

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 37.—1921.

I ASSENT,

J. R. Chancellor.
Governor.

23rd May, 1921.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for compulsory education in certain cases.

[By Proclamation.]

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 Compulsory Short title. Education Ordinance, 1921.

2. In this Ordinance

“ School ” means an Elementary school maintained Interpretation. under the Education Ordinance, 1918.

“ Parent ” means the father or other person having control of any child.

“ Child ” means any person between such ages (not being less than four nor more than fifteen) as may be fixed by the Governor in any Regulations made under this Ordinance.

[Price 2d.]

“Teacher” means the teacher in charge of a school, and where there is more than one teacher, the Head teacher.

Governor may
proclaim
Compulsory
School
Attendance
areas.

3. It shall be lawful for the Governor to declare by proclamation in the *Royal Gazette* any area to be a Compulsory School Attendance Area within the meaning of this Ordinance, and from time to time to vary or revoke any such proclamation.

Appointment
of School
Attendance
Officers.

4. The Governor may from time to time appoint fit and proper persons to be School Attendance Officers within Compulsory School Attendance Areas.

Duty of
parent to send
child to
school.

5. It shall be the duty of every parent of a child residing within a Compulsory School Attendance Area to send such child regularly to a school or to provide such child with instruction as efficient in the opinion of the Director of Education as that obtainable at a school within such area.

Offences by
parents.

6. If the parent of any child residing within a Compulsory School Attendance Area shall habitually and without reasonable excuse neglect to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance or of any of the Regulations made hereunder, he shall on summary conviction before a magistrate be liable to a penalty not exceeding two pounds for a first offence and not exceeding five pounds for a second or any subsequent offence.

“Reasonable
excuse.”

7. It shall be a reasonable excuse for a parent failing to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance or of any Regulation made hereunder if

- (a) the child is prevented from receiving instruction by sickness or any unavoidable cause; or
- (b) the parent shall prove to the satisfaction of the magistrate that he has made all reasonable efforts to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance or Regulations; or
- (c) there is any other excuse which in the opinion of the magistrate is a reasonable excuse.

8.—(1.) It shall be lawful for every School Attendance Officer to enter any yard, house, building or place between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening of any day except Sundays and public holidays for the purpose of making such enquiries and discharging such duties as may be imposed upon him by this Ordinance or by any regulations made hereunder.

Power of
entry of
School
Attendance
Officer.

(2.) Every person who

- (a) obstructs or resists any School Attendance Officer in the performance of his duties; or
- (b) wilfully makes any false representation to any School Attendance Officer with respect to the age of any child; or
- (c) wilfully refuses to furnish to teachers or School Attendance Officers any information which such person may be required to furnish by any Regulations made hereunder

shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction before a magistrate shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two pounds.

9.—(1.) It shall be lawful for the Governor to make Regulations for all or any of the following purposes:—

Governor
may make
regulations.

- (a) for fixing ages under section 2 hereof;
- (b) for defining the powers and duties of School Attendance Officers;
- (c) for compelling parents within Compulsory School Attendance Areas to furnish to teachers or School Attendance Officers information as to absences of children from school and the reasons for such absences.
- (d) for fixing penalties for the breach of any Regulation made hereunder;
- (e) generally for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance.

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

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

Appropriation
of penalties.

10. All penalties recovered under this Ordinance or Regulations made hereunder shall be accounted for in such manner as the Governor may by such Regulations direct.

Commence-
ment.

11. This Ordinance shall come into operation on such day as may be fixed by the Governor by proclamation.

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


Clerk of the Council.
