

No. 13 OF 1949.

A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE CURRENCY OF THE COLONY.

R. E. TURNBULL,]

[14th March, 1949.

Officer Administering the Government.

BE it enacted by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Cyprus as follows:—

1. This Law may be cited as the Currency Law, 1949. Short title.

PART I.

COINAGE.

Coins to be
legal tender.
First, Second
and Third
Schedules.

2.—(1) The coins specified in the First, Second and Third Schedules to this Law shall be current in the Colony, and a tender of payment in the Colony if made in any of those coins shall, if the coins have not been illegally dealt with, or, when of gold have not become diminished in weight by wear or otherwise so as to be of less weight than the weight in that behalf specified in the First Schedule to this Law as the least current weight, be a legal tender,—

- (a) in the case of gold coins for the payment of any amount ;
- (b) in the case of silver coins for the payment of any amount not exceeding 540 piastres, but for no greater amount ;
- (c) in the case of coins of copper, bronze or mixed metal of denominations not less than 9 piastres or one Cyprus shilling for the payment of any amount not exceeding 540 piastres or sixty Cyprus shillings but for no greater amount ;
- (d) in the case of coins of copper, bronze or mixed metal of denominations less than 9 piastres or one Cyprus shilling for the payment of any amount not exceeding 27 piastres or three Cyprus shillings but for no greater amount.

(2) Each coin specified in the First, Second and Third Schedules to this Law shall be so current and legal tender only for the amounts specified as regards that coin in those Schedules.

Coins under
direction of
Master of
His Majesty's
Mint.

3. The coins specified in the Second and Third Schedules to this Law shall be coined under the direction of the Master of His Majesty's Mint, and shall be of the millesimal fineness and standard weight specified therein, and shall have such impressions as may be approved by the Master of His Majesty's Mint and by the Secretary of State.

Other coins
may be
coined.

4.—(1) If the Governor at any time requests that any coins of a value not exceeding 45 piastres, whether of silver, copper, bronze, or mixed metal, other than the coins for the time being current in the Colony under this Law, should be coined for use in the Colony, and the Treasury and the Secretary of State approve the request, those coins may be so coined under the direction of the Master of His Majesty's Mint.

(2) The coins so coined (in this Law referred to as "new coins") shall have such impressions as may be approved by the Master of His Majesty's Mint and by the Secretary of State.

(3) Any new coin may be of the same denomination as any coin for the time being current in the Colony, or of a different denomination.

(4) Every new coin shall be of the standard weight, and (if of silver) of the millesimal fineness specified in that behalf in the Fourth Schedule to this Law with such remedy or variation allowance as is therein specified.

Fourth
Schedule.

(5) If any new coins are coined in pursuance of this section, and a Proclamation is made with the approval of the Imperial Treasury, setting forth in a schedule the like particulars with respect to each coin as are set forth in the Second or Third Schedule to this Law, according as the new coin is a silver coin, or a copper, bronze, or mixed metal coin, the provisions of this Law making the coins in the said Second or Third Schedule current and legal tender in the Colony shall apply to the new coins as if the schedule to the Proclamation formed or formed part of the Second or Third Schedule to the Law for the time being in force, as the case may be.

(6) The Second or Third Schedule to this Law may be rescinded, either in whole or in part, by any such Proclamation as to new coins.

5. Every contract, sale, payment, bill, note, instrument, and security for money, and every transaction, dealing, matter, and thing whatever relating to money or involving the payment of, or the liability to pay, any money, shall, in the absence of express agreement to the contrary, be held to be made, executed, entered into, done and had in the Colony according to the coins which are current and legal tender in the Colony by virtue of this Law.

Contracts,
etc., to be
made in
accordance
with current
coins.

6.—(1) For the purposes of this Law a coin shall be deemed to have been illegally dealt with where the coin has been impaired, diminished, or lightened, otherwise than by fair wear and tear, or has been defaced by having any name, word, device, or number stamped or engraved thereon, whether the coin has or has not been thereby diminished or lightened.

Coins dealt
with
illegally.

(2) Any coin which, by virtue of any Proclamation under this Law, has ceased to be legal tender, or which has been illegally dealt with, or if a gold coin is below the least current weight specified in the First Schedule to this Law, may be

called in, cut, broken, or defaced under the authority of the Governor, in accordance with such Regulations, general or special, as the Governor may make.

Governor
may prevent
false coins,
etc.

7. The Governor may (subject to such general and other instructions for his guidance as he may receive) make and pass such Law and Proclamation as he thinks necessary for the purpose of preventing the making or circulating in, or the introduction into, the Colony of any false or counterfeit coin whatever, or of any matter or thing resembling or apparently intended to resemble or to pass for any coin for the time being current in the Colony by virtue of this Law, or for the coin of any other State, and to prevent the commission of offences, and to punish offenders, against the prerogative of the Crown relating to coin, and otherwise to carry this Part of this Law into effect.

