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BY AUTHORITY

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES PASSED AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

[PUBLIC.—No. 3.]

AN ACT supplementary to the act entitled "An act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the officers of the mint of the U. S. shall be a director, a treasurer, an assayer, a melter and refiner, a chief coiner, and an engraver, to be appointed by the President of the U. S. by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That the respective duties of the officers of the mint shall be as follows:

First. The director shall have the control and management of the mint, the superintendence of the officers and persons employed therein, and the general regulation and supervision of the business of the several branches. And in the month of January of every year he shall make report to the President of the U. S. of the operations of the mint and its branches for the year preceding. And also to the Secretary of the Treasury, from time to time, as said Secretary shall require, setting forth all the operations of the mint subsequent to the last report made upon the subject.

Second. The Treasurer shall receive, and safely keep all moneys which shall be for the use and support of the mint; shall keep all the current accounts of the mint, and pay all moneys due by the mint, on warrants from the director. He shall receive all bullion brought to the mint for coinage; shall be the keeper of all bullion and coin in the mint, except while the same is legally placed in the hands of other officers, and shall, on warrants from the director, deliver all coins, struck at the mint to the persons to whom they shall be legally payable. And he shall keep regular and faithful accounts of all transactions of the mint, in bullion and coins both with the officers of the mint and depositors; and shall present, quarterly, to the Treasury Department of the United States, according to such forms as shall be prescribed by that department, an account of the receipts and disbursements of the mint, for the purpose of being adjusted and settled.

Third. The assayer shall carefully assay all metals used in coinage, whenever such assays are required in the operations of the mint; and he shall also make assays of coins whenever instructed to do so by the director.

Fourth. The melter and refiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form ingots of standard silver or gold suitable for the chief coiner, from the metals legally delivered to him for that purpose.

Fifth. The chief coiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form coins, conformable in all respects to the law, from the standard silver and gold ingots, and the copper planchets, legally delivered to him for this purpose.

Sixth. The engraver shall prepare and engrave, with the legal devices and inscriptions, all the dies used in the coinage of the mint and its branches.

SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, That the director shall appoint, with the approbation of the President, assistants to the assayer, melter and refiner, chief coiner, and engraver, and clerks for the director and treasurer, whenever, on representation made by the director to the President, it shall be the opinion of the President that such assistants or clerks are necessary. And it shall be the duty of the assistants to aid their principles in the execution of their respective offices, and of the clerks to perform such duties as shall be prescribed for them by the director.

SECTION 4. And be it further enacted, That whenever any officer of the mint shall be temporarily absent on account of sickness, or any other sufficient cause, it shall be lawful for the director, with the assent of said officer, to appoint some person attached to the mint to act in the place of such officer during his absence, and that the director shall employ such workmen and servants in the mint as he shall from time to time find necessary.

SECTION 5. And be it further enacted, That every officer, assistant, and clerk of the mint, shall, before he enters upon the execution of his office take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, or judge of the superior court or any court of record of any State, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof.

SECTION 6. And be it further enacted, That the following officers of the mint, before entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall become bound to the United States, with one or more sureties, to the Treasury, in the sums hereinafter mentioned, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of their offices, viz: The treasurer in the sum of ten thousand dollars; the assayer in the sum of five thousand dollars; the melter and refiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars; and the chief coiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars. And that similar bonds may also be required of the assistants and clerks, in such sums as the director shall determine, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury.

SECTION 7. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed to the officers of the mint the following salaries per annum: To the director, for his services, including travelling expenses incurred in visiting the different branches, and all other charges whatever, three thousand five hundred dollars; to the treasurer, assayer, melter and refiner, chief coiner, and engraver, each, two thousand dollars; to the assistants and clerks, such annual salaries shall be allowed as the director may determine, with the approbation of the President: Provided, That an assistant shall not receive more than five hundred dollars; and that a clerk shall not receive more than twelve hundred dollars; to the workmen and servants shall be allowed such wages, to be determined by the director, as may be customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations; and that the salaries provided for in this section shall be payable in quarterly instalments.

SECTION 8. And be it further enacted, That the standard of both gold and silver coins of the United States shall hereafter be such, that of one thousand parts by weight, nine hundred shall be of pure metal, and one hundred of alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper; and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of copper and silver, provided that the silver do not exceed one-half of the whole alloy.

