
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 29, 1872.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

AN ACT

Revising and amending the laws relative to the mints, assay-offices, and coinage of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Mint of the United States is hereby established as a
4 Bureau of the Treasury Department, embracing in its organ-
5 ization and under its control all mints for the manufacture of
6 coin, and all assay-offices for the stamping of bars, which are
7 now, or which may be hereafter, authorized by law. The
8 chief officer of the said Bureau shall be denominated the Di-
9 rector of the Mint, and shall be under the general direction of
10 the Secretary of the Treasury. He shall be appointed by the
11 President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,
12 and shall hold his office for the term of five years, unless
13 sooner removed by the President, upon reasons to be commu-
14 nicated by him to the Senate.

1 SEC. 2. That the Director of the Mint shall have the

2 general supervision of all mints and assay-offices, and shall
3 make an annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury of
4 their operations, at the close of each fiscal year, and from
5 time to time such additional reports, setting forth the opera-
6 tions and condition of such institutions as the Secretary of
7 the Treasury shall require, and shall lay before him the an-
8 nual estimates for their support. And the Secretary of the
9 Treasury shall appoint the number of clerks, classified ac-
10 cording to law, necessary to discharge the duties of said Be-
11 reau.

1 SEC. 3. That the officers of each mint shall be a super-
2 intendent, an assayer, a melter and refiner, and a coiner, and
3 for the mint at Philadelphia an engraver, all to be appointed
4 by the President of the United States, by and with the
5 advice and consent of the Senate.

1 SEC. 4. That the superintendent of each mint shall have
2 the control thereof, the superintendence of the officers and
3 persons employed therein, and the supervision of the business
4 thereof, subject to the approval of the Director of the Mint,
5 to whom he shall make reports at such times and according
6 to such forms as the Director of the Mint may prescribe,
7 which shall exhibit in detail, and under appropriate heads
8 the deposits of bullion, the amount of gold, silver, and minor
9 coinage, and the amount of unparted, standard, and
10 refined bars issued, and such other statistics and

11 information as may be required. The superin-
12 tendent of each mint shall also receive and safely
13 keep, until legally withdrawn, all moneys or bullion which
14 shall be for the use or the expenses of the mint; he shall
15 receive all bullion brought to the mint for assay or coinage;
16 shall be the keeper of all bullion or coin in the mint, except
17 while the same is legally in the hands of other officers, and
18 shall deliver all coins struck at the mint to the persons to
19 whom they shall be legally payable. From the report of
20 the assayer and the weight of the bullion, he shall compute
21 the value of each deposit, and also the amount of the charges
22 or deductions, if any, of all which he shall give a detailed
23 memorandum to the depositor; and he shall also give at the
24 same time, under his hand, a certificate of the net amount of
25 the deposit, to be paid in coins or bars of the same species of
26 bullion as that deposited, the correctness of which certificate
27 shall be verified by the assayer, who shall countersign the
28 same; and in all cases of transfer of coin or bullion, he shall
29 give and receive vouchers stating the amount and character
30 of such coin or bullion. He shall keep and render, quarter-
31 yearly, to the Director of the Mint, for the purpose of adjust-
32 ment, according to such forms as may be prescribed by the
33 Secretary of the Treasury, regular and faithful accounts
34 of his transactions with the other officers of the
35 mint and the depositors; and shall also render to him a

36 monthly statement of the ordinary expenses of the mint or
37 assay-office under his charge. He shall also appoint all
38 assistants, clerks, (one of whom shall be designated "chief
39 clerk,") and workmen employed under his superintendence ;
40 but no person shall be appointed to employment in the offices
41 of the assayer, melter and refiner, coiner, or engraver, except
42 on the recommendation and nomination in writing of those
43 officers respectively ; and he shall forthwith report to the
44 Director of the Mint the names of all persons appointed by
45 him, the duties to be performed, the rate of compensation,
46 the appropriation from which compensation is to be made,
47 and the grounds of the appointment ; and if the Director of
48 the Mint shall disapprove the same, the appointment shall be
49 vacated.

1 Sec. 5. That the assayer shall assay all metals and
2 bullion, whenever such assays are required in the operations
3 of the mint ; he shall also make assays of coins whenever
4 required by the superintendent.

1 Sec. 6. That the melter and refiner shall execute all
2 the operations which are necessary in order to form ingots of
3 standard silver or gold, and alloys for minor coinage, suitable
4 for the coiner, from the metals legally delivered to him for
5 that purpose ; and shall also execute all the operations which
6 are necessary in order to form bars conformable in all
7 respects to the law, from the gold and silver bullion delivered

8 to him for that purpose. He shall keep a careful record of
9 all transactions with the superintendent, noting the weight
10 and character of the bullion; and shall be responsible for all
11 bullion delivered to him until the same is returned to the
12 superintendent and the proper vouchers obtained.

1 Sec. 7. That the coiner shall execute all the operations
2 which are necessary in order to form coins, conformable in all
3 respects to the law, from the standard gold and silver ingots,
4 and alloys for minor coinage, legally delivered to him for
5 that purpose; and shall be responsible for all bullion
6 delivered to him, until the same is returned to the superin-
7 tendent and the proper vouchers obtained.

