

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

## No. 22—1930.

I ASSENT,

[L.S.]

A. C. HOLLIS,  
*Governor.*

11th November, 1930.

AN ORDINANCE to make provision for the Relief of  
the Poor.

## I On Proclamation. I

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

## PRELIMINARY.

- Short title.** 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1930.
2. In this Ordinance—
- Interpretation.** “ Board ” means the Central Poor Relief Board established under section 4 of this Ordinance.  
“ Local Board ” means a Local Poor Relief Board established under section 9 of this Ordinance.
- Funds** 3. There shall be paid out of the general revenue of the Colony all such sums of money as may from time to time be appropriated for the purpose of granting poor relief under this Ordinance.

## THE CENTRAL POOR RELIEF BOARD.

4.—(1) For the purposes of this Ordinance, there shall be established a Board, to be called “The Central Poor Relief Board.” Central Board: establishment of.

(2) The Board shall consist of the Surgeon-General, who shall be Chairman, and of not more than eight other persons to be nominated by the Governor, who shall hold office during his pleasure and for a period of not more than three years: Provided always that at the expiration of his period of office any such person may be re-nominated to be a member of the Board, and provided also that the Governor may remove any such person and nominate any other person in place of a member so removed, or in place of any member dying or resigning, or becoming incapable to act, or being absent from the Colony, or failing to attend the meetings of the Board for three consecutive months. Constitution of.

(3) At any meeting of the Board any four members, including the Chairman, shall form a quorum, and the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Quorum.

(4) The Governor may appoint a secretary to the Board, who shall keep the minutes and accounts and conduct the correspondence of the Board, and, in addition, shall be the Chief Poor Relief Inspector and shall perform the duties of that office, and all such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman. The secretary shall be paid such salary as may be provided by the Legislative Council, and shall hold office subject to such terms and conditions as to the Governor shall seem fit. Secretary.

5.—(1) The Board shall be a body corporate, and may sue and be sued under the name of the Central Poor Relief Board, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal. Board to be a body corporate and to have a common seal.

(2) All courts of law, Judges, Magistrates, Justices, and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Board when affixed to any document, and shall presume that it was duly affixed.

(3) The Board shall be reimbursed and paid out of the general revenue of the Colony all damages, costs, charges and expenses which it may be put to or become chargeable

with by reason of any action or suit, and no member of the Board shall be personally answerable or liable for the payment of the same or any part of the same.

6. It shall be the duty of the Board

Duties of  
Central Board.

- (1) To administer and control all public moneys appropriated for the relief of the poor ;
- (2) To control, direct and assist Local Boards in administering relief to the poor, and if at any time considered necessary by the Board, to take over and perform the duties of any one or more of such Local Boards ;
- (3) To co-operate with voluntary associations in administering relief to the poor ;
- (4) To advise generally on the management and administration of Houses of Refuge ; and
- (5) To control generally all matters relating to the relief of the poor.

Powers of  
Central Board.

To summon  
and examine  
persons on  
matters  
relating to  
poor relief.

7.—(1) The Board may summon before it such persons as it may think necessary for the purpose of being examined upon any matter relating to the relief of the poor, or any other matter placed by law under its control, and for the purpose of producing and verifying upon oath any books and documents in anywise relating to such matters ; and may examine upon oath any person so summoned, or who voluntarily comes before it to be examined ; or instead of administering an oath, the Board may require the person examined to make and subscribe a declaration of the truth of the matter respecting which he may have been or may be so examined. All such powers as aforesaid may be exercised by the Secretary to the Board.

To appoint  
sub-  
committees.

(2) The Board may appoint sub-committees for such purposes as it may deem fit.

To make rules.

(3) The Board may, with the approval of the Governor in Executive Council, make rules

- (a) for regulating its own proceedings, the keeping of accounts and registers, and the duties of its officers ;
- (b) for regulating the proceedings of Local Boards, the keeping of their accounts and registers and the duties of such Local Boards and their officers ; and

(c) for the guidance of Local Boards and of any officers employed by them in the administration of relief to the poor.

(4) All rules made under this section shall be published in the *Royal Gazette*.

#### LOCAL POOR RELIEF BOARDS.

8.—(1) For the purposes of this Ordinance, the Colony shall be divided into Local Poor Relief Districts. Local Poor Relief Districts.

(2) Local Poor Relief Districts shall be such areas as may from time to time be fixed and defined by the Board by resolution to be approved by the Governor in Executive Council and published in the *Royal Gazette*.

9.—(1) For each such Local Poor Relief District there shall be established a Local Board to be called "The Local Poor Relief Board." Establishment of Local Boards.

(2) The Local Board shall consist of a Warden to be appointed by the Governor, who shall be Chairman, a Medical Officer to be nominated by the Surgeon-General, a Commissioned Officer of Constabulary to be nominated by the Inspector-General, and of not more than three other persons to be nominated by the Governor, who shall hold office during his pleasure and for a period of not more than three years. Provided always that at the expiration of his period of office any such person may be re-nominated to be a member of the Board, and provided also that the Governor may remove any such person and nominate any other person in place of a member so removed, or in place of any member dying or resigning, or becoming incapable to act, or being absent from the Colony, or failing to attend the meetings of the Board for three consecutive months. Constitution.

(3) At any meeting of a Local Board any three members, including the Chairman, shall form a quorum, and the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Quorum.

(4) The Chairman may appoint a secretary to the Local Board. The Secretary shall keep the minutes and accounts and conduct the correspondence of the Local Board, and, in addition, shall perform all such duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman. Secretary.

Duties of  
Local Boards,

**10.** It shall be the duty of every Local Board

- (1) To inquire into the circumstances of every recipient of and every applicant for poor relief ;
- (2) To inquire generally into the condition of the poor and the needs for poor relief within its district, and to report thereon to the Board ;
- (3) To administer relief to the poor in its district under the general direction and control of the Board ;
- (4) To regulate its proceedings, keep its accounts and registers and perform its duties in accordance with Rules and instructions of the Board.

Powers of  
Local Boards  
relating to  
summoning  
and examin-  
ing persons.

**11.** The powers conferred by section 7 (1) of this Ordinance on the Board may be exercised by a Local Board and the Secretary thereto.

#### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Penalty for  
giving false  
evidence.

**12.** Every person who, on any examination under the authority of this Ordinance, wilfully gives false evidence, or wilfully makes or subscribes a false declaration, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction thereof be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.

Penalty for  
refusing to  
obey  
summons.

**13.** Every person who refuses or wilfully neglects to attend in obedience to a summons issued under section 7 (1) or section 11 of this Ordinance, or to give evidence or to produce books and documents in accordance with such summons shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction thereof be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

Recovery of  
penalties.

**14.** All penalties imposed under this Ordinance or any regulation made thereunder shall be recoverable on summary conviction before a Magistrate, and proceedings initiated by the Board or by a Local Board may be conducted by any person authorized by the Board or the Local Board, either generally or for any particular proceedings.

**15.** It shall be lawful for any member of the Board or of a Local Board and for the Secretary of the Board or of a Local Board to enter any premises at any time between eight o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening for the purpose of making enquiries in connection with the relief of the poor. <sup>Power of entry.</sup>

**16.**—(1) The Governor in Executive Council may make regulations for carrying into effect the provisions and purposes of this Ordinance. <sup>Regulations.</sup>

(2) All regulations made under this section shall be published in the *Royal Gazette*.

**17.** This Ordinance shall commence on such day as may be fixed by the Governor by proclamation. <sup>Commencement.</sup>

Passed in Council this thirty-first day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty.

J. W. DAY,  
*Acting Clerk of the Council.*