscription "Victoria Queen," and on the reverse the designation of the coins in English filled by the word "India" with such date and embellishments on each coin as the Governor General in Council shall from time to time direct.

8. The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, direct the coining and issuing of all coins authorized by this Act, and prescribe in lieu of the likeness and inscription hereinbefore mentioned, such other likeness and inscription for all or any of the said coins as he shall think fit.

#### VI.—Legal Tender.

9. No gold coin shall be a legal tender in payment or on account:

Provided that the coins mentioned in section four shall be received in all the treasuries of British India and its dependencies, in payment of sums due to the Government according to the values therein mentioned,

Gold coin not a legal tender.

Provido as to sums due to Government.



and that sovereigns and half sovereigns of current weight coined at any authorised Royal Mint in England or Australia shall be received in such treasuries in payment of sums so due as the equivalents of such sums respectively as the Governor General of India in Council shall, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time prescribe.

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Provided that the coin shall not have lost more than two per cent. in weight; and provided it shall not have been chipped or filed, or have been defaced or diminished, otherwise than by use.

The quarter rupee and eighth of a rupee shall be legal tender only for the fractions of a rupee, subject to the provisions mentioned in this section.

11. The double pice shall be a legal tender for a thirty-second part of a rupee or for half an anna; the pice for a sixty-fourth part of a rupee or for one-fourth of an anna; the half pice for the one hundred and twenty-eighth part of a rupee or for one-eighth of an anna;

and the pie for an hundred and ninety-second part of a rupee or the twelfth of an anna:

Provided that none of the said copper coins shall be a legal tender, except for the fractions of a rupee.

12. All silver coin of the weight and standard specified in the Acts No. XVII. of 1835 and No. XXI. of 1838, issued since the passing of those Acts, respectively, and before the first day of November 1862, and declared by those Acts, respectively to be a legal tender,

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14. If any coin so cut, broken or defaced has been diminished otherwise than by reasonable wearing, or is counterfeit, or has been called-in by a proclamation, the person tendering the same shall bear the loss thereof.

But if it has been diminished only by reasonable wearing, or is of due weight, and has been coined and issued by the authority of the Government of India, and has not been called-in by any proclamation, the person cutting, breaking or defacing the same shall receive it at the rate it was coined for.

15. Any disputes whether coin so cut, broken or defaced be diminished in manner aforesaid, or counterfeit, or called-in, shall be heard and finally determined, within the limits of the presidency towns by a Magistrate of Police, and, without those limits, by any person exercising powers not less than those of a subordinate Magistrate of the first class.

16. All public servants are hereby indemnified for anything done before the passing of this Act, which might lawfully have been done if this Act had been in force; and no suit or other proceeding shall be maintained against any such person in respect of anything so done.

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The weight of the said gold mohur shall be one hundred and eighty grains Troy, and the standard shall be as follows:—eleven-twelfths or one hundred and sixty-five grains of pure gold, and one-twelfth or fifteen grains of alloy.

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#### VIII.—Duty on Coinage of Bullion.

17. A duty shall be levied at the rate of one rupee per cent. at the Mint on the produce of all gold bullion and on all gold coin.

18. All silver bullion or coin (not being struck at the Mint) which may be delivered into the Mint for coinage, shall be subject to a duty at the rate of two per cent. on the produce of such bullion or coin, and the amount of such duty shall be deducted from the return to be made to the proprietor.

19. Any person may have his silver bullion or coin converted into halves or quarters of a Government rupee on condition of paying a duty at the rate of one per cent. in addition to the duty of two per cent. imposed under section eighteen.

20. The Mint Master, on the delivery of gold or silver bullion or coin into the Mint for coinage, shall grant to the proprietor a receipt which shall entitle him to a certificate from the Assay Master for the net produce of such bullion or coin payable at the General Treasury.

The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, determine by notification in the *Gazette of India* the period for which such certificates shall run.

21. The proprietor of any gold or silver bullion or coin so delivered for coinage, who is dissatisfied with the Assay Master's report of its value, may withdraw such bullion or coin without being subject to the duties on coinage imposed by this Act.



22. For all gold bullion or coin, equal to, or better than, the standard prescribed for the gold mohur by this Act, which may be brought to the Mint for coinage, a number of gold mohurs coined under this Act, or Act No. XVII. of 1835, or of the halves and quarters of such mohurs, equal, as nearly as may be, to the produce of such bullion, shall be returned to the proprietor after deducting the said duty of one per cent.

23. All gold bullion or coin inferior to the same standard, which may be brought to the Mint for coinage, shall, in addition to the same duty, be subject to such charge on account of the loss and expense of refining, together with such deduction on account of the inferiority of standard, as the Governor General of India in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time prescribe.

#### SCHEDULE.

Number and year of enactment.	Title or subject of enactment.
Bengal Regulation II. of 1812.	A Regulation for levying a duty on the coinage of silver bullion and on the re-coinage of rupees, and other coins with certain exceptions at the Mints established at Calcutta, Furruckabad, and Benares; for defining the weight and standard of the Benares Rupee; for modifying the rates of duty at present levied in the coinage of gold bullion in the Mint of Calcutta; and also for establishing certain rules for the conduct of the business of the above-mentioned Mints, respectively.

Number and year of enactment.	Title or subject of enactment.
Bengal Regulation XIV. of 1818.	A Regulation for altering the standard of the Calcutta sicca Rupee and Gold mohur, and for further modifying some of the rules in force respecting those coins.
Bengal Regulation V. of 1819.	A Regulation for modifying certain parts of the rules in force in regard to the conduct of the business of the Mints subordinate to this presidency.
Act XVII. of 1835.	Gold and silver coinage.
Act XIII. of 1862.	An Act to provide for a new silver and a new copper coinage.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The primary object of this Bill is to make provision for defacing light-weight, counterfeit and called-in coin. This it proposes to do by three sections (13, 14, and 15), modelled on the Statutes 24 & 25 Vic., c. 95, s. 26, and 33 Vic., c. 10, s. 7.

The opportunity has been taken of consolidating the three Bengal Regulations (II. of 1812, XIV. of 1818, and V. of 1819), and the two Acts (XVII. of 1835, and XIII. of 1862), in which the law relating to the Mint and the coinage of British India is now contained. The notification of 28th October 1868, as to receiving sovereigns and other gold pieces in payment of sums due to Government, has also been embodied in the Bill. The provisions as to the relative value of the old silver coins and as to contracts for payment of Calcutta sicca rupees, which are found in Act XVII. of 1835, have been omitted as obsolete.

(Signed) J. F. STEPHEN.

SIMLA;  
The 24th May 1870. }

WHITLEY STOKES,  
Secretary to the Council of the Governor General  
for making Laws and Regulations.