1 Sec. 8. That the engraver shall prepare from the
2 original dies already authorized all the wording-dies required
3 for use in the coinage of the several mints, and, when new
4 coins or devices are authorized, shall, if required by the
5 Director of the Mint, prepare the devices, models, molds,
6 and matrices, or original dies for the same; but the Director
7 of the Mint shall nevertheless have power, with the approval
8 of the Secretary of the Treasury, to engage temporarily for
9 this purpose the services of one or more artists distinguished
10 in their respective departments of art, who shall be paid for
11 such service from the contingent appropriation for the mint
12 at Philadelphia.

1 Sec. 9. That whenever any officer of a mint or office

2 shall be temporarily absent, on account of sickness or any
3 other cause, it shall be lawful for the superintendent, with the
4 consent of said officer, to appoint some person attached to
5 the mint to act in the place of such officer during his absence;
6 but all such appointments shall be forthwith reported to the
7 Director of the Mint for his approval; and in all cases what-
8 soever the principal shall be responsible for the acts of his
9 representative. In case of the temporary absence of the su-
10 perintendent, the chief clerk shall act in his place; and in
11 case of the temporary absence of the Director of the Mint,
12 the Secretary of the Treasury may designate some one to act
13 in his place.

1 Sec. 10. That every officer, assistant, and clerk of the
2 mint shall, before he enters upon the execution of his office,
3 take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United
4 States, or judge of the superior court, or of some court of
5 record of any State, faithfully and diligently to perform the
6 duties thereof, in addition to other official oaths prescribed by
7 law; which oaths, duly certified, shall be transmitted to the
8 Secretary of the Treasury; and the superintendent of each
9 mint may require such oath or affirmation from any of the
10 employees of the mint.

1 Sec. 11. That the superintendent, the assayer, the melt-
2 er and refiner, and the coiner of each mint, before entering
3 upon the execution of their respective offices, shall become

4 bound to the United States with one or more sureties, ap-
5 proved by the Secretary of the Treasury, in the sum of not
6 less than ten nor more than fifty thousand dollars, with con-
7 dition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties
8 of his office. Similar bonds may be required of the assistants
9 and clerks, in such sums as the superintendent shall determine,
10 with the approbation of the Director of the Mint; but the
11 same shall not be construed to relieve the superintendent or
12 other officers from liability to the United States for acts,
13 omissions, or negligence of their subordinates or employees:
14 *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Treasury may, at his
15 discretion, increase the bonds of the superintendent.

1 Sec. 12. That there shall be allowed to the Director of
2 the Mint an annual salary of four thousand five hundred dol-
3 lars, and actual necessary traveling expenses in visiting the
4 different mints and assay-offices, for which vouchers shall be
5 rendered; to the superintendents of the mints at Philadelphia
6 and San Francisco, each four thousand five hundred dollars;
7 to the assayers, melters and refiners, and coiners of said mints,
8 each three thousand dollars; to the engraver of the mint at
9 Philadelphia, three thousand dollars; to the superintendent of the
10 mint at Carson City, three thousand dollars; and to the
11 assayer, to the melter and refiner, and to the coiner of the
12 mint at Carson City, each, two thousand five hundred dollars;
13 to the assistants and clerks such annual salary shall be allowed

14 as the Director of the Mint may determine, with the appro-
15 bation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and to the work-
16 men shall be allowed such wages, to be determined by the
17 superintendent, as may be customary and reasonable accord-
18 ing to their respective stations and occupations, and approved
19 by the Director of the Mint; and the salaries provided for in
20 this section, and the wages of the workmen permanently
21 engaged, shall be payable in monthly instalments.

1 SEC. 13. That the standard for both gold and silver
2 coins of the United States shall be such that of one thou-
3 sand parts by weight nine hundred shall be of pure metal
4 and one hundred of alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins
5 shall be of copper, and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of
6 copper, or of copper and silver; but the silver shall in no
7 case exceed one-tenth of the whole alloy.

1 SEC. 14. That the gold coins of the United States shall
2 be a one-dollar piece, which at the standard weight of
3 twenty-five and eight-tenth grains shall be the unit of
4 value; a quarter-eagle, or two-and-a-half-dollar piece; a
5 three-dollar piece; a half-eagle, or five-dollar piece; an
6 eagle, or ten-dollar piece; and a double-eagle, or
7 twenty-dollar piece. And the standard weight of
8 the gold dollar shall be twenty-five and eight-tenths
9 grains; of the quarter-eagle, or two-and-a-half-dollar piece,
10 sixty-four and a half grains; of the three-dollar piece,

11 seventy-seven and four-tenths grains; of the half-eagle, or
12 five-dollar piece, one hundred and twenty-nine grains; of
13 the eagle, or ten-dollar piece, two hundred and fifty-eight
14 grains; of the double-eagle, or twenty-dollar piece, five
15 hundred and sixteen grains; which coins shall be a legal
16 tender in all payments at their nominal value when not
17 below the standard weight and limit of tolerance provided in
18 this act for the single piece; and, when reduced in weight
19 below said standard and tolerance, shall be a legal tender at
20 valuation in proportion to their actual weight; and any gold
21 coin of the United States, if reduced in weight by abrasion
22 not more than one-half of one per centum on the double-
23 eagle and eagle, and one per centum on the other coins below
24 the standard weight prescribed by law, shall be received at
25 their nominal value by the United States Treasury and its
26 offices, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-
27 ury may prescribe for the protection of the Government
28 against fraudulent abrasion or other practices; and any gold
29 coins in the Treasury of the United States reduced in weight
30 below this limit of abrasion shall be recoined.

