

1909.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Read 1° 4 August, 1909.

*(Brought in by the Treasurer, the Right Honorable Sir
John Forrest.)*

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

Relating to Currency, Coinage, and Legal Tender.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Coinage Act 1909*. Short title.
- 5 2. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears— Definitions.
- “British coins” means coins which have been issued in accordance with the laws of the United Kingdom, and which have not been called in in pursuance of those laws :
- 10 “Australian coins” means coins which have been issued in accordance with this Act, and which have not been called in in pursuance of this Act.
3. The standard weight and standard fineness of the gold, silver and bronze coins of the denominations mentioned in the Schedule are as specified in the Schedule. Standard weight and fineness of coins.
- 15 4.—(1.) The Treasurer may cause to be made and issued silver and bronze coins of the dimensions, designs, and denominations specified in any proclamation under this Act. Treasurer may issue silver and bronze coins.
Cf. 33-4 Vic.
c. 10 s. 3.
- 20 (2.) All coins to be so made and issued, if of the denominations mentioned in the Schedule, shall be of the weight and fineness specified in the Schedule.

(3.) Any silver coin to be so made and issued, if of a denomination not mentioned in the Schedule, shall be of the same fineness as is specified in the Schedule for silver coins, and shall be of a weight which bears the same proportion to the weight of a shilling specified in the Schedule as the denomination of the coin bears to a shilling. 5

(4.) In the making of coins, a remedy (or variation from the standard weight and fineness specified in the Schedule) shall be allowed as follows :—

(a) in the case of coins of the denominations mentioned in the Schedule, an amount not exceeding the amount specified in the Schedule, and 10

(b) in the case of coins of denominations not mentioned in the Schedule, an amount not exceeding the amount prescribed for the purpose by proclamation.

Legal tender.
Cf. 33-4 Vic.
c. 10 s. 4.

5.—(1.) A tender of payment of money, if made in coins which are British coins or Australian coins of current weight, shall be a legal tender— 15

(a) in the case of gold coins, for the payment of any amount :

(b) in the case of silver coins, for the payment of an amount not exceeding Forty shillings, but for no greater amount : 20
and

(c) in the case of bronze coins, for the payment of an amount not exceeding One shilling, but for no greater amount :
Provided that a tender of payment of money, if made in British coins other than gold coins, shall not be a legal tender for any amount after a date to be fixed by proclamation. 25

(2.) A coin shall be deemed to be not of current weight if it has become diminished in weight by wear or otherwise—

(a) in case it is a British coin, so as to be of less weight than the weight specified as the least current weight in the law of the United Kingdom applicable to the coin, and 30

(b) in case it is an Australian coin, so as to be of less weight than the weight specified as the least current weight in any proclamation under this Act. 35

Prohibition of
other than
official coins.
Cf. ib.(s. 5.

6. No piece of gold, silver, copper, or bronze, or of any metal or mixed metal, of any value whatever (other than a British or Australian coin), shall be made or issued as a coin or as a token for money, or as purporting that the holder thereof is entitled to demand any value denoted thereon. 40

Penalty : Twenty pounds.

Contracts &c.
to be made in
currency.
Cf. ib. s. 6.

7. Every contract, sale, payment, bill, note, instrument, and security for money, and every transaction, dealing, matter, and thing whatever relating to money, or involving the payment of or the liability to pay any money, which is made, executed, or entered into, done or had, shall be made, executed, entered into, done and had according to the coins which are current and are a legal tender in pursuance of this Act, and not otherwise, unless the same be made, executed, entered into, done or had according to the currency of some British possession or some foreign State. 45

8.—(1.) The 50

1909.	<i>Coinage.</i>	No.	3
	8.—(1.) The Governor-General may by proclamation do all or any of the following things, namely :—		<small>Powers of Governor-General. Cf. 33-4 Vic. c. 10 s. 11.</small>
5	(a) Determine the dimension of and design for any Australian coin ;		
	(b) Determine the denominations of Australian coins to be made and issued ;		
	(c) Diminish the amount of remedy allowed by the Schedule in the case of any Australian coin ;		
10	(d) Determine the least current weight of any Australian coin ;		
	(e) Call in Australian coins of any date or denomination or any Australian coins coined before any date specified in the proclamation ;		
15	(f) Direct that any coins, other than silver or bronze, shall be current and be a legal tender for the payment of any amount not exceeding the amount specified in the proclamation and not exceeding Five shillings ;		
	(g) Fix a date after which a tender of payment in money if made in British coins other than gold coins shall not be a legal tender of payment for any amount ; and		
20	(h) Revoke or alter any proclamation previously made.		
	(2.) Every proclamation under this section shall come into operation on a date therein specified and shall have effect as if it were enacted in this Act.		
25	9. Moneys standing to the credit of the Trust Fund may be invested by the Treasurer in the purchase of bullion for coinage.		<small>Utilizing of Trust Fund in purchase of bullion.</small>
	10. For the purposes of the Treasury Accounts, coin made in pursuance of this Act shall be considered as bullion until issued for circulation.		<small>Coin to be deemed bullion until issued.</small>
30	11. The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters and things which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving effect to this Act.		<small>Regulations</small>

SCHEDULE.

