

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

War Censorship.

No. 38.—1914.

20th November.

AN ORDINANCE to deal with the Censorship of Telegrams,
Postal Packets and News during the present war.

[L.S.]

GEORGE R. LE HUNTE,

GOVERNOR.

23rd November, 1914.



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 War Censorship Ordinance, 1914. Short Title.

2. In this Ordinance

“Newspaper” includes any newspaper, magazine, book, pamphlet, or other publication, published or circulating in the Colony ; Interpretation.

“Prohibited information” includes any information with respect to troops, ships, air-craft or war material in the service of or belonging or contracted to be sold or delivered to His Majesty or any of His allies in whatever part of the world the same or any of them may happen to be, or with respect to the plans of the naval or military authorities of the British Empire or any portion thereof, or of any nation in alliance with His Majesty, or with respect to any measures taken for or connected with the



defence of the British Empire, or with respect to the movement of any British merchant ships or of any ships sailing under the flag of any nation in alliance with His Majesty, and also includes any statement, comment or suggestion calculated directly or indirectly to convey any such information ;

“Time of Emergency” means any period declared to be a time of emergency in manner hereinafter provided ;

“Telegraph Company” includes the West India and Panama Telegraph Company (Limited), and the Government radio-telegraph administration, and the telegraph system of the Government Railway ;

“Censor of Telegrams,” “Censor of Postal Packets,” “Censor of News” includes any Assistant Censor authorised in writing by the particular Censor whom he is assisting to exercise any of the powers conferred upon such Censor by this Ordinance ;

“Postal Packet” has the same meaning as in the Post Office Ordinance, (No. 197) ;

“Vessel” includes boat.

Appointment
of Censors.

3.—(1.) It shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint, by warrant under his hand, Censors for the purpose of controlling and dealing with telegrams, postal packets, and newspapers and to appoint by warrant under his hand such and so many assistant Censors as he may consider necessary.

(2.) Warrants granted under the preceding sub-section shall continue in operation until the same are revoked by the Governor by writing under his hand.

Censorship of Telegrams.

Powers of
Censor of Tele
grams.

4.—(1.) The Censor of Telegrams shall have the powers following :—

- (a.) Control of the transmission of all messages by any Telegraph Company ;
- (b.) Control of the offices, stations, lines and plant of all Telegraph Companies, and of the officers and employees of such Companies ;
- (c.) Power to examine every message received for the purpose of delivery, or intended to be transmitted, by a Telegraph Company or delivered to any body within the Colony for the purpose of

being conveyed to any place outside the Colony with a view to its transmission by telegraph from any such place, or received in any such place and conveyed into this Colony for the purpose of being delivered there or transmitted therefrom ;

- (d.) Power to stop, eliminate any portion of, delay or alter any such telegram as mentioned in the preceding paragraph of this section.

(2.) Any person who :—

- (a.) Refuses or neglects to carry out any order or direction of the Censor of telegrams given in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him under the provisions of the preceding sub-section ; or

- (b.) Being within any premises of a Telegraph Company refuses or fails to carry out any order or direction given by the Censor of Telegrams ;

is liable to a penalty not exceeding £200 or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding six months.

Censorship of Postal Packets.

5. The Censor of Postal Packets shall have the powers following :—

Powers of
Censor of
Postal
Packets.

- (a.) Power to detain, open, examine and, if he thinks it expedient, to destroy all postal packets addressed or intended to be delivered to, posted by or written to or by, any subject of a Country at war with his Majesty, or any person resident whether temporarily or not, in a country at war with His Majesty or directed to be sent to such Censor under the provisions of this Ordinance ;
- (b.) Power to detain, open, examine, and, if he thinks it expedient, to destroy all postal packets addressed or intended to be delivered to, posted by, or written to or by, any person whose correspondence the Governor by warrant in writing under his hand may order to be censored.

6.—(1.) Every person landing or embarking at any place in the Colony, or being an officer or member of the crew of

Declarations
as to letters
and written
messages.

any vessel shall, if required by a Customs officer, make a declaration as to whether or not he is carrying or conveying any letters or other written messages intended to be transmitted by post, or telegraph, or to be otherwise in any way delivered, and if so required by a Customs officer, shall produce to him such letters or messages.

(2.) Any Customs officer may search any such person as aforesaid and any baggage with a view to ascertaining whether such person or the person to whom the baggage belongs is carrying or conveying any such letters or messages.

(3.) The Customs officer may examine any letters or other messages so produced to him or found on such search, and, unless satisfied that they are of an innocent nature, shall transmit them to the Censor of Postal Packets. Such Censor shall, if he thinks that such letters or messages contain any message which is intended to be forwarded by telegraph, either from this Colony or elsewhere, transmit them to the Censor of Telegrams.

(4.) Any person who makes a declaration under this section which is in any way false, or refuses or neglects to produce any such letters or messages, if so required, or hinders or obstructs any Customs officer in the performance of his duty under this section is liable to a penalty not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding three months.

Censorship of Newspapers.

Proclamation
of a time of
emergency.

7.—(1.) It shall be lawful for the Governor to declare by proclamation in the *Royal Gazette* that as from a date to be named therein a time of emergency shall be deemed to exist, and during the existence of such time of emergency the provisions of Sections 7, 8 and 9 of this Ordinance shall apply but not otherwise.

(2.) The proclamation in the preceding sub-section mentioned shall remain in operation until revoked by proclamation to be published in the *Royal Gazette*.

(3.) A copy of the *Royal Gazette* purporting to contain a copy of any such proclamation as aforesaid shall be evidence of the due making and tenor thereof.

Penalty for
publishing
prohibited
information.

8. It shall be unlawful during a time of emergency for the owner, publisher, printer or editor of any newspaper knowingly to publish or allow to be published in any such

newspaper any prohibited information without the consent in writing of the Censor of News first had and obtained, and any person hereinbefore mentioned who contravenes the provisions of this section is liable to a fine not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding six months or to both.

9. Any person who during a time of emergency and without first obtaining the consent in writing of the Censor:—

Penalty for furnishing prohibited information or selling, etc., newspaper containing it.

- (a.) Furnishes or allows or causes to be furnished any prohibited information to any person with intent that such prohibited information shall be published in a newspaper; or
- (b.) Sells, transmits by post or distributes any newspaper knowing that it contains prohibited information;

is liable to a fine not exceeding £50 or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any time not exceeding three months or to both.

General.

10. All offences under this Ordinance may be prosecuted summarily before a Magistrate in the manner provided in the Summary Conviction Offences (Procedure) Ordinance (No. 1).

Recovery of penalties.

Passed in Council this Twentieth day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

HARRY L. KNAGGS,
Clerk of the Council.