SECTION 9. And be it further enacted, That of the silver coins, the dollar shall be of the weight of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains; the half dollar of the weight of two hundred and six and one-fourth grains; the quarter dollar of the weight of one hundred and three and one-eighth grains; the dime, or tenth part of a dollar, of the weight of twenty grains, and five-eighths of a grain. And the dollars, half dollars, and quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes, shall be legal tenders of payment, according to their nominal value, for any sums whatever.

SECTION 10. And be it further enacted, That of the gold coins, the weight of the eagle shall be two hundred and fifty-eight grains; that of the half eagle one hundred and twenty-nine grains; and that of the quarter eagle sixty-four and one-half grains. And that for all sums whatever, the eagle shall be a legal tender of payment for ten dollars; the half eagle for five dollars; and the quarter eagle for two and a half dollars.

SECTION 11. And be it further enacted, That the silver coins heretofore issued at the mint of the United States, and the gold coins issued since the thirty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall continue to be legal tenders of payment for their nominal values on the same terms as if they were of the coinage provided for by this act.

SECTION 12. And be it further enacted, That of the copper coins the weight of the cent shall be one hundred and sixty-eight grains, and the weight of the half cent eighty-four grains. And the cent shall be considered of the value of one hundredth part of a dollar, and the half cent of the value of two hundredth part of a dollar.

SECTION 13. And be it further enacted, That upon the coins struck at the mint there shall be the following devices and legends: upon one side of each of said coins there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY, and the year of the coinage; and upon the reverse of the gold and silver coins, there shall be the figure or representation of an eagle, with

the inscription United States of America, and a designation of the value of the coin; but on the reverse of the dime and half dime, cent and half cent, the figure of the eagle shall be omitted.

SECTION 14. And be it further enacted, That gold and silver bullion brought to the mint for coinage, shall be received and coined, by the proper officers, for the benefit of the depositor: Provided, That it shall be lawful to refuse at the mint, any deposit of less value than two hundred dollars, and any bullion so base as to be unsuitable for the operations of the mint: And provided also, That when gold and silver are combined, if either of these metals be in such small proportion that it cannot be separated advantageously, no allowance shall be made to the depositor for the value of such metal.

SECTION 15. And be it further enacted, That when bullion is brought to the mint for coinage, it shall be weighed by the treasurer, in the presence of the depositor, when practicable, and a receipt given, which shall state the description and weight of the bullion: Provided, That when the bullion is in such a state as to require melting before its value can be ascertained, the weight after melting shall be considered as the true weight of the bullion deposited.

SECTION 16. And be it further enacted, That from every parcel of bullion deposited for coinage, the treasurer shall deliver to the assayer a sufficient portion for the purpose of being assayed; but all such bullion remaining from the operations of the assay shall be returned to the treasurer by the assayer.

SECTION 17. And be it further enacted, That the assayer shall report to the treasurer the quality or standard of the bullion assayed by him; and he shall also communicate to the treasurer such information as will enable him to estimate the amount of the charges hereinafter provided for, to be made to the depositor, for the expenses of converting the bullion into standard metal fit for coinage.

SECTION 18. And be it further enacted, That the only subjects of charge by the mint to the depositor shall be the following: For refining when the bullion is below standard; for toughening when metals are contained in it, which render it unfit for coinage; for copper used for alloy when the bullion is above standard, for silver introduced into the alloy of gold; and for separating the gold and silver when these metals exist together in the bullion; and that the rate of these charges shall be fixed, from time to time, by the director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, so as not to exceed, in their judgment, the actual expense to the mint of the materials and labor employed in each of the cases aforementioned; and that the amount received from these charges shall be accounted for, and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the mint.

SECTION 19. And be it further enacted, That from the report of the assayer, and the weight of the bullion, the treasurer shall estimate the whole value of each deposit, and also the amount of the charges or deductions, if any; of all which he shall give a detailed memorandum to the depositor, and he shall also give, at the same time, under his hand, a certificate of the net amount of the deposit, to be paid in coins of the same species of bullion as that deposited.

SECTION 20. And be it further enacted, That parcels of bullion shall be, from time to time, transferred by the treasurer to the melter and refiner; that a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and character of the bullion, shall be kept; and that the bullion thus placed in the hands of the melter and refiner shall be subjected to the several processes which may be necessary to form it into ingots of the legal standard, and of a quality suitable for coinage.

