BANK CHARTER ACT 1844

(7 & 8 Vict. c. 32)

An Act to regulate the Issue of Bank Notes, and for giving to the Bank of England certain Privileges for a limited period [19 July 1844]

The short title was given to this Act by the Short Titles Act 1896. Preamble omitted under authority of the Statute Law Revision Act 1891.

1 Bank to establish a separate Department for the issue of notes

… The issue of promissory notes of the governor and company of the Bank of England, payable on demand, shall be separated and thenceforth kept wholly distinct from the general banking business of the said governor and company; and the business of and relating to such issue shall be thenceforth conducted and carried on by the said governor and company in a separate department, to be called "the Issue Department of the Bank of England,"…

The words omitted from the first place were repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1891, and from the second place by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1973.

Sections 2, 3, 5 and 9 repealed by the Currency and Bank Notes Act 1928. Section 4 repealed by the Currency and Bank Notes Act 1939. Section 6 (Weekly Account) ceased to have effect by virtue of section 245 of the Banking Act 2009. Section 7 repealed by the Finance Act 1972. Section 8 repealed by the Statute Law Revision (No 2) Act 1874.

10 No new Bank of Issue

…No person other than a banker who on the sixth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty-four was lawfully issuing his own bank notes shall make or issue bank notes in any part of the United Kingdom.

Repealed, so far as relates to England and Wales, by the Currency and Bank Notes Act 1928.

11 Restriction against issue of Bank Notes

…It shall not be lawful for any banker to draw, accept, make, or issue, in England or Wales, any bill of exchange or promissory note or engagement for the payment of money payable to bearer on demand, or to borrow, owe, or take up, in England or Wales, any sums or sum of money on the bills or notes of such banker payable to bearer on demand,…

Words omitted repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1891 and the Currency and Bank Notes Act 1928.

Sections 12 (in relation to England and Wales), 13 to 20 and 22 repealed by the Currency and Bank Notes Act 1928. Section 12 (in relation to Scotland and Northern Ireland) repealed by section 214 of the Banking Act 2009. Section 21 repealed by the Banking Act 1979. Sections 23 and 24 repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971. Section 25 repealed by the Bankers' Composition Act 1856. Section 26 repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1973. Section 27 repealed by the Bank of England Act 1946 and the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004.

28 Interpretation clause

... in this Act … the term "Bank of England notes" shall extend and apply to the promissory notes of ... the Bank of England payable to bearer on demand; and ... the term "banker" shall extend and apply to all corporations, societies, partnerships, and persons, and every individual person, carrying on the business of banking, whether by the issue of bank notes or otherwise, except only ... the Bank of England; and ... the word "person" used in this Act shall include corporations; and ... the singular number in this Act shall include the plural number, and the plural number the singular, except where there is anything in the context repugnant to such construction; and ... the masculine gender in this Act shall include the feminine, except where there is any thing in the context repugnant to such construction.

The words omitted were repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1891 and the Statute Law Revision (No 2) Act 1893.

Section 29 repealed by the Statute Law Revision (No 2) Act 1874.

Schedule A relates to section 6, which ceased to have effect on 21 February 2009.

Schedules B and C repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971.