1 Sec. 15. That any gold coin now in circulation the
2 weight of which is below the limit of abrasion prescribed in
3 this act may be received at the mints in Philadelphia and
4 San Francisco at par in exchange for silver coins: *Provided,*
5 That the circulation of such gold coin, as shown by the date
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6 of coinage, has been sufficient to produce such loss by natural
7 abrasion; and the coins so received shall be recoined; but no
8 gold coins which appear to have been artificially reduced
9 shall come within the provisions of this section.

1 Sec. 16. That the silver coins of the United States shall
2 be a dollar, a half-dollar, or fifty-cent piece, a quarter-dollar,
3 or twenty-five-cent piece, and a dime, or ten-cent piece; and
4 the weight of the dollar shall be three hundred and eighty-
5 four grains; the half-dollar, quarter-dollar, and the dime shall
6 be, respectively, one-half, one-quarter, and one-tenth of the
7 weight of said dollar; which coins shall be a legal tender, at
8 their nominal value, for any amount not exceeding five dol-
9 lars in any one payment.

1 Sec. 17. That the minor coins of the United States shall
2 be a five-cent piece, a three-cent piece, and a one-cent piece;
3 and the alloy for minor coinage shall be of copper and nickel,
4 to be composed of three-fourths copper and one-fourth nickel;
5 the weight of the piece of five cents shall be five grams, or
6 seventy-seven and sixteen-hundredths grains troy; of the
7 three-cent piece, three grams, or forty-six and thirty-hun-
8 dredths grains; and of the one-cent piece, one and one-half
9 grams, or twenty-three and fifteen-hundredths grains; which
10 coins shall be a legal tender, at their nominal value, for any
11 amount not exceeding twenty-five cents in any one payment.

1 Sec. 18. That no coins, either of gold, silver, or minor

2 coinage, shall hereafter be issued from the Mint other than
3 those of the denominations, standards, and weights herein set
4 forth.

1 SEC. 19. That upon the coins of the United States there
2 shall be the following devices and legends: Upon one side
3 there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty, with an
4 inscription of the word "Liberty" and the year of the
5 coinage, and upon the reverse shall be the figure or repre-
6 sentation of an eagle, with the inscriptions "United States of
7 America" and "E Pluribus Unum," and a designation of the
8 value of the coin; but on the gold dollar and three-dollar
9 piece, the dime, five, three, and one cent piece the figure of
10 the eagle shall be omitted; and the Director of the Mint,
11 with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, may
12 cause the motto "In God we trust" to be inscribed upon such
13 coins as shall admit of such motto; and any one of the
14 foregoing inscriptions may be on the rim of the gold and
15 silver coins.

1 SEC. 20. That at the option of the owner, gold or silver
2 may be cast into bars of fine metal, or of standard fineness,
3 or unparted, as he may prefer, with a stamp upon the same
4 designating the weight and fineness, and with such devices
5 impressed thereon as may be deemed expedient to prevent
6 fraudulent imitation, and no such bars shall be issued of a less
7 weight than five ounces.

1 SEC. 21. That any owner of gold bullion may deposit
2 the same at any mint, to be formed into coin or bars for his
3 benefit; but it shall be lawful to refuse any deposit of less
4 value than one hundred dollars, or any bullion so base as to
5 be unsuitable for the operations of the mint; and when gold
6 and silver are combined, if either metal be in such small
7 proportion that it cannot be separated advantageously, no
8 allowance shall be made to the depositor for its value.

1 SEC. 22. That any owner of silver bullion may deposit
2 the same at any mint, to be formed into bars for his benefit;
3 no deposit for coinage into silver coin shall be received; but
4 silver bullion contained in gold deposits, and separated there-
5 from, may be paid for in silver coin, at such valuation as may
6 be, from time to time, established by the Director of the
7 Mint.

1 SEC. 23. That when bullion is deposited in any of the
2 mints, it shall be weighed by the superintendent, and, when
3 practicable, in the presence of the depositor, to whom a
4 receipt shall be given, which shall state the description and
5 weight of the bullion; but when the bullion is in such a
6 state as to require melting, or the removal of base metals,
7 before its value can be ascertained, the weight, after such
8 operation, shall be considered as the true weight of the
9 bullion deposited. The fitness of the bullion to be received

10 shall be determined by the assayer, and the mode of melting
11 by the melter and refiner.

1 Sec. 24. That from every parcel of bullion deposited for
2 coinage or bars, the superintendent shall deliver to the assayer
3 a sufficient portion for the purpose of being assayed, but all
4 such bullion remaining from the operations of the assay shall
5 be returned to the superintendent by the assayer.

1 Sec. 25. That the assayer shall report to the superin-
2 tendent the quality or standard of the bullion assayed by
3 him, and such information as will enable him to compute the
4 amount of the charges hereinafter provided for, to be made
5 to the depositor, for the cost of converting the bullion into
6 bars.

1 Sec. 26. That the charge for converting standard gold
2 bullion into coin shall be one-fifth of one per centum; and
3 the charges for refining when the bullion is below standard,
4 for toughening when metals are contained in it which render
5 it unfit for coinage, for copper used for alloy when the bull-
6 ion is above standard, for separating the gold and silver
7 when these metals exist together in the bullion, and for the
8 preparation of bars, shall be fixed, from time to time, by the
9 Director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treas-
10 ury, so as to equal but not exceed, in their judgment, the
11 actual average cost to each mint and assay-office of the

12 material, labor, wastage, and use of machinery employed in
13 each of the cases aforementioned

1 SEC. 27. That the assayer shall verify all calculations
2 made by the superintendent of the value of deposits, and, if
3 satisfied of the correctness thereof, shall countersign the cer-
4 tificate required to be given by the superintendent to the
5 depositor.