SECTION 21. And be it further enacted, That the ingots thus prepared shall be assayed by the assayer, and if they prove to be within the limits allowed for deviation from the standard, they shall be transferred by the melter and refiner to the treasurer, accompanied by the assayer's certificate of their fineness; and that a careful record of the transfer shall be kept by the treasurer.

SECTION 22. And be it further enacted, That no ingots of gold shall be used for coinage of which the quality differs more than two thousandths from the legal standard, and that no ingots of silver shall be used for coinage of which the quality differs more than three thousandths from the legal standard.

SECTION 23. And be it further enacted, That in the treasurer's account with the melter and refiner, the melter and refiner shall be debited with the standard weight of all the bullion placed in his hands, that is to say, with the weight of metal of legal standard fineness which it will make; and that he shall be credited by the standard weight of all the ingots delivered by him to the treasurer; and that once at least in every year, at such time as the director shall appoint, the melter and refiner shall deliver up to the treasurer all the bullion in his possession, in order that his accounts may be settled up to that

time; and, in the settlement, he shall be entitled to a credit for the difference between the whole amount of bullion delivered to him, and received from him, since the last settlement, as an allowance for necessary waste: Provided, That this allowance shall not exceed two thousandths of the whole amount of gold and silver bullion, respectively, delivered to him by the treasurer.

SECTION 24. And be it further enacted, That the treasurer shall, from time to time, deliver over to the chief coiner, ingots for the purpose of coinage; that he shall keep a faithful record of these transfers, noting the weight and description of the ingots; and that the ingots thus placed in the hands of the chief coiner shall be passed through the several processes necessary to make from them coins, in all respects, conformable to law.

SECTION 25. And be it further enacted, That in adjusting the weight of the coins, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces: In the dollar and half dollar, one grain and a half; in the quarter dollar, one grain; in the dime and half dime, half a grain; in the gold coins, one-quarter of a grain; in the copper coins, one grain in the pennyweight; and that in weighing a large number of pieces together, when delivered from the chief coiner to the treasurer, and from the treasurer to the depositors, the deviations from the standard weight shall not exceed the following limits: Four pennyweights in one thousand dollars; three pennyweights in one thousand half dollars; two pennyweights in one thousand quarter dollars; one pennyweight in one thousand dimes; one pennyweight in one thousand half dimes; two pennyweights in one thousand eagles; one and a half pennyweight in one thousand half eagles; one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles.

SECTION 26. And be it further enacted, That the chief coiner shall, from time to time, as the coins are prepared, deliver over to the treasurer, who shall keep a careful record of their kind, number, and weight, that, in receiving the coin, it shall be the duty of the treasurer to see whether the coins of that delivery are within the legal limits of the standard weight; and if his trials for this purpose shall not prove satisfactory, he shall cause the coins of this delivery to be weighed separately, and such as are not of legal weight shall be delivered to the melter and refiner, as standard bullion, to be again formed into ingots and recoined.

SECTION 27. And be it further enacted, That at every delivery of coins made by the chief coiner to the treasurer, it shall be the duty of the treasurer, in the presence of the assayer, to take indiscriminately a certain number of pieces of each variety for the annual trial of coins, (the number being prescribed by the director,) which shall be carefully labelled, and deposited in a chest appropriated for the purpose, kept under the joint care of the treasurer and assayer, and so secured that neither can have access to its contents without the presence of the other.

SECTION 28. And be it further enacted, That the chief coiner shall, from time to time, deliver to the treasurer the clippings and other portions of bullion remaining after the process of coinage, and that the treasurer shall keep a careful record of their amount.

SECTION 29. And be it further enacted, That in the treasurer's account with the chief coiner, the chief coiner shall be debited with the amount in weight of standard metal of all the bullion placed in his hands, and credited with the amount, also by weight, of all the coins, clippings, and other bullion delivered by him to the treasurer; and that once at least in every year, at such time as the director shall appoint, the chief coiner shall deliver to the treasurer all the coins and bullion in his possession, so that his accounts may be settled up to that time; and in this settlement, he shall be entitled to a credit for the difference between the whole amount of the ingots delivered to him, and of the coins and bullion received from him, since the last settlement, as an allowance for necessary waste: Provided, That this allowance shall not exceed two thousandths of the whole amount of the silver, or one thousandth of the whole amount of the gold, that had been delivered to him by the treasurer.