Equivalent
of the
shilling.

8. Where in any Law or other document, any money is to be calculated by reference to the shilling, the money shall be calculated as far as respects the Colony and unless a contrary intention appears by reference to the 9-piastre piece or the Cyprus shilling piece instead of the shilling.

Saving.

9. All acts done, including the coining and issue of coins, and the making of any Proclamation or Regulations, under and in accordance with the Cyprus Coinage Order, 1900 and the Cyprus Coinage Order and Law, 1900 and 1948, shall be deemed to have been done under this Part of this Law.

PART II.

CURRENCY NOTES.

The Com-
missioner of
Currency.

10. The person for the time being lawfully discharging the duties of the Accountant-General shall, for the purposes of this Part of this Law be the Commissioner of Currency (hereinafter referred to as "the Commissioner").

Issue and
form of
currency
notes.

11.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Commissioner, subject to the provisions of this Part of this Law, to provide and issue and re-issue currency notes of the Government of Cyprus (hereinafter referred to as "currency notes").

(2) Currency notes issued under this Part of this Law shall be of such denominations and of such form and design and printed from such plates and on such paper and be authenticated in such manner as may from time to time be approved by the Secretary of State.

(3) The plates shall be prepared and kept and the notes printed, issued and cancelled under such Regulations as the Secretary of State may approve for the purpose of preventing fraud and improper use.

12. Currency notes issued under this Part of this Law shall be legal tender in Cyprus for the payment of any amount and generally for all the purposes of this Law.

Legal
Tender.

13. The Commissioner shall issue on demand to any person desiring to receive currency notes in Cyprus currency notes to the equivalent value (at the rate of one pound for one pound sterling) of sums in sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London by the said person, and shall pay on demand through the Crown Agents to any person desiring to receive sterling in London the equivalent value calculated as aforesaid of currency notes lodged with him in Cyprus by the said person :

Conversion
of currency
notes into
sterling and
vice versa.

Provided that:—

- (a) no person shall be entitled to lodge with the Crown Agents or Commissioner as the case may be less than such minimum sum as may be fixed from time to time by the Secretary of State for the purpose of obtaining currency notes or sterling as the case may be ; and
- (b) the Commissioner shall be entitled to charge and levy from any person obtaining currency notes or sterling a commission at such rate or rates as may from time to time be fixed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State.

14.—(1) There shall be established a Fund to be called “ the Note Security Fund ” and there shall be paid into the said Fund :—

Note
Security
Fund.

- (a) the sums standing to the credit of the Note Security Fund now in existence ; and
- (b) the equivalent value in sterling of all currency notes issued otherwise than under the provisions of section 20 of this Law or in exchange for currency notes already issued.

(2) There shall be charged upon the said Fund the sterling payments made by the Commissioner in respect of notes lodged with him under the provisions of section 13 of this Law.

(3) The Note Security Fund shall be held by the Crown Agents and may be invested in securities of, or guaranteed by, the Government of any part of the British Empire (except the Government of Cyprus) or such other securities as the Crown Agents, with the approval of the Secretary of State, may in their discretion select :

Provided that a proportion of the Fund shall be held in liquid form and such proportion may be determined and varied from time to time by the Governor in directions (the issue of which is hereby authorized) to the Crown Agents.

(4)—(a) All dividends, interest or other revenue derived from such investments or from the employment in any other manner of the monies of the Note Security Fund and all commissions paid to the Commissioner as provided in section 13 of this Law shall be paid into an account to be called “ the Currency Note Income Account ”.

(b) There shall be charged upon the said account :—

- (i) all expenses incurred by the Commissioner and by the Crown Agents in the preparation, transport and issue of the currency notes and the transaction of business relating thereto ; and
- (ii) a sum equal to one per centum of the Note Security Fund, that is to say the amount made up of the liquid monies of the Fund together with the estimated market value of the investments in the Fund on the last day in each calendar year, which shall be paid annually into the Note Security Fund :

Provided that the Governor may, with the approval of the Secretary of State, direct that any expenditure of an exceptional nature may be charged upon the Note Security Fund and not upon the Currency Note Income Account.