1 SEC. 28. That in order to procure bullion for the silver
2 coinage authorized by this act, the superintendents, with the
3 approval of the Director of the Mint, as to price, terms, and
4 quantity, shall purchase such bullion with the bullion-fund.
5 The gain arising from the coinage of such silver bullion into
6 coin of a nominal value exceeding the cost thereof shall be
7 credited to a special fund denominated the silver-profit fund.
8 This fund shall be charged with the wastage incurred in the
9 silver coinage, and with the expenses of distributing said
10 coins as hereinafter provided. The balance to the credit of
10 this fund shall be from time to time, and at least twice a year,
11 paid into the Treasury of the United States.

1 SEC. 29. That silver coins shall be paid out at the several
2 mints, and at the assay-office in New York City, in exchange
3 for gold coins at par, in sums not less than one hundred dol-
4 lars; and it shall be lawful, also, to transmit parcels of the
5 same, from time to time, to the assistant treasurers, deposi-
6 taries, and other officers of the United States, under general

7 regulations proposed by the Director of the Mint, and ap-
8 proved by the Secretary of the Treasury; but nothing herein
9 contained shall prevent the payment of silver coins, at their
10 nominal value, for silver parted from gold, as provided in
11 this act, or for change less than one dollar in settlement for
12 gold deposits: *Provided*, That for two years after the passage
13 of this act, silver coins shall be paid at the mint in Philadel-
14 phia and the assay-office in New York City, for silver bul-
15 lion purchased for coinage, under such regulations as may be
16 prescribed by the Director of the Mint and approved by the
17 Secretary of the Treasury.

1 Sec. 30. That for the purchase of metal for the minor
2 coinage authorized by this act, a sum not exceeding fifty
3 thousand dollars in lawful money of the United States shall
4 be transferred by the Secretary of the Treasury to the credit
5 of the superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia, at which
6 establishment only, until otherwise provided by law, such
7 coinage shall be carried on. The superintendent, with the
8 approval of the Director of the Mint as to price, terms, and
9 quantity, shall purchase the metal required for such coinage
10 by public advertisement, and the lowest and best bid shall be
11 accepted, the fineness of the metals to be determined on the
12 mint assay. The gain arising from the coinage of such metals
13 into coin of a nominal value, exceeding the cost thereof, shall
14 be credited to the special fund denominated the minor-coinage-

15 profit fund; and this fund shall be charged with the
16 wastage incurred in such coinage, and with the cost of dis-
17 tributing said coins as hereinafter provided. The balance
18 remaining to the credit of this fund, and any balance of profits
19 accrued from minor coinage under former acts, shall be, from
1 time to time, and at least twice a year, covered into the
2 Treasury of the United States.

3 SEC. 31. That the minor coins authorized by this act
4 may, at the discretion of the Director of the Mint, be delivered
5 in any of the principal cities and towns of the United States,
6 at the cost of the mint, for transportation, and shall be
7 exchangeable at par at the Mint in Philadelphia, at the dis-
8 cretion of the superintendent, for any other coins of copper,
9 bronze, or copper nickel heretofore authorized by law; and
10 it shall be lawful for the Treasurer and the several assistant
11 treasurers and depositaries of the United States to redeem, in
12 lawful money, under such rules as may be prescribed by the
13 Secretary of the Treasury, all copper, bronze, and copper
14 nickel coins authorized by law when presented in sums of not
15 less than twenty dollars; and whenever, under this authority,
16 these coins are presented for redemption in such quantity as
17 to show the amount outstanding to be redundant, the Secre-
18 tary of the Treasury is authorized and required to direct that
19 such coinage shall cease until otherwise ordered by him.

1 SEC. 32. That parcels of bullion shall be, from time to

2 time, transferred by the superintendent to the melter and refiner;
3 a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and character
4 of the bullion, shall be kept, and vouchers shall be taken for
5 the delivery of the same, duly receipted by the melter and
6 refiner, and the bullion thus placed in the hands of the melter
7 and refiner shall be subjected to the several processes which
8 may be necessary to form it into ingots of the legal standard,
9 and of a quality suitable for coinage.

1 SEC. 33. That the ingots so prepared shall be assayed;
2 and if they prove to be within the limits allowed for deviation
3 from the standard, the assayer shall certify the fact to
4 the superintendent, who shall thereupon receipt for the same,
5 and transfer them to the coiner.

1 SEC. 34. That no ingots shall be used for coinage which
2 differ from the legal standard more than the following proportions,
3 namely: In gold ingots, one-thousandth; in silver
4 ingots, two-thousandths; in minor-coinage alloys, twenty-five
5 thousandths, in the proportion of nickel.

1 SEC. 35. That the melter and refiner shall prepare all
2 bars required for the payment of deposits; but the fineness
3 thereof shall be ascertained and stamped thereon by the
4 assayer; and the melter and refiner shall deliver such bars to
5 the superintendent, who shall receipt for the same.

1 SEC. 36. That the superintendent shall, from time to
2 time, deliver to the coiner ingots for the purpose of coinage;

3 a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and
4 character of the bullion, shall be kept, and vouchers shall be
5 taken for the delivery of the same, duly receipted by the
6 coiner; and the ingots thus placed in the hands of the coiner
7 shall be subjected to the several processes necessary to make
8 from them coins in all respects conformable to law.

