

## ACT No. XVII OF 1881.

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PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 25th May, 1881.)

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An Act to give effect to the Convention between the Governors General of British India and Portuguese India regarding their respective systems of moneys, weights and measures.

**W**HEREAS by the fifth article of a Treaty of Commerce and Extradition executed at Lisbon on the twenty-sixth day of December, 1878, and ratified on the sixth day of August, 1879, between His Most Faithful Majesty the King of Portugal and the Algarves and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, it was provided that the High Contracting Parties should use their best endeavours to establish between their respective systems of moneys, weights and measures the harmony desirable for the development of commercial relations between their respective dominions: Preamble.

And whereas by the same article it was further provided that the detailed measures to be adopted should form the subject of a separate Convention between the Governors General of British India and Portuguese India, to be executed within two years from the date when the said Treaty came into force:

And whereas the said Treaty came into force on the fifteenth day of January, 1880:

And whereas, in pursuance of the said recited article, the Convention set forth in the schedule here-to annexed has been made:

It

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be called “The Portuguese Convention Act, 1881.”

Local extent.

It extends to the whole of British India.

Commencement and continuance.

It shall come into force at once, and shall remain in force until the expiration of one year from the date of any notice which may be given under the fourteenth clause of the said Convention.

Provisions of Convention enacted.

2. The provisions of the said Convention, so far as they are binding upon the Government of British India, shall be deemed to have the force of law.

Act XXIII of 1870 to apply to coin and bullion made and brought for coinage to mint under Convention.

3. The provisions of the Indian Coinage Act, 1870, or any other law for the time being in force relating to coinage and the mint, shall, so far as they are consistent with the said Convention, apply to all coin made, and bullion brought for coinage to the mint, under the said Convention, as if such coin and bullion were respectively made and brought for coinage to the mint under the said Act.

#### THE SCHEDULE.

WHEREAS, by the fifth article of a Treaty of Commerce and Extradition executed at Lisbon on the twenty-sixth day of December, 1878, and ratified on the sixth day of August, 1879, between His Most Faithful Majesty the King of Portugal and the Algarves and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, it is provided that the High Contracting Parties shall use their best endeavours to establish between their respective systems of moneys, weights and measures the harmony desirable for the development of commercial relations between their respective dominions; and whereas by the same article it is further provided that the detailed measures to be adopted shall form the subject of a separate Convention between the Governors General of British India and Portuguese India, to be executed within two years from the date when the said Treaty comes into force; and whereas the said Treaty came into force on the fifteenth day of January, 1880:

In

In pursuance of the said article, the following Convention has been made:—

1. The Governor General of Portuguese India shall adopt, in the Portuguese possessions in India, the monetary system of British India, for the time being in force, provided that the coins shall have on one side the effigy of the King of Portugal, with the legend *Ludovicus I, Portugaliæ et Algarbiorum Rex*, around it, or such other effigy and legend as the said Governor General may from time to time desire, and on the other side the value of each coin, the year of the Christian era, and the words *India Portuguesa*.

2. Subject to the provisions of clause 7, so long as this Convention remains in force, the following coins and no others shall be struck for Portuguese India:—

*Silver*.—Rupee, weighing 180 grains troy;

Half-rupee, weighing 90 grains troy;

Quarter-rupee, weighing 45 grains troy;

Eighth of a rupee, weighing  $22\frac{1}{2}$  grains troy.

The standard fineness of the said silver coins shall be eleven-twelfths of fine silver and one-twelfth of alloy, subject to a remedy not exceeding the following:—

	Remedy in weight.	Remedy in fineness.
Rupee . . . . .	} Five thousandths .	Two thousandths.
Half-rupee . . . . .		
Quarter-rupee . . . . .	Seven thousandths	} Three thousandths.
Eighth of a rupee . . . . .	Ten thousandths	

*Copper*.—Half *tanga*, weighing 200 grains troy, and corresponding with the double pice or half-anna of British India;

Quarter *tanga*, weighing 100 grains troy, and corresponding with the pice of British India;

Eighth

Eighth of a *tanga*, weighing 50 grains troy, and corresponding with the half-pice of British India;

*Real*, or twelfth of a *tanga*, corresponding with the pie of British India;

In the making of copper coins, a remedy shall be allowed not exceeding one-fortieth in weight.