(c) If on the last day in any calendar year there is a surplus in the Currency Note Income Account it shall be transferred to the general revenues of Cyprus and any deficiency in the Account on that day shall be met from monies to be appropriated out of the said revenues :

Provided that—

- (i) if on the last day in any year the face value of the currency notes in circulation exceeds the amount of the Note Security Fund calculated in the manner provided in sub-paragraph (b) (ii) of this sub-section there shall be paid into the Fund the whole of the said surplus in the Currency Note Income Account or such part thereof as

shall make up the monies of the Fund as aforesaid to an amount equal to the face value of the currency notes in circulation other than notes which have been demonetized under this Part of this Law; and

(ii) if on the last day in any calendar year the amount of the Note Security Fund so calculated exceeds one hundred and ten per centum of the face value of the currency notes in circulation other than notes which have been demonetized under this Part of this Law the Governor may, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, direct—

(a) that the whole or part of the excess over the one hundred and ten per centum shall be transferred from the said Fund to the general revenues of Cyprus; and

(b) that the annual appropriation out of the Currency Note Income Account of the one per centum aforesaid shall be wholly or partially discontinued for so long as it shall appear that the necessity for such annual appropriation no longer exists.

(5) The liquid portion of the Note Security Fund may be held in cash or on deposit at the Bank of England or in Treasury Bills or may be lent out at call or for such short terms or invested in such readily realizable securities as may be approved by the Secretary of State.

15. Whosoever shall forge or counterfeit or alter any currency note or any word, figure, mark, sign, signature or facsimile upon or attached to any such note, or shall offer, utter, dispose of, or put off any currency note, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited or altered, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding fifteen years. Forgery.

16.—(1) If any person makes or causes to be made or uses for any purpose whatsoever, or utters any document purporting to be or in any way resembling, or so nearly resembling as to be calculated to deceive, any currency note or any part thereof, he shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds in respect of each such document, and it shall be lawful for the Court to order the document in respect of which the offence was committed and any copies of that document and any plates, blocks, dies, or other instruments used for or capable of being used for printing or reproducing any such document which are in the possession of such offender to be destroyed. Imitation of currency notes.

(2) If any person whose name appears on any document, the making of which is an offence under this article, refuses to disclose to a police officer the name and address of the person by whom it was printed or made, he shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

(3) Where the name of any person appears on any document in respect of which any person is charged with an offence under this section, or on any other document used or distributed in connection with that document, it shall be *prima facie* evidence that that person caused the document to be made.

(4) The expression "currency note" in this section means a note issued under this Part of this Law or the Cyprus Currency Notes Order in Council, 1928, or the Cyprus Currency Notes Order and Law, 1928 and 1935, and includes also any note of a similar character by whatever name called, issued by and on behalf of the Government of any part of the British Empire (except the Government of Cyprus) or by the Government of any foreign State.

Possession
of counter-
feit or
incomplete
notes.

17. Whosoever, without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on the person accused), shall have in his possession, knowing the same to be forged, counterfeited or altered, any forged, counterfeited or altered note or any unfinished or incomplete note purporting to be issued by the Commissioner, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding five years.

Possession
of paper for
notes and
mutilating
notes.

18.—(1) Whosoever, without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on the person accused), shall make use of, or knowingly have in his possession any paper with any word, figure, device or distinction peculiar to and appearing in the substance of the paper used for currency notes or any material upon which the whole or any part of any note purporting to resemble a currency note shall have been engraved or made or any facsimile of the signature of the Commissioner, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding five years.

(2) Whosoever, without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on the person accused), mutilates or in any way defaces a currency note whether by writing, printing, drawing or stamping thereon or by attaching or affixing thereto anything in the nature or form of an advertisement, shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds.

19.—(1) The Commissioner shall cause to be published half-yearly in the *Gazette* an abstract showing:—

Publication of state-ments.

- (a) the whole amount of currency notes in circulation other than notes which have been demonetized under this Part of this Law on the last day of the half-year;
- (b) the total amount of the Note Security Fund on the said day, the value of the invested portion of the Fund being calculated on the latest known market price of the securities held by the Fund; and
- (c) a list of the securities held by the Fund showing in each case the nominal value, the cost price and the latest known market price,

and shall submit annually to the Governor and the Secretary of State a statement of his transactions during the preceding year.

(2) The accounts of all transactions of the Commissioner shall be audited by the Colonial Audit Department.

20. Currency notes issued under this Part of this Law shall be legal tender by the Government of Cyprus for the payment of any notes issued under the provisions of the Cyprus Provisional Powers Laws, 1919 to 1928, or under any Order made thereunder, or under the provisions of any Proclamation made by virtue of Martial Law and not demonetized:

Provisional Powers Laws, 1919 to 1928.

Provided that no additional sums shall be paid into the Note Security Fund for currency notes issued in exchange for notes issued under the provisions of the Provisional Powers Laws, 1919 to 1928, or under any Order made thereunder or under any Proclamation made by virtue of Martial Law.

21. The Governor may, by Proclamation issued with the approval of the Secretary of State, declare that any notes issued under this Part of this Law shall cease to be legal tender and provide for any matters incidental to the calling in and demonetization of such notes, and any such Proclamation shall have effect as from the date thereof or from such later date as may be therein specified:

Demonetization of notes.