1 Sec. 37. That in adjusting the weights of the gold
2 coins, the following deviations shall not be exceeded in any
3 single piece: In the double-eagle and the eagle, one-half of
4 a grain; in the half-eagle, the three-dollar piece, the quarter-
5 eagle, and the one-dollar piece, one-fourth of a grain. And
6 in weighing a number of pieces together, when delivered by
7 the coiner to the superintendent, and by the superintendent
8 to the depositor, the deviation from the standard weight
9 shall not exceed one-hundredth of an ounce in five thousand
10 dollars in double-eagles, eagles, half-eagles, or quarter-eagles,
11 in one thousand three-dollar pieces, and in one thousand one-
12 dollar pieces.

1 Sec. 38. That in adjusting the weight of the silver
2 coins the following deviations shall not be exceeded in any
3 single piece: In the dollar, the half and quarter dollar, and in
4 the dime, one and one-half grains; and in weighing large num-
5 bers of pieces together, when delivered by the coiner to the
6 superintendent, and by the superintendent to the depositor,
7 the deviations from the standard weight shall not exceed two-

8 hundredths of an ounce in one thousand dollars, half-dollars,
9 or quarter-dollars, and one-hundredth of an ounce in one
10 thousand dimes.

1 Sec. 39. That in adjusting the weight of the minor
2 coins provided by this act, there shall be no greater deviation
3 allowed than three grains for the five-cent piece and two
4 grains for the three and one cent pieces.

1 Sec. 40. That the coiner shall, from time to time, as
2 coins are prepared, deliver them to the superintendent, who
3 shall receipt for the same, and who shall keep a careful
4 record of their kind, number, and actual weight; and in re-
5 ceiving coins it shall be the duty of the superintendent to
6 ascertain, by the trial of a number of single pieces sepa-
7 rately, whether the coins of that delivery are within the legal
8 limits of the standard weight; and if his trials for this pur-
9 pose shall not prove satisfactory, he shall cause all the coins
10 of such delivery to be weighed separately, and such as are
11 not of legal weight shall be defaced and delivered to the
12 melter and refiner as standard bullion, to be again formed into
13 ingots and recoined; or the whole delivery may, if more con-
14 venient, be remelted.

1 Sec. 41. That at every delivery of coins made by the
2 coiner to a superintendent, it shall be the duty of such
3 superintendent, in the presence of the assayer, to take indis-
4 criminately a certain number of pieces of each variety for the

5 annual trial of coins, the number for gold coins being not less
6 than one piece for each one thousand pieces or any fractional
7 part of one thousand pieces delivered; and for silver coins
8 one piece for each two thousand pieces or any fractional part
9 of two thousand pieces delivered. The pieces so taken shall
10 be carefully sealed up in an envelope, properly labeled, stat-
11 ing the date of the delivery, the number and denomination of
12 the pieces inclosed, and the amount of the delivery from
13 which they were taken. These sealed parcels containing the
14 reserved pieces shall be deposited in a pyx, designated for the
15 purpose at each mint, which shall be kept under the joint
16 care of the superintendent and assayer, and be so secured
17 that neither can have access to its contents without the pres-
18 ence of the other, and the reserved pieces in their sealed
19 envelopes from the coinage of each mint shall be transmitted
20 quarterly to the mint at Philadelphia. A record shall also
21 be kept at the same time of the number and denomination of
22 the pieces so taken for the annual trial of coins, and of the
23 number and denomination of the pieces represented by them
24 and so delivered, a copy of which record shall be transmitted
25 quarterly to the Director of the Mint. Other pieces may, at
26 any time, be taken for such tests as the Director of the Mint,
27 shall prescribe.

1 Sec. 42. That the coiner shall, from time to time, de-
2 liver to the superintendent the clippings and other portions of

3 bullion remaining after the process of coining ; and the super-
4 intendent shall receipt for the same and keep a careful record
5 of their weight and character.

1 Sec. 43. That the superintendent shall debit the coiner
2 with the amount in weight of standard metal of all the bull-
3 ion placed in his hands, and credit him with the amount in
4 weight of all the coins, clippings, and other bullion returned
5 by him to the superintendent. Once at least in every year,
6 and at such time as the Director of the Mint shall appoint,
7 there shall be an accurate and full settlement of the accounts
8 of the coiner and the melter and refiner, at which time the
9 said officers shall deliver up to the superintendent all the
10 coins, clippings, and other bullion in their possession, respect-
11 ively, accompanied by statements of all the bullion delivered
12 to them since the last annual settlement, and all the bullion
13 returned by them during the same period, including the
14 amount returned for the purpose of settlement.

1 Sec. 44. That when all the coins, clippings, and other
2 bullion have been delivered to the superintendent, it shall
3 be his duty to examine the accounts and statements rendered
4 by the coiner and the melter and refiner, and the difference
5 between the amount charged and credited to each officer
6 shall be allowed as necessary wastage, if the superin-
7 tendent shall be satisfied that there has been a bona-
8 fide waste of the precious metals, and if the amount

9 shall not exceed, in the case of the melter and refiner, one
10 thousandth of the whole amount of gold, and one and one-
11 half thousandths of the whole amount of silver delivered to
12 him since the last annual settlement, and in the case of the coiner,
13 one thousandth of the whole amount of silver, and one-half
14 thousandth of the whole amount of gold that has been deliv-
15 ered to him by the superintendent ; and all copper used in the
16 alloy of gold and silver bullion shall be separately charged to
17 the melter and refiner, and accounted for by him.

