

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 8—1929.

I ASSENT,

[L.S.]

W. E. JACKSON,
Acting Governor.

31st May, 1929.

AN ORDINANCE to make provision for the establishment of a Petroleum Office and a Petroleum Conservation Board.

[31st May, 1929.]

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 Petroleum Office and Conservation Board Establishment Ordinance, 1929.

Interpretation. 2. In this Ordinance the following expressions have the following meanings :—

“ Board ” means the Petroleum Conservation Board established under this Ordinance.

“ Footage ” means the aggregate number of feet drilled.

“ Office ” means the Petroleum Office established under this Ordinance.

“ Oil ” means mineral oil.

“ Person Operating for oil ” means an owner of oil mining rights or a licensee under an Oil Prospecting Licence, or a Lessee under an Oil Mining Lease, or an assignee of any such person, who by virtue of his ownership, licence, lease, or assignment drills for or wins oil or employs others to drill for or to win oil.

“ Technologist ” or “ Assistant Technologist ” means the Petroleum Technologist or Assistant Petroleum Technologist appointed under this Ordinance.

3. (1) For the better conservation of the oil resources of the Colony there shall be established and maintained at San Fernando a branch of the Mines Department to be called the Petroleum Office.

(2) Until the Governor otherwise determines, the office of the Oilfield Water Inspector established at San Fernando shall be deemed to be the Petroleum Office established by this Ordinance.

4. (1) The Governor may appoint to the Office, on such terms and conditions as he may think fit, a Petroleum Technologist, an Assistant Petroleum Technologist and such other officers and persons as may be necessary for the due administration of the business of the Office.

(2) Until such appointments are made the person who is, at the commencement of this Ordinance, the Oilfield Water Inspector shall be deemed to be the Technologist, and the persons who are, at that date, employed in his office shall be deemed to be persons, appointed under this section.

5. The Technologist appointed under this Ordinance shall, in relation to borings, as defined in the Mines Borings and Quarries Ordinance, be deemed to be an Inspector of Mines within the meaning of that Ordinance, and shall, in relation to borings, have all the powers and shall be entitled to all the immunities thereby conferred on such Inspector.

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Operating fee and oil impost. 6. (1) There shall be charged levied and collected in each year on and from every person operating for oil in the Colony :

(a) The sum of £100 (in this Ordinance referred to as "operating fee") and

(b) An impost (in this Ordinance referred to as "oil impost") in respect of every ton of oil won and every foot drilled for oil by him at such rates as the Governor may, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, by order in Executive Council determine.

(2) The operating fee and oil impost shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Colony.

When operating fee payable.

7. The operating fee shall be payable on or before the thirty-first day of March of each year in respect of oil mining operations carried on during the then current year. Provided that for the year 1929 the operating fee shall be payable within two months of the commencement of this Ordinance.

When oil impost payable.

8. (1) The rates of oil impost shall be payable on or before the thirty-first day of March in every year in respect of oil won and footage drilled for oil during the preceding twelve months ended thirty-first day of December. Provided that oil impost shall not be payable in respect of the year 1928.

(2) Every order under section 6 hereof (in this Ordinance referred to as a "rating order") shall contain a reference to the date when oil impost becomes payable under this Ordinance and shall be published in the *Royal Gazette* at least one month prior to such date.

Limit of amount of impost.

(3) The rates specified in the rating order shall be so calculated and fixed as to yield, after their aggregate produce is added to the produce of operating fees, such moneys as may be necessary for the annual purposes of this Ordinance.

Appropriation.

9. The moneys raised under this Ordinance shall be appropriated for the purposes stated in the schedule hereto.

10. Any sum paid by a person by way of voluntary contribution to the maintenance cost for the year 1929 of the Oilfield Water Inspector's office shall be deducted from the operating fee and oil impost payable by that person under this Ordinance in respect of the said year and the difference only, if any, between the two amounts shall be collected. Voluntary contributions during 1929.

11. If any person makes default in payment of operating fee or of oil impost, at the time prescribed by this Ordinance or, in the case of oil impost, within such further time, not exceeding seven days, as may be specified in the rating order, the fee or impost may be recovered from the person liable for the payment thereof by action in the Petty Civil Court of the District wherein such person operates for oil, at the suit of the Treasurer without limit of amount. Recovery of fees and rates.

12. (1) There shall be established a Board, to be called the Petroleum Conservation Board, which shall consist of the Technologist and such five other persons engaged in or connected with the oil industry of the Colony as the Governor may appoint. Petroleum Conservation Board.

(2) Each member appointed by the Governor shall hold office for a period of three years unless his appointment is sooner terminated by the Governor.

(3) The Governor may appoint any person to act in the place of any member of the Board during his temporary absence from the Colony, illness, inability (whether from interest or otherwise), or unwillingness to act.

(4) The Technologist, or other member appointed by the Governor, shall be chairman, and the chairman and three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

13. It shall be the duty of the Board to advise the Governor upon any question relating to the conservation of the oil resources of the Colony which may be referred to the Board by the Governor or the Technologist. Duty of Board.

14. The Board shall be advisory and consultative and shall not have any executive or administrative functions, Functions of Board.

and no member of the Board shall take part in its deliberations on any question relating to oil mining operations in which he is directly interested.

Rules.

15. (1) The Governor in Executive Council may make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power he may make rules for regulating the duties of the Technologist and Assistant Technologist, the due administration of the Office and for the conduct of the business of the Board.

(2) Rules made under this section shall not have any force or effect until they have been approved by the Legislative Council, and when so approved by resolution, shall, as from the date of such approval, have the same force and effect as if they were contained in and formed part of this Ordinance.

(4) All such rules shall be published in the *Royal Gazette*.

SCHEDULE.

For the payment of

Annual salaries of all persons appointed under this Ordinance

A contribution in respect of the pension rights (if any) of all persons appointed under this Ordinance ;

Annual costs incurred and disbursements made in maintaining the Office ;

All annual expenses incidental to the due administration of this Ordinance.

Passed in Council this seventeenth day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine.

E. F. AANENSEN,
Acting Clerk of the Council.