Provided that the holders of any such notes shall be entitled at any time after they have ceased to be legal tender to claim payment of the value thereof from the Accountant-General.

22.—(1) The Governor may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, make Rules for fixing the rates of commission to be charged under section 13 of this Law,

Rules.

and also for the calling in and demonetization of notes issued under the Provisional Powers Laws, 1919 to 1928, or under any Order made thereunder or under any Proclamation made by virtue of Martial Law, and generally for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Part of this Law.

(2) All such Rules shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall thereupon take effect as if enacted in this Law, and the power to make Rules shall be deemed to include the power to vary or revoke any Rules so made and published.

Saving.

23. All currency notes issued and any Note Security Fund established and any account kept and any Rules made under and in accordance with the Cyprus Currency Notes Order in Council, 1928, or the Cyprus Currency Notes Order and Law, 1928 and 1935, shall be deemed to have been issued, established, kept or made respectively under this Part of this Law.

Repeal.
Fifth
Schedule.

24. The Laws set out in the Fifth Schedule are hereby repealed.

Date of
coming into
operation.

25. This Law shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor by notice in the *Gazette*.

FIRST SCHEDULE.—(Section 2.)
GOLD COINS.

Coin	Amount for which the coin is current		Millesimal Fineness	Standard Weight		Remedy Allowances			Least Current Weight	
				Grains	Grammes	Weight		Millesimal Fineness	Imperial Weight	Metric Weight
	Piastres	Paras				Grains	Grammes			
Sovereign	180	—	916.6	123.274	7.988	0.200	0.01296	2	122.500	7.93787

SECOND SCHEDULE.—(Section 2.)
SILVER COINS.

Coin	Amount for which the Coin is current		Millesimal Fineness	Standard Weight.		Remedy Allowances.		
				Grains	Grammes	Weight		Millesimal Fineness
	Piastres	Paras				Grains	Grammes	
45-piastre piece	45	—	925	436.36	28.27590	3.055	0.1980	} 4
18-piastre piece	18	—	925	174.54	11.31036	1.222	0.0792	
9-piastre piece	9	—	925	87.27	5.65518	0.611	0.0396	
4½-piastre piece	4	20	925	43.63	2.82759	0.436	0.0283	
3-piastre piece	3	—	925	29.09	1.88506	0.291	0.0189	

NOTE: All being silver coins current and legal tender in the Colony previously to the commencement of this Law.

THIRD SCHEDULE.—(Section 2.)

COINS OF COPPER, BRONZE AND MIXED METAL.

Coin	Amount for which the coin is current		Standard Weight		Remedy Allowance. Weight.
	Piastres	Paras	Grains	Grammes	
(a) Copper bronze :					} A weight not exceeding the weight of one piece in every forty pieces.
Piastre ..	—	40	180	11·6638	
Half-piastre ..	—	20	90	5·8319	
Quarter-piastre ..	—	10	45	2·9159	
(b) Mixed metal cupro-nickel :					} A weight not exceeding the weight of one piece in every forty pieces.
Piastre ..	—	40	80	5·184	
Half-piastre ..	—	20	40	2·592	
(c) Mixed metal bronze :					
Piastre ..	—	40	80	5·184	} A weight not exceeding the weight of one piece in every forty pieces.
Half-piastre ..	—	20	40	2·592	
(d) Mixed metal :					
Two Cyprus shillings ..	18	—	174·54545	11·31036	
One Cyprus shilling ..	9	—	87·27272	5·65518	0·578 grains or 0·0375 grammes per piece.

NOTE: All being coins of copper, bronze and mixed metal current and legal tender in the Colony previously to the commencement of this Law.

FOURTH SCHEDULE.—(Section 4.)

NEW COINS.

1.—Silver Coins.

Coin	Millesimal Fineness	Standard Weight	Remedy Allowances	
			Weight	Millesimal Fineness
Silver Coin ..	925	A weight bearing the same proportion to that of the 18-piastre piece as the denomination of the new coins bears to that of the 18-piastre piece.	(a) Not less than 9 piastres in value seven parts in one thousand; (b) less than 9 piastres in value ten parts in one thousand;	Four parts in one thousand.

2.—Coins of Copper, Bronze and Mixed Metal.

Coin	Standard Weight	Remedy Allowance. Weight.
Copper, bronze, or mixed metal coins.	Such weight as is specified in the proclamation by virtue of which the new coin becomes legal tender under the Order.	A weight not exceeding the weight of one piece in every forty pieces.

FIFTH SCHEDULE.—(Section 24.)

LAWS REPEALED.

No. and Year				Short Title.
9 of 1935	Currency Notes (Amendment) Law, 1935.
16 of 1948	Cyprus Coinage Order (Amendment) Law, 1948.

14th March, 1949.

H. G. RICHARDS,
Acting Colonial Secretary.