

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 32.—1914.

30th October.

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Friendly Societies Ordinance, No. 110.

[L.S.]

GEORGE R. LE HUNTE,

GOVERNOR.

11th November, 1914.

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

Short Title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Friendly Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1914.

2. In this Ordinance the term:—

“Principal Ordinance” means the Friendly Societies Ordinance, No. 110;

“Prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made by the Governor in Executive Council.

Unregistered Societies—
Penalties in respect of.

3.—(1.) Every society formed for any of the purposes set forth in Section 3 of the Principal Ordinance and capable of being registered under the provisions of such Ordinance, shall be so registered.

(2.) In the case of any such society formed before the commencement of this Ordinance, it shall be registered within three months after the commencement of this Ordinance.

(3.) In the event of any contravention of the provisions of either of the two preceding Sub-sections, every secretary, trustee, member of the committee of management or other officer of an unregistered society is liable to a penalty not exceeding £1 for every day during which such society remains unregistered, and in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding three months.

4. Sub-section (2) of Section 6 of the Principal Ordinance is amended—

Amendment
of Section 6 of
No. 110.

- (a.) By inserting after the word "secretary" in the fourth line thereof the words "of every member of the Committee of management;"
- (b.) By adding at the end of the Sub-section the following words "and any change in the names shewn on any such list shall be at once communicated in writing to the Registrar by the Secretary of the society. Such list and every such written communication shall be signed by the Secretary and when received by the Registrar shall be entered in the register, each entry being initialled by the Registrar, and a copy of any such entry, purporting to be certified under the hand of the Registrar, shall, without any further proof of the signature of the Registrar, be *prima facie* evidence in all Courts of justice that any person named therein has been duly appointed to the office or for the purposes therein set forth."

5.—(1.) No person who is an undischarged bankrupt or has compounded with his creditors or has made an arrangement or composition with his creditors under the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1907, shall be appointed, or if appointed, shall act as the president, secretary, treasurer or trustee of a registered society.

Bankrupt &c.,
not to be
officer of a
Society.

(2.) Any person acting in contravention of the provisions of the preceding Sub-section is liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

Amendment
of Section 8 of
No. 110.

6. The following Clauses shall be added after Sub-section (1) (b.) of Section 8 of the Principal Ordinance :—

- (b1.) Cause the accounts of the society to be regularly entered in the prescribed books, separate accounts being kept of all moneys received or paid on account of every particular fund or benefit assured by the Society for which a separate table of contributions payable is adopted, distinct from all moneys received and paid on account of any other benefit or fund ;
- (b2.) Keep a separate account of the expenses of management of the society and of all contributions on account thereof ;
- (b3.) Cause contribution cards in the prescribed form to be issued to members for the purpose of being filled in, returned and dealt with in the prescribed manner ;
- (b4.) Once at least in every year submit its accounts for audit to the prescribed person or persons at the prescribed time ;
- (b5.) Allow access to all the books and accounts of the Society to the prescribed person or persons who shall examine the annual return hereafter mentioned and verify the annual return with the accounts, contribution cards and vouchers relating thereto and either sign the annual return as found by him or them to be correct, duly vouched and in accordance with law or specially report to the society in what respect he or they find it incorrect, unvouched or not in accordance with law ;
- (b6.) Pay to the prescribed person or persons the prescribed fees ;
- (b7.) Once in every year, not later than the thirty-first day of March, send to the Registrar an annual return of the receipts and expenditure, funds and effects of the society as audited.

7. The following proviso shall be added at the end of Sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Principal Ordinance: Amendment of Section 10 of No. 110.

Provided that where on such a complaint against a person of withholding or misapplying property or applying it for unauthorised purposes, it is not proved that that person acted with any fraudulent intent, he may be ordered to deliver up all such property or to repay any sum of money applied improperly, with costs, but shall not be liable to conviction, and any such order shall be enforceable as an order for the payment of a civil debt recoverable summarily before a Court of summary jurisdiction. Provided also that a complaint under this Sub-section may be made at any time within twelve months of the matter of complaint arising.

8. Sub-section (1) of Section 13 of the Principal Ordinance is amended by striking out the words "if the rules of the Society require" in the first line thereof. Amendment of Section 13 of No. 110.

9. Stamp duty shall not be chargeable upon any of the following documents: Exemptions from Stamp Duty.

- (a.) Draft or order or receipt given by or to a registered society or branch in respect of money payable by virtue of its rules or of this Ordinance;
- (b.) Letter or power of attorney granted by any person as trustee for the transfer of any money of a registered society or branch invested in his name in the public funds;
- (c.) Bond given to or on account of a registered society or branch or by the treasurer or other officer thereof;
- (d.) Policy of insurance or appointment or revocation of appointment of agent or other document required or authorised by this Ordinance or by the rules of a registered society or branch.

10.—(1.) The Registrar may, if he thinks fit, appoint an accountant to inspect the books of a society and to report thereon at the costs and charges of the society. Inspection of Books by Registrar.

(2.) A person appointed under this section shall have power to make copies of any book of the society, and to take extracts therefrom, at all reasonable hours, at the registered office of the society or at any place where the books are kept.

(3.) Any person, whether connected with the society or not, who hinders, obstructs or molests any person appointed by the Registrar to inspect the books of such society is liable to a fine not exceeding £10 or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding one month or to both.

Medical
Officer not to
hold other
office.

11. No person holding any other office therein shall be or act as the Medical Officer of any society, and any person contravening the provisions of this section is liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

Passed in Council this Thirtieth day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

HARRY L. KNAGGS,
Clerk of the Council.