1 Sec. 45. That it shall also be the duty of the superin-
2 tendent to forward a correct statement of his balance-sheet,
3 at the close of such settlement, to the Director of the Mint,
4 who shall compare the total amount of gold and silver bullion and
5 coin on hand with the total liabilities of the mint. At the same
6 time a statement of the ordinary-expense account, and the
7 moneys therein, shall also be made by the superintendent.

1 Sec. 46. That when the coins or bars which are equiva-
2 lent to any deposit of bullion are ready for delivery, they
3 shall be paid to the depositor, or his order, by the superin-
4 tendent ; and the payments shall be made, if demanded, in the
5 order in which the bullion shall have been brought to the
6 mint ; but in cases where there is delay in manipulating a re-
7 fractory deposit, or for any other unavoidable cause, the pay-
8 ment of subsequent deposits, the value of which is known,
9 shall not be delayed thereby ; and in the denominations of

10 coin delivered, the superintendent shall comply with the wishes
11 of the depositor, except when impracticable or inconvenient
12 to do so.

1 SEC. 47. That unparted bullion may be exchanged at
2 any of the mints for fine bars, on such terms and conditions
3 as may be prescribed by the Director of the Mint, with the
4 approval of the Secretary of the Treasury ; and the fineness,
5 weight, and value of the bullion received and given in ex-
6 change shall in all cases be determined by the mint assay.
7 The charge to the depositor for refining or parting shall not
8 exceed that allowed and deducted for the same operation in
9 the exchange of unrefined for refined bullion.

1 SEC. 48. That for the purpose of enabling the mints and
2 the assay-office in New York to make returns to depositors
3 with as little delay as possible, it shall be the duty of the
4 Secretary of the Treasury to keep in the said mints and assay-
5 office, when the state of the Treasury will admit thereof, such
6 an amount of public money, or bullion procured for the pur-
7 pose, as he shall judge convenient and necessary, out of
8 which those who bring bullion to the said mints and assay-
9 office may be paid the value thereof, in coin or bars, as soon
10 as practicable after the value has been ascertained ; and on
11 payment thereof being made, the bullion so deposited shall
12 become the property of the United States ; but the Secretary

13 of the Treasury may at any time withdraw the fund, or any
14 portion thereof.

1 SEC. 49. That to secure a due conformity in the gold
2 and silver coins to their respective standards of fineness and
3 weight, the judge of the district court of the United States
4 for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, the assayer of the
5 assay-office at New York, and such other persons as the
6 President shall, from time to time, designate, shall meet as
7 assay-commissioners, at the mint in Philadelphia, to examine
8 and test, in the presence of the Director of the Mint, the
9 fineness and weight of the coins reserved by the several
10 mints for this purpose, on the second Wednesday in Febru-
11 ary, annually, and may continue their meetings by adjourn-
12 ment, if necessary; if a majority of the commissioners shall
13 fail to attend at any time appointed for their meeting, the Di-
14 rector of the Mint shall call a meeting of the commissioners
15 at such other time as he may deem convenient; and if it shall
16 appear by such examination and test that these coins do not
17 differ from the standard fineness and weight by a greater
18 quantity than is allowed by law, the trial shall be considered
19 and reported as satisfactory; but if any greater deviation
20 from the legal standard or weight shall appear, this fact
21 shall be certified to the President of the United States; and
22 if, on a view of the circumstances of the case, he shall so
23 decide, the officer or officers implicated in the error shall be

24 thenceforward disqualified from holding their respective
25 offices.

1 Sec. 50. That for the purpose of securing a due con-
2 formity in weight of the coins of the United States to the
3 provisions of this act, the brass troy pound-weight procured
4 by the minister of the United States at London, in the year
5 eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, for the use of the mint,
6 and now in the custody of the mint at Philadelphia, shall be
7 the standard troy pound of the Mint of the United States,
8 conformably to which the coinage thereof shall be regulated.

1 Sec. 51. That it shall be the duty of the Director of the
2 Mint to procure for each mint and assay-office, to be kept
3 safely thereat, a series of standard weights corresponding to
4 the aforesaid troy pound, consisting of a one-pound weight,
5 and the requisite subdivisions and multiples thereof, from the
6 hundredth part of a grain to twenty-five pounds; and the
7 troy weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of such
8 mints and assay-offices shall be regulated according to the
9 above standards at least once in every year, under the
10 inspection of the superintendent and assayer; and the accu-
11 racy of those used at the mint at Philadelphia shall be tested
12 annually, in the presence of the assay-commissioners, at the
13 time of the annual examination and test of coins.

1 Sec. 52. That the obverse working-dies at each mint^t
2 shall, at the end of each calendar year, be defaced and

3 destroyed by the coiner in the presence of the superintendent
4 and assayer.

1 SEC. 53. That dies of a national character may be
2 executed by the engraver, and national and other medals
3 struck by the coiner of the mint at Philadelphia, under such
4 regulations as the superintendent, with the approval of the
5 Director of the Mint, may prescribe: *Provided*, That such
6 work shall not interfere with the regular coinage operations,
7 and that no private medal dies shall be prepared at said mint,
8 or the machinery or apparatus thereof be used for that
9 purpose.

