

## Volume II

### The Heyday of the Gold Standard, 1820-1930

1889 August 30

**Coinage Act, 1889:** 'A Bill, To amend the Coinage Act, 1870, as respects Light Gold Coins'. This version is virtually identical to the earlier version, given in full above. In subsection 4 of Section 1, however, the term 'conclusive' of the earlier version was replaced with the expression 'prima facie'. In the Schedule to the Act, the term 'conclusive' was eliminated wherever it appeared, and the loss of weight from a gold coin to be taken as evidence for illegal tampering was given as four grains for both the sovereign and the half-sovereign. The later version also appended to the note of the Schedule a sentence indicating that 'The standard weight of a sovereign is 123.27447 grains, and the standard weight of a half-sovereign is 61.63723 grains.

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**Source:** *Public General Acts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*, 52 & 53 Victoriæ, 1889, cap. 58, pp. 222-223.