

Volume II

The Heyday of the Gold Standard, 1820-1930

1866 August 6

Standards of Weights, Measures, and Coinage Act, 1866: 'An Act to amend the Acts relating to the Standard Weights and Measures and to the Standard Trial Pieces of the Coin of the Realm'. The following excerpt reproduces only section thirteen, out of sixteen sections in all, which concerns the standard trial pieces for assessing the fineness of the gold and silver coins issued by the Royal Mint and is the only section that specifically mentions gold.

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

13. The Custody of the Standard Trial Pieces of Gold and Silver used for determining the Justness of the Gold and Silver Coins of the Realm issued from the Royal Mint, and all Books, Documents, and Things used in connexion therewith or relating thereto, deposited in the Office of the Exchequer, shall be and the same is hereby transferred to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, who shall have the Charge thereof, and shall have and perform all such Powers and Duties relative thereto as are at passing of this Act by Law vested in or imposed on the Comptroller General of the Exchequer, and the same shall be deposited and kept in such Place or Places and in such Manner as the Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury from Time to Time by Warrant direct.

Source: Public General Acts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, vol. 44, 29 & 30 Victoriae, 1866, cap. 82, pp. 301-303.