

10.1.18

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 29.—1917.



I ASSENT,

[L.S.]

J. R. CHANCELLOR,
Governor.

3rd December, 1917.

AN ORDINANCE to control the acquisition of oil-bearing lands in the Colony.

[3rd December, 1917.]

WHEREAS the assurance of a supply of mineral oil and the derivatives thereof is vital to the naval interests of the Empire:

And Whereas it is therefore necessary that steps should be taken during the continuance of the present war and for a period subsequent to the close thereof to control the disposition of any right title or interest in oil-bearing lands in the Colony:

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 Lands (Oil Short Title. bearing) Ordinance, 1917.



What are oil bearing land

2.—(1) All lands South of Latitude N. $10^{\circ} 26' 36''$ are hereby declared to be oil-bearing lands within the meaning of this Ordinance.

(2.) The Governor in Executive Council may from time to time by Proclamation in the *Royal Gazette* declare any other lands in the Colony to be oil-bearing lands within the meaning of this Ordinance, and as from the publication of such proclamation such last mentioned lands shall be in all respects subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

(3.) The production of a copy of the *Royal Gazette* containing any such proclamation shall be *prima facie* evidence in all Courts and for all purposes of the due making and tenor of such proclamation.

No person to acquire oil-bearing lands without consent of Governor.

3.—(1) No person shall acquire any right title or interest in or over any oil-bearing land in the Colony without the consent in writing of the Governor first had and obtained.

(2.) Such consent shall state the nature of the right title or interest permitted to be acquired and such other particulars relating thereto as the Governor may from time to time deem necessary.

(3.) The Governor may, by writing under his hand, empower a warden or other officer in the public service to give, on his behalf, either generally or with respect to a particular class or particular classes of transactions, the consent hereinbefore in this section mentioned.

Retrospective operation of Ordinance.

4. Any right title or interest in or over oil-bearing lands agreed to be acquired prior to the passing of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be within the provisions of this Ordinance, and the provisions of this Ordinance shall apply in all respects as if such agreement for acquisition had been made subsequent to the passing of this Ordinance.

Forfeiture of rights dealt with in contravention of this Ordinance.

5.—(1.) If any person acquires or agrees to acquire any right title or interest in or over oil-bearing lands in contravention of the provisions of this Ordinance, the Attorney-General may, in the manner set forth in the Crown Suits

Ordinance, 1913, apply to the Supreme Court for a declaration that any such right title or interest is forfeited to the Crown.

(2.) If the Court is satisfied that any such contravention as aforesaid has been committed, the Court shall declare such right title or interest to be forfeited to the Crown.

6. This Ordinance shall remain in force during the continuance of the present war and for a period of six months after the close thereof. ^{Duration of Ordinance.}

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

HARRY L. KNAGGS,
Clerk of the Council.
