

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., September 3, 1890.

The Superintendent, U.S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

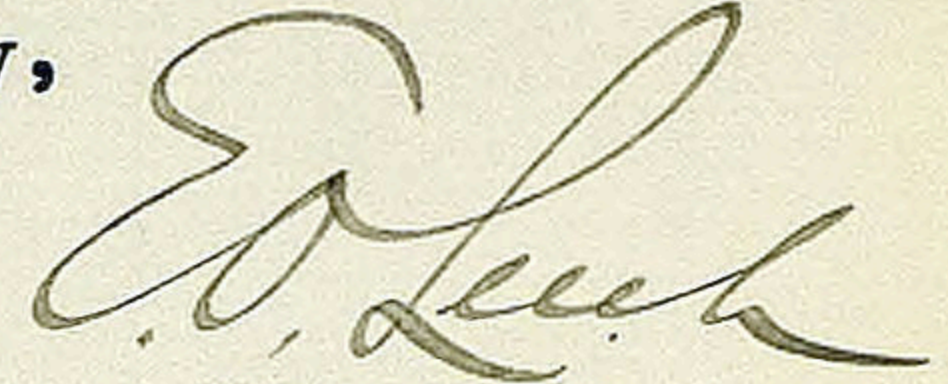
Referring to your letter of yesterday, relative to stamping the weight and fineness on each bar of silver, I am of the opinion that it is highly important that all the bars of silver purchased under the new law, which are to be stored away should be stamped with the exact weight of each bar and its fineness, even if it is necessary to remelt each bar for the purpose.

The clips cut off for assay may be melted into a bar, if considered desirable, and stored with each lot, but it seems to me that this is entirely unnecessary; and that there is no necessity of keeping each purchased lot by itself.

The purchase of silver bullion under this law is going to be an immense business. When you consider that we have to buy fifty-four million ounces a year, and the bulk of it will be bought at *and the coinage continued only for one year* your mint, you can form some idea of the immense proportions which it will assume in the course of a few years, and the storage capacity which will be required; so that it seems to me that it is desirable to utilize all storage space to the best advantage from the very start, and to make no small bars if it can be avoided, and

to pile the bars to the best advantage as to space regardless of the particular lot or month to which they belong.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. O. Leach". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Director.".

Director.

[NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 165]

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The clips cut off for assay may be melted into a bar, if considered desirable, and stored with each lot, but it seems to me that this is entirely unnecessary, and that there is no necessity of keeping each purchased lot by itself.

The purchase of silver bullion under this law is going to be an immense business. When you consider that we have to buy fifty-four million ounces a year, and the bulk of it will be bought at your mint, [Handwritten note: "and the coinage continued only for one year"] you can form some idea of the immense proportions which it will assume in the course of a few years, and the storage capacity which will be required; so that it seems to me that it is desirable to utilize all storage space to the best advantage from the very start, and to make no small bars if it can be avoided, and to pile the bars to the best advantage as to space regardless of the particular lot or month to which they belong.

Very respectfully,
E.O. Leech
Director.