The value in copper of one Portuguese rupee will be sixteen Portuguese *tangas*, sixty-four quarter *tangas* or pices, or one hundred and ninety-two *reales* or pies.

3. The Portuguese silver and copper coins established by this Convention shall be issued by the authority of the Government of Portuguese India, and shall be coined on behalf of the said Government by the Government of British India, and by no other agency whatever.

The Governor General of Portuguese India engages that, while this Convention continues in force, no coins other than those established by this Convention shall be coined in or imported into Portuguese India.

4. With the view of obtaining in the shortest possible time the desired uniformity of coinage throughout the respective Indian possessions of the High Contracting Parties, the Governor General of British India engages that the Government of British India shall—

- (a) forego, for the period of three years from the date on which this Convention comes into force, all duty or other charge for melting, cutting, refining or recoinage any coin of the existing Portuguese Indian silver currency tendered for re-coinage into Portuguese Indian coin;
- (b) deliver, for the period of five years from the date of this Convention, copper coins of the Portuguese copper currency established by this Convention in exchange for copper coins of the existing Portuguese Indian copper currency which may be brought to the said

said mint for the purpose of such exchange, at the value represented by such last-mentioned coins in the existing Portuguese currency. The relative representative value of the old and new coin to be thus exchanged on equal terms, and without charge for manufacture, shall, if the Governor General of Portuguese India so desires, be determined, once for all, by a mixed commission appointed in the manner provided in the sixteenth article of the above-cited Treaty ;

(c) advance to the Governor General of Portuguese India, in the Portuguese currency established by this Convention, such sums in such denominations of coin, and in such instalments (if any), as the said Governor General of Portuguese India may require : provided—

*1stly.*—That the amount of such advances outstanding at any time shall not exceed in the whole ten lákhs of rupees.

*2ndly.*—That an interval of two months shall be allowed for compliance with any such requisition, and that no such advance shall be made after the expiration of eighteen months from the date on which this Convention comes into force.

*3rdly.*—That every such advance shall be, within two months, repaid in coin of the existing Portuguese Indian currency, equivalent thereto in intrinsic value ascertained upon assay at Her Majesty's mint, or in copper coin of the existing Portuguese Indian currency valued as prescribed in clause (b).

5. The Governor General of British India engages that the Government of British India shall,—

(a) on presentation by or on behalf of the Governor General of Portuguese India of any silver bullion or coin at the mint at Bombay,

or

or at such other mint as the said Government from time to time appoints, deliver to the said Governor General or his agent, after such interval as in the judgment of the Mint Master is necessary for the process of coinage, the produce of such silver bullion or coin, in the silver coin established by this Convention, subject, always, to the same duty, charges, fees and regulations as are for the time being in force for the conversion into British Indian currency of bullion and coin, presented at the said mint: provided that, save as provided in clause 4, the said Government shall not be bound thus to deliver more than four lákhs of rupees in any one year;

- (b) coin for the Governor General of Portuguese India the copper coins established by this Convention, to such amounts and in such denominations as the said Governor General may require, upon payment of the value inscribed upon such coins in the silver coin established by this Convention or in British Indian rupees: provided that, saving as engaged in clause 4, the said Government shall not be bound thus to coin more than twenty thousand rupees' worth of such coin in any one year.

In lieu of any seignorage or profits which the Portuguese Government might otherwise claim on account of the coinage on their behalf provided by this clause, the Governor General of British India engages to pay the Governor General of Portuguese India an indemnity of four thousand rupees per annum, commencing from the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three, and continuing as long as this Convention remains in force.