SECTION 30. And be it further enacted, That when the coins which are the equivalent to any deposit of bullion are ready for delivery, they shall be paid over to the depositor, or his order, by the treasurer, on a warrant from the director; and the payment shall be made, if demanded, in the order in which the bullion shall have been brought to the mint, giving priority according to priority of deposit only; and that in the denominations of coin delivered, the treasurer shall comply with the wishes of the depositor, unless when impracticable or inconvenient to do so; in which case, the denominations of coin shall be designated by the director.

SECTION 31. And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of enabling the mint to make the returns to depositors with as little delay as possible, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to keep in the said mint, when the state of the Treasury will admit

thereof, a deposit of such amount of public money, or of bullion procured for the purpose, as he shall judge convenient and necessary, not exceeding one million of dollars, out of which those who bring bullion to the mint may be paid the value thereof, as soon as practicable after this value has been ascertained; that the bullion so deposited shall become the property of the United States; that no discount or interest shall be charged or moneys so advanced; and that the Secretary of the Treasury may at any time withdraw the said deposit, or any part thereof, or may, at his discretion, allow the coins formed at the mint to be given for their equivalent in other money.

SECTION 32. And be it further enacted, That to secure a due conformity in the gold and silver coins to their respective standards and weights, an annual trial shall be made of the pieces reserved for this purpose at the mint and its branches, before the judge of the district court of the United States for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, the attorney of the United States for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, and the collector of the port of Philadelphia, and such other persons as the President shall from time to time designate or that purpose, who shall meet as commissioners, for the performance of this duty, on the second Monday in February, annually, and may continue their meetings by adjournment, if necessary; and if a majority of the commissioners shall fail to attend at any time appointed for their meeting, then the director of the mint shall call a meeting of the commissioners at such other time as he may deem convenient; and that before these commissioners, or a majority of them, and in the presence of the officers of the mint, such examination shall be made of the reserved pieces as shall be judged sufficient, and if it shall appear that these pieces do not differ from the standard fineness and weight by a greater quantity than is allowed by law, the trial shall be considered and reported as satisfactory; but if any material deviation from the legal standard or weight shall appear, this fact shall be certified to the President of the United States, and if, on a view of the circumstances of the case, he shall so decide, the officer or officers, implicated in the error shall be thenceforward disqualified from holding their respective offices.

SECTION 33. And be it further enacted, That copper bullion shall be purchased for the mint, from time to time, by the treasurer, under instructions from the director; that the cost shall be paid from the fund hereinafter provided for; and that the copper bullion shall be of good quality, and in the form of planchets fit for passing at once into the hands of the chief coiner.

SECTION 34. And be it further enacted, That the copper planchets shall be delivered, from time to time, by the treasurer to the chief coiner, to be by him coined; and all such copper shall be returned to the treasurer, by the chief coiner, weight for weight, without allowance for waste.

SECTION 35. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the treasurer of the mint to deliver the copper coins in exchange for their legal equivalent in other money, to any persons who shall apply for them: Provided, That the sum asked for be not less than a certain amount, to be determined by the director, and that it be not so great as, in his judgment to interfere with the capacity of the mint to supply other applicants.

SECTION 36. And be it further enacted, That the copper coins may, at the discretion of the director be delivered in any of the principal cities and towns of the United States, at the cost of the mint for transportation.

SECTION 37. And be it further enacted, That the money received by the treasurer in exchange for copper coins shall form a fund in his hands, which shall be used to purchase copper planchets, and to pay the expense of transportation of copper coins; and that if there be a surplus, the same shall be appropriated to defray the contingent expenses of the mint.

SECTION 38. And be it further enacted, That all acts or parts of acts heretofore passed, relating to the mint and coins of the United States, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

JAMES K. POLK.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

M. VAN BUREN.

Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, 9th Jan. 1837.

ANDREW JACKSON.

[PUBLIC.—No. 4.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the payment of the revolutionary and other pensioners of the United States, for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the pensioners of the United States, for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven:

For the revolutionary pensioners, under the several acts, other than those of the fifteenth of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and the fourth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, se-