Denomination of Coin.	Standard Weight.		Least Current Weight.		Standard Fineness.	Remedy Allowance.		
	Imperial Weight. Grains.	Metric Weight. Grams.	Imperial Weight. Grains.	Metric Weight. Grams.		Weight per Piece.		Millesimal Fineness.
						Imperial Grains.	Metric Grams.	
<i>Gold—</i>								
Five pound	616·37239	39·94028	612·50000	39·68935	Eleven-twelfths fine gold, one-twelfth alloy; or millesimal fineness 916·6	1·00	0·06479	2
Two pound	246·54895	15·97611	245·00000	15·87574		0·40	0·02592	
Sovereign	123·27447	7·98805	122·50000	7·93737		0·20	0·01296	
Half-sovereign	61·63723	3·99402	61·12500	3·96083		0·15	0·00972	
<i>Silver—</i>								
Florin	174·54545	11·31036	...	...	Thirty - seven - fortieths fine silver, three - for- tieths alloy; or millesi- mal fineness 925	0·997	0·0646	4
Shilling	87·27272	5·65518	...	...		0·578	0·0375	
Sixpence	43·63636	2·82759	...	...		0·346	0·0224	
Threepence	21·81818	1·41379	...	...		0·212	0·0138	
<i>Bronze—</i>								
Penny	145·83333	9·44984	...	...	Mixed metal, copper, tin, and zinc	2·91666	0·18899	None
Halfpenny	87·50000	5·66990	...	...		1·75000	0·11339	

1909.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Read 1° 4 August, 1909.

*(Brought in by the Treasurer, the Right Honorable Sir
John Forrest.)**(As reported from Committee of the Whole, 10th August, 1909.)*

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT

Relating to Currency, Coinage, and Legal Tender.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Coinage Act 1909*. Short title.
- 5 2. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears— Definitions.
- “British coins” means coins which have been issued in accordance with the laws of the United Kingdom, and which have not been called in in pursuance of those laws :
- 10 “Australian coins” means coins which have been issued in accordance with this Act, and which have not been called in in pursuance of this Act.
3. The standard weight and standard fineness of the gold, silver and bronze coins of the denominations mentioned in the Schedule are as specified in the Schedule. Standard weight and fineness of coins.
- 15 4.—(1.) The Treasurer may cause to be made and issued silver and bronze or nickel coins of the dimensions, designs, and denominations specified in the Schedule. Treasurer may issue silver and bronze coins.
Cf. 33-4 Vic.
c. 10 s. 3.
- (2.) All coins to be so made and issued shall be of the weight and fineness specified in the Schedule.

[C. 18.]—300/10.8.1909.—F.6911.

(3.) Any

(3.) Any silver coin to be so made and issued shall be of the same fineness as is specified in the Schedule for silver coins, and shall be of a weight which bears the same proportion to the weight of a shilling specified in the Schedule as the denomination of the coin bears to a shilling. 5

(4.) In the making of coins, a remedy (or variation from the standard weight and fineness specified in the Schedule) shall be allowed of an amount not exceeding the amount specified in the Schedule.

Legal tender.
Cf. 33-4 Vic.
c. 10 s. 4.

5.—(1.) A tender of payment of money, if made in coins which are British coins or Australian coins of current weight, shall be a legal tender— 10

(a) in the case of gold coins, for the payment of any amount :

(b) in the case of silver coins, for the payment of an amount not exceeding Forty shillings, but for no greater amount : 15
and

(c) in the case of bronze coins, for the payment of an amount not exceeding One shilling, but for no greater amount.

(2.) A coin shall be deemed to be not of current weight if it has become diminished in weight by wear or otherwise— 20

(a) in case it is a British coin, so as to be of less weight than the weight specified as the least current weight in the law of the United Kingdom applicable to the coin, and

(b) in case it is an Australian coin, so as to be of less weight than the weight specified as the least current weight in any proclamation under this Act. 25

Prohibition of
other than
official coins.
Cf. ib. s. 5.

6. No piece of gold, silver, copper, or bronze, or of any metal or mixed metal, of any value whatever (other than a British or Australian coin), shall be made or issued as a coin or as a token for money, or as purporting that the holder thereof is entitled to demand any value denoted thereon. 30

Penalty : Twenty pounds.

Contracts &c.
to be made in
currency.
Cf. ib. s. 6.

7. Every contract, sale, payment, bill, note, instrument, and security for money, and every transaction, dealing, matter, and thing whatever relating to money, or involving the payment of or the liability to pay any money, which is made, executed, or entered into, done or had, shall be made, executed, entered into, done and had according to the coins which are current and are a legal tender in pursuance of this Act, and not otherwise, unless the same be made, executed, entered into, done or had according to the currency of some British possession or some foreign State. 35
40

Powers of
Governor-
General.
Cf. 33-4 Vic.
c. 10 s. 11.