6. All silver and copper Portuguese coins, coined under the provisions of this Convention, shall, while this Convention remains in force, be legal tender.

tender in payment or on account throughout British India to the same extent, and subject to the same exceptions in the case of coin which has been called in, or is under weight, or has been clipped, filed or defaced, as in the case of the corresponding silver and copper coins issued by the authority of the Government of British India for the time being in British India.

All silver and copper coin which has been issued by the authority of the Government of British India shall, to the said same extent and subject to the same exceptions, be a legal tender in payment or on account throughout Portuguese India.

7. The Governor General of Portuguese India agrees that, if at any time while this Convention continues in force the Government of British India should recall the whole body of British Indian coin corresponding to any description of Portuguese coin issued under this Convention; or change the monetary system of British India, he will, if requested by such Government so to do, recall all Portuguese coin of that description, or change in like manner, as the case may be, the monetary system of Portuguese India: provided that the expense incurred in recalling such coin or making such change shall be defrayed by the Government of British India.

8. When any silver coin, purporting to have been issued under the provisions of this Convention, is tendered to any officer of the Government of British India, authorized by that Government to act under this clause, and is deemed by such officer to be counterfeit, or to have been reduced in weight otherwise than by reasonable wearing, he may, by himself or another (subject to the rules which the said Government prescribes in this behalf), cut or break such coin and return the pieces to the person tendering the same, and the loss caused by such cutting and breaking shall be borne by such person.

9. When any such silver coin which has been called in is tendered to any officer of the Government  
of

of British India authorized by that Government to act under this clause, he may cut or break such coin, and shall receive it at the rate of one rupee per tola; but the expense thus incurred shall, except when such coin has been recalled under clause 7, be borne by the Portuguese Government.

10. In like manner, when any British Indian coin which has been called in is tendered to any officer of the Government of Portuguese India authorized by that Government to act under this clause, he may cut or break such coin, and shall receive it at the rate of one rupee per tola; and the expense so incurred shall be borne by the Government of British India.

11. The Governor General of Portuguese India engages to appoint an officer who will receive, while this Convention continues in force, from any person tendering the coin next hereinafter mentioned, all silver coin issued under this Convention which may have lost, by reasonable wearing, more than two per cent., and shall pay for the same at the rate of one rupee per tola.

12. Nothing in this Convention shall be held to limit the powers of His Most Faithful Majesty the King of Portugal and the Algarves to establish at any time such system of paper currency as he may deem fit.

The Governor General of Portuguese India has the power for the present to issue the following paper money:—

Five-rupee notes, payable in copper.

Ten-rupee notes, payable in silver.

Twenty ditto.

Fifty ditto.

One hundred ditto.

Five hundred ditto.

The amount of paper money issued will never be above four per cent. of the value of the money in circulation, the Portuguese India Government notes being



being guaranteed by the Portuguese Government and payable to the bearer.

13. The Governor General of Portuguese India engages that, whenever the Government of British India exercises in respect of British India generally, or of all the territories adjacent to Portuguese India, the powers conferred on it under a certain Act of the Governor General of British India in Council, called "The Indian Weights and Measures of Capacity Act, 1871," then he, the said Governor General of Portuguese India, will enforce throughout Portuguese India provisions similar to those of that Act.

14. This Convention shall come into force on the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and shall remain in force until the expiration of a year counting from the day on which one or other of the Contracting Parties shall have given notice to the other of its intention to put an end to it: provided that no such notice shall be given until four years after the date on which the Convention comes into force.

15. The Governor General of Portuguese India undertakes that, in the event of this Convention being put an end to under clause 14 or otherwise, no coins resembling any of the coins struck under this Convention shall be struck in or imported into Portuguese India, or shall be struck under the authority of, or with the sanction of, His Most Faithful Majesty in any other place.

Done at Pangim on the twelfth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty.

(Sd.) CAETANO AL<sup>DRE</sup> D'ALMEIDA ALBUQUERQUE,  
*Governor General of Portuguese India.*

Done at Calcutta on the eighteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty.

(Sd.) LYTTON,  
*Viceroy and Governor General  
of British India.*