1 SEC. 54. That the moneys arising from all charges and
2 deductions on and from gold and silver bullion and the manu-
3 facture of metals, and from all other sources, except as herein-
4 before provided, shall, from time to time, be covered into the
5 Treasury of the United States, and no part of such deduc-
6 tions or medal charges, or profit on silver or minor coinage,
7 shall be expended in salaries or wages; but all expenditures
8 of the mints and assay-offices, not herein otherwise provided
9 for, shall be paid from appropriations made by law on
10 estimates furnished by the Secretary of the Treasury.

1 SEC. 55. That the officers of the United States assay-
2 office at New York shall be a superintendent, an assayer, and
3 a melter and refiner, who shall be appointed by the President,
4 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The

5 business of said assay-office shall be in all respects similar
6 to that of the mints, except that bars only, and not coin, shall
7 be manufactured therein; and no metals shall be purchased
8 for minor coinage. All bullion intended by the depositor to
9 be converted into coins of the United States, and silver bullion
10 purchased for coinage, when assayed, parted, and refined, and
11 its net value certified, shall be transferred to the mint at
12 Philadelphia, under such directions as shall be made by the
13 Secretary of the Treasury, at the expense of the contingent
14 fund of the Mint, and shall be there coined, and the proceeds
15 returned to the assay-office. And the Secretary of the
16 Treasury is hereby authorized to make the necessary
17 arrangements for the adjustment of the accounts upon such
18 transfers between the respective offices.

1 Sec. 56. That the duties of the superintendent, assayer,
2 and melter and refiner of said office shall correspond to those
3 of superintendents, assayers, and melters and refiners of mints;
4 and all parts of this act relating to mints and their officers,
5 the duties and responsibilities of such officers, and others em-
6 ployed therein, the oath to be taken, and the bonds and sure-
7 ties to be given by them, (as far as the same may be appli-
8 cable,) shall extend to the assay-office at New York, and to
9 its officers, assistants, clerks, workmen, and others employed
10 therein.

1 Sec. 57. That there shall be allowed to the officers of

2 the assay-office at New York City the following salaries per
3 annum: To the superintendent, four thousand five hundred
4 dollars; to the assayer, and to the melter and refiner, each,
5 three thousand dollars; and the salaries of assistants and
6 clerks, and wages to workmen, and their manner of appoint-
7 ment, shall be determined and regulated as herein directed in
8 regard to mints.

1 Sec. 58. That the business of the branch mint at Denver,
2 while conducted as an assay-office, and of the assay-office at
3 Boise City, Idaho, and all other assay-offices hereafter to be
4 established, shall be confined to the receipt of gold and silver
5 bullion, for melting and assaying, to be returned to depositors
6 of the same, in bars, with the weight and fineness stamped
7 thereon; and the officers of assay-offices, when their services
8 are necessary, shall consist of an assayer, who shall have
9 charge thereof, and a melter, to be appointed by the Presi-
10 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
11 the assayer may employ as many clerks, workmen, and
12 laborers, under the direction of the Director of the Mint, as
13 may be provided for by law. The salaries of said officers shall
14 not exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars to the
15 assayer and melter, one thousand eight hundred dollars each
16 to the clerks, and the workmen and laborers shall receive
17 such wages as are customary, according to their respective
18 stations and occupations.

1 Sec. 59. That each officer and clerk to be appointed at
2 such assay-offices, before entering upon the execution of his
3 office, shall take an oath or affirmation before some judge of
4 the United States, or of the Supreme Court, as prescribed by
5 the act of July twentieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two,
6 and each become bound to the United States of America,
7 with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the Director
8 of the Mint or of one of the judges of the supreme court of
9 the State or Territory in which the same may be located,
10 and of the Secretary of the Treasury, conditioned for the
11 faithful performance of the duties of their offices; and the
12 said assayers shall discharge the duties of disbursing agents
13 for the payment of the expenses of their respective assay-
14 offices.

1 Sec. 60. That the general direction of the business of
2 assay-offices of the United States shall be under the control
3 and regulation of the Director of the Mint, subject to the
4 approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and for that
5 purpose it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe
6 such regulations and to require such returns, periodically and
7 occasionally, and to establish such charges for melting,
8 parting, assaying, and stamping bullion as shall appear to
9 him to be necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect
10 the intention of this act.

1 Sec. 61. That all the provisions of this act for the

2 regulation of the mints of the United States, and for the
3 government of the officers and persons employed therein,
4 and for the punishment of all offenses connected with the
5 mints or coinage of the United States, shall be, and they are
6 hereby, declared to be in full force in relation to the assay-
7 offices, as far as the same may be applicable thereto.

1 Sec. 62. That if any person or persons shall falsely
2 make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely
3 made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in
4 falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any coin or bars in
5 resemblance or similitude of the gold or silver coins or bars,
6 which have been, or hereafter may be, coined or stamped
7 at the mints and assay-offices of the United States, or
8 in resemblance or similitude of any foreign gold or
9 silver coin which by law is, or hereafter may be,
10 made current in the United States, or are in actual
11 use and circulation as money within the United States;
12 or shall pass, utter, publish, or sell, or attempt to pass,
13 utter, publish, or sell, or bring into the United States from
14 any foreign place, or have in his possession, any such false,
15 forged, or counterfeited coin or bars, knowing the same to be
16 false, forged, or counterfeited, every person so offending shall
17 be deemed guilty of felony, and shall, on conviction thereof,
18 be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and

19 by imprisonment and confinement at hard labor not exceeding
20 ten years, according to the aggravation of the offense.

