

found in the possession or custody of any person or persons whomsoever, not having the same for some lawful purpose, it shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons discovering the same, to seize, and he or they are hereby authorized and required to seize and carry the same forthwith before a Justice of the Peace having jurisdiction within the locality in which the same shall be seized, who shall cause the same to be secured and produced in evidence against any person or persons who shall or may be prosecuted for any such offence as aforesaid, in any Court of competent jurisdiction, and the same after being so produced in evidence, shall by order of the Court be defaced or destroyed, or otherwise disposed of as the Court shall direct.

Persons to whom pretended coin shall be offered may break the same, &c.

XVII. And be it enacted, That any person to whom any pretended Gold, Silver or Copper Coin shall be tendered in payment, which shall by the Stamp, Impression, Colour or Weight thereof, afford reason to suspect that the same is false or counterfeit, may cut or break such Coin, and if the same shall be counterfeit, the person who tendered it shall bear the loss, otherwise the person who shall have cut or broken it shall receive it for a sum proportionate to its weight; and if any question shall arise whether such Coin be counterfeit, it shall be determined by any Justice of the Peace, who, if he entertain any doubt in that behalf, may summon three skilful persons, the decision of a majority of whom shall be final.

Courts to order counterfeit coin produced before them to be broken.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That if any false or counterfeit Coin shall be produced in any Court of Law, the Court shall order the same to be cut in pieces in open Court or in the presence of a Justice of the Peace, and then delivered to or for the lawful owner thereof, if any such lawful owner there be claiming the same.

Light Gold Coin may be broken.

XIX. And be it enacted, That if any Gold Coin of any kind made or declared to be current by this Act, but of less than its lawful weight, shall be tendered in payment to any person, such person may cut or break the same, delivering the pieces to the person who shall have tendered the same; and any person who shall knowingly utter, attempt to utter or offer in payment, as being lawfully current, any such Gold Coin of less than its lawful weight, or shall diminish the weight of any such Coin with intent to utter or offer it in payment as lawfully current, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, on being duly convicted shall be liable to be punished accordingly.

Punishment of persons wilfully tendering it.

Evidence as to counterfeit coin.

XX. And be it enacted, That on any trial for any offence under this Act, it shall not be necessary to call any Officer of the Mint or other person employed in producing the lawful Coin in order to prove any counterfeit to be such, but the fact may be proved by any evidence which shall be satisfactory to the Jury trying the case.