

10.1.18

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 27—1917.

I ASSENT,

[L.S.]



J. R. CHANCELLOR,
Governor.

28th, November, 1917.

AN ORDINANCE to render illegal indulgence in the practices of the body known as the Shouters.

[28th November, 1917.]

BE it enacted by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Shouters' Pro- Short Title.
hibition Ordinance, 1917.

2.—(1.) A "Shouters' meeting" means a meeting or gathering of two or more persons, whether indoors or in the open air, at which the customs and practices of the body known as Shouters (hereafter in this Ordinance referred to as "the Shouters") are indulged in. The decision of any Magistrate in any case brought under this Ordinance as to whether the customs and practices are those of the Shouters shall be final, whether the persons indulging in

Definition of
"Shouters'
meeting."



such customs or practices call themselves Shouters or by any other name.

Definition of
"Shouters'
house."

(2.) A "Shouters' house" means any house or building or room in any house or building which is used for the purpose of holding Shouters' meetings, or any house or building or room in any house or building which is used for the purpose of initiating any person into the ceremonies of the Shouters. The decision of any Magistrate in any case brought under this Ordinance as to whether a house or building or room in any house or building is a Shouters' house shall be final.

(3.) The word "manager" includes any person having control over or charge of any estate or land whatsoever in the Colony.

No person to
take part in
Shouters'
meeting.]

3. It shall be an offence against this Ordinance for any person to hold or to take part in or to attend any Shouters' meeting or for any Shouters' meeting to be held in any part of the Colony indoors or in the open air at any time of the day or night.

No Shouters'
house to be
erected or
maintained.

4. It shall be an offence against this Ordinance to erect or to maintain any Shouters' house or to shut up any person in any Shouters' house for the purpose of initiating such person into the ceremonies of the Shouters.

Owner or
Manager of
estate or land
to inform
Police of
Shouters'
houses or
meetings.

5.—(1.) If it shall come to the knowledge of the owner or manager of any estate or land in the Colony that a Shouters' house is being erected or maintained or that Shouters' meetings are being held on the estate or land over which such owner or manager has control, he shall forthwith notify the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Constabulary station nearest to such house, estate or land of the erection or maintenance of such Shouters' house or of the locality or place at which such Shouters' meetings are being held.

(2.) The manager or owner of any estate or land in the Colony who fails so to notify such non-commissioned officer as aforesaid, or who knowingly permits the erection or maintenance of any Shouters' house or the holding of Shouters' meetings on any estate or land over which he has control, shall be guilty of an offence against this Ordinance.

6. It shall be an offence against this Ordinance for any person at or in the vicinity of any Shouters' meeting to commit or cause to be committed or to induce or to persuade to be committed any act of indecency.

Acts of
indecency or
immorality.

7.—(1.) It shall be lawful for any party of members of the Constabulary Force, of whom one shall be a commissioned or non-commissioned officer, without a warrant to enter at any time of the day or night any house, estate, land or place in or on which such commissioned or non-commissioned officer may have good ground to believe or suspect that a Shouters' meeting is being held or where he may have good ground to believe or suspect that any person or persons is or are being kept for the purpose of initiation into the ceremonies of the Shouters' and to take the names and addresses of all persons present at such Shouters' meeting or Shouters' house.

Police may
enter without
warrant house
or place where
Shouters'
meeting is
being held.

(2.) It shall also be lawful for any member of the Constabulary Force to demand the names and addresses of any persons taking part in any meeting in the open air which he has good reason to believe is a Shouters' meeting.

(3.) Any person refusing to give his name and address to any member of the Constabulary Force when asked to do so under the authority of this section shall be liable to be arrested and to be detained at a Constabulary station until his identity can be established.

8. Any person guilty of an offence against this Ordinance shall be liable on summary conviction before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding £50 and in default of payment thereof to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding six months.

Penalties

Passed in Council this Sixteenth day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

HARRY L. KNAGGS,

Clerk of the Council.