8.—(1.) The Governor-General may by proclamation do all or any of the following things, namely :—

(a) Determine the dimension of and design for any Australian coin ; 45

(b) Diminish the amount of remedy allowed by the Schedule in the case of any Australian coin ;

(c) Determine

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	(c) Determine the least current weight of any Australian coin ;		
5	(d) Call in Australian coins of any date or denomination or any Australian coins coined before any date specified in the proclamation ;		
	(e) Direct that any coins, other than silver or bronze, shall be current and be a legal tender for the payment of any amount not exceeding the amount specified in the proclamation and not exceeding Five shillings ; and		
10	(f) Revoke or alter any proclamation previously made.		
	(2.) Every proclamation under this section shall come into operation on a date therein specified and shall have effect as if it were enacted in this Act.		
15	9. Moneys standing to the credit of the Trust Fund may be invested by the Treasurer in the purchase of bullion for coinage.		Utilizing of Trust Fund in purchase of bullion.
	10. For the purposes of the Treasury Accounts, coin made in pursuance of this Act shall be considered as bullion until issued for circulation.		Coin to be deemed bullion until issued
20	11. The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters and things which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving effect to this Act.		Regulations.

SCHEDULE.

Denomination of Coin	Standard Weight.		Least Current Weight.		Standard Fineness.	Remedy Allowance.		
	Imperial Weight. Grains.	Metric Weight. Grams.	Imperial Weight. Grains.	Metric Weight. Grams.		Weight per Piece.		Millesimal Fineness.
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<i>Gold—</i>								
Five pound ...	616·37239	39·94028	612·50000	39·68935	Eleven-twelfths fine gold, one-twelfth alloy; or millesimal fineness 916·6	1·00	0·06479	} 2
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Half-sovereign ...	61·63723	3·99402	61·12500	3·96083		0·15	0·00972	
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Florin ...	174·54545	11·31036	Thirty - seven - fortieths fine silver, three - for- tieths alloy; or millesi- mal fineness 925	0·997	0·0646	} 4
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<i>Bronze—</i>								
Penny ...	145·83333	9·44984	Mixed metal, copper, tin, and zinc	2·91666	0·18899	} None
Halfpenny ...	87·50000	5·66990		1·75000	0·11339	

Coinage.

Printed and Published for the GOVERNMENT of the COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA
by J. KEMP, Government Printer for the State of Victoria.

THIS Bill originated in the House of Representatives ; and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Senate for its concurrence.

G. GAVAN DUFFY,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

House of Representatives,
Melbourne, 11th August, 1909.

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 - (2.) All coins to be so made and issued shall be of the weight and fineness specified in the Schedule.

[C. 18]—150/11.8.1909.—F.6911.

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Contracts &c. to be made in currency.
Cf. ib. s. 6. i

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1909.	<i>Coinage.</i>	No.	3
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Coinage.

1909.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

COINAGE BILL.

*(Amendments to be proposed in Committee.)**By Mr. Fowler—*

Clause 5—

Omit the proviso (lines 24, 25 and 26 of page 2) to sub-clause (1.).

By Mr. Crouch—

THE SCHEDULE—

Amend the Schedule by striking out the words "one penny," "one halfpenny" and inserting "one dud (equal to one-tenth of a shilling), half dud (equal to one-twentieth of a shilling)".

[This amendment would introduce a decimal system of coinage without alteration in the gold and silver denominations. The current coins would then be on a decimal system.

	Duds.
One sovereign	200
Half sovereign	100
Crown	50
Half crown	25
Florin	20
Shilling	10
Sixpence (or some new name)	5
Threepence (or some new name)	2½
Dud	1
Half dud	½]

6th August, 1909.

Printed and Published for the GOVERNMENT of the COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA
by J. KEMP, Government Printer for the State of Victoria.

[C. 18]—310/7.8.1909.—F.6911.

COINAGE BILL 1909.

(Schedule of Amendments made by the Senate.)

- No. 1.—Page 1, clause 4, sub-clause (1.), line 16, leave out “or nickel”.
- No. 2.—Page 1, clause 4, sub-clause (1.), line 16, leave out “dimensions, designs, and”.
- No. 3.—Page 1, clause 4, sub-clause (2.), line 18, after “All” insert “silver and bronze”.
- No. 4.—Page 2, clause 4, leave out sub-clause (3.).
- No. 5.—Page 2, clause 4, sub-clause (4.), line 6, after “of” insert “silver and bronze”.
- No. 6.—Page 2, clause 4, at end of clause add the following new sub-clause :—
 “(4A.) The Treasurer may cause to be made and issued nickel coins of the denominations, weight, and fineness specified in any proclamation under this Act.”
- No. 7.—Page 2, clause 8, sub-clause (1.), paragraph (a), line 45, leave out “dimension” insert “dimensions”.
- No. 8.—Page 2, clause 8, sub-clause (1.), after paragraph (a) insert the following new paragraph :—
 “(aa) Determine the denominations, weight, and fineness of any Australian nickel coin, and the amount of remedy allowance to be allowed in the making thereof ;”.

GEO. UPWARD,

Clerk-Assistant, for Clerk of the Senate.

August, 1909.

Printed and Published for the GOVERNMENT of the COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA by J. KEMP,
 Government Printer for the State of Victoria.

[C. 18]—100/26.8.1909.—F 6911.

