

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Births, Marriages & Deaths evidence.

No. 12.—1898.

23rd May.

AN ORDINANCE to facilitate the proof in this Colony of Births, Deaths and Marriages that shall have occurred in any part of Her Majesty's Dominions, and to render admissible the evidence of persons charged and their wives or husbands in Criminal cases for the purpose of proving the same.

[L.S.]

C. C. KNOLLYS,

ACTING GOVERNOR,

22nd June, 1898.

No. 120

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 Births, Deaths and Marriages Evidence Ordinance, 1898."

2. A certified copy of an entry in any register of births, deaths or marriages purporting to bear the signature of the person having legal custody of such register or of some person legally authorized to sign such copy

Certified copies of entries in registers admissible in evidence.

No. 12. *Births, Marriages & Deaths evidence.* 1898.

at the time of such copy being issued, and authenticated as hereinafter provided, shall in the case of any register kept at any place in Her Majesty's Dominions subject to all just exceptions, be *prima facie* evidence for all purposes of the fact of the birth or death or the legal solemnization of the marriage thereby certified.

Necessary authentication of copies of entries.

3. Such copy shall purport to bear the signature of a person describing himself as holding some office, benefice or position entitling him to the custody of such register or to sign such copy at the time of so certifying and the authentication of such signature shall be under the hand and seal of some Notary Public or under the hand of the Registrar-General or Superintendent Registrar of Births and Deaths or Registrar of Marriages of the Dominion, Country, Presidency, Province or Colony within which such certificate shall purport to have been issued, or under the hand of some member of the High Court or Supreme Court of such Country, Dominion, Presidency, Province or Colony, or under the seal of some Court of Civil Jurisdiction in the district in which the same shall have been issued.

Evidence of identity of person named in copy of entry.

4. At the preliminary examination in respect of or at any trial for any indictable offence whatever where it becomes necessary either for the prosecution or the defence to establish the fact of any birth, death or marriage in any country, dominion, presidency, province or colony forming part of Her Majesty's Dominions it shall be competent for the person charged or for the wife or husband of the person charged as the case may be to give evidence of the identity of any person with any person named in such certificate. Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to

Proviso.

No. 12. *Births, Marriages & Deaths evidence.* 1898.

make it compulsory on any person accused or on his or her wife or husband to give any such evidence if she or he is unwilling so to do.

5. A birth, death or marriage in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or in this Colony, shall saving all just exceptions be susceptible of proof in manner in this Ordinance provided any other Ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proof of births, etc., in this Colony and in United Kingdom.

Passed in Council this Twenty-third day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

C. J. ROOKS,
Acting Clerk of the Council.