1 Sec. 63. That if any person or persons shall falsely
2 make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely
3 made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in
4 falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any coin in the
5 resemblance or similitude of any of the minor coinage which
6 has been, or hereafter may be, coined at the mints of the
7 United States; or shall pass, utter, publish, or sell, or bring
8 into the United States from any foreign place, or have in his
9 possession any such false, forged, or counterfeited coin, with
10 intent to defraud any body politic or corporation, or any
11 person or persons whatsoever, every person so offending shall
12 be deemed guilty of felony, and shall, on conviction thereof,
13 be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars and
14 by imprisonment and confinement at hard labor not exceeding
15 three years.

1 Sec. 64. That if any person shall fraudulently, by any
2 art, way, or means whatsoever, deface, mutilate, impair,
3 diminish, falsify, scale, or lighten the gold or silver coins
4 which have been, or which shall hereafter be, coined at the
5 mints of the United States, or any foreign gold or silver
6 coins which are by law made current, or are in actual use and
7 circulation as money within the United States, every person
8 so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor,

9 and shall be imprisoned not exceeding two years, and fined
10 not exceeding two thousand dollars.

1 Sec. 65. That if any of the gold or silver coins which
2 shall be struck or coined at any of the mints of the United
3 States shall be debased, or made worse as to the proportion
4 of fine gold or fine silver therein contained; or shall be of less
5 weight or value than the same ought to be, pursuant to the
6 several acts relative thereto; or if any of the weights
7 used at any of the mints or assay-offices
8 of the United States shall be defaced, increased, or dimin-
9 ished through the default or connivance of any of the officers
10 or persons who shall be employed at the said mints or assay-
11 offices, with a fraudulent intent; and if any of the said offi-
12 cers or persons shall embezzle any of the metals which shall
13 at any time be committed to their charge for the purpose of
14 being coined, or any of the coins which shall be struck or
15 coined at the said mints, or any medals, coins, or other
16 moneys of said mints or assay-offices at any time committed
17 to their charge, or of which they may have assumed the
18 charge, every such officer or person who shall commit any or
19 either of the said offenses shall be deemed guilty of felony,
20 and shall be imprisoned at hard labor for a term not less
21 than one year nor more than ten years, and shall be fined in
22 a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars.

1 Sec. 66. That this act shall take effect on the first day

2 of July, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, when
3 the offices of the treasurer of the mints in
4 Philadelphia, San Francisco, and New Orleans
5 shall be vacated, and the assistant treasurer at New York
6 shall cease to perform the duties of treasurer of the assay-
7 office. The other officers and employees of the mints and
8 assay-offices now appointed shall continue to hold their
9 respective offices, they having first given the necessary bonds,
10 until further appointments may be required, the director of
11 the mint at Philadelphia being styled and acting as superin-
12 tendent thereof. The duties of the treasurers shall devolve
13 as herein provided upon the superintendents, and said treas-
14 urers shall act only as assistant treasurers of the United
15 States: *Provided*, That the salaries heretofore paid to the
16 treasurers of the mints at Philadelphia, San Francisco, and
17 New Orleans, acting as assistant treasurers, shall hereafter be
18 paid to them as "assistant treasurers of the United States,"
19 and that the salary of the assistant treasurer at New York
20 shall not be diminished by the vacation of his office as treas-
21 urer of the assay-office.

1 Sec. 67. That the different mints and assay-offices
2 authorized by this act shall be known as "the mint of
3 the United States at Philadelphia," "the mint of the United
4 States at San Francisco," "the mint of the United States
5 at Carson," "the mint of the United States at Denver," "the

6 United States assay-office at New York," and "the United
7 States assay-office at Boise City, Idaho;" and all unexpended
8 appropriations heretofore authorized by law for the use of the
9 mint of the United States at Philadelphia, the branch mint
10 of the United States in California, the branch mint of
11 the United States at Denver, the United States assay-office
12 in New York, and the United States assay-office at Boise
13 City, Idaho, are hereby authorized to be transferred for the
14 account and use of the institutions established and located
15 respectively at the places designated by this act.

1 Sec. 68. That this act shall be known as the "Coinage
2 act of 1872;" and all other acts and parts of acts pertaining
3 to the mints, assay-offices, and coinage of the United States
4 inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby
5 repealed: *Provided*, That this act shall not be construed to
6 affect any act done, right accrued, or penalty incurred, under
7 former acts, but every such right is hereby saved; and all
8 suits and prosecutions for acts already done in violation of any
9 former act or acts of Congress relating to the subjects
10 embraced in this act may be begun or proceeded
11 with in like manner as if this act had not been
12 passed; and all penal clauses and provisions in exist-
13 ing laws relating to the subjects embraced in this act
14 shall be deemed applicable thereto: *And provided further*,
15 That so much of the first section of "An act making appro-

16 priations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the
17 year ending June 30, eighteen hundred and seventy-one,
18 and for other purposes," approved July 15, 1870, as provides
19 that until after the completion and occupation of the branch-
20 mint building in San Francisco, it shall be lawful to exchange,
21 at any mint or branch mint of the United States, unrefined or
22 unparted bullion whenever, in the opinion of the Secretary of
23 the Treasury, it can be done with advantage to the Govern-
24 ment, is hereby repealed.

Passed the House of Representatives May 27, 1872.

Attest : EDWARD McPHERSON, *Clerk.*