

*Pilgrimages.*

## No. 13 of 1896.

## An Ordinance relating to Pilgrimages.

*(As amended by No. 7 of 1897.)*

WHEREAS for sanitary reasons it is expedient to confer upon the Governor power in certain cases to make regulations for the control of persons proceeding on pilgrimages: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

Preamble.  
[§ 1, 7 of 1897.]

1 It shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, from time to time, *in anticipation of any pilgrimage proposed to be made which in his judgment may probably occasion such a concourse of people as, in the absence of adequate regulation or restriction, to give rise to public inconvenience or be dangerous to the public health*, by notification in the *Government Gazette*, to make regulations for any of the following purposes and to appoint officers to enforce the observance of such regulations:

Governor empowered to make certain regulations and to appoint officers to enforce them.  
[§ 2, 7 of 1897.]

- (1) To restrict the number of persons who shall be allowed to proceed on any pilgrimage from the different parts of this Island, and the period of their stay at the place to which such pilgrimage is made.
- (2) To regulate the collection of people at such place and their march to and from such place, and at the different starting and halting places.
- (3) To impose such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary to prevent accidents, to promote cleanliness, and to check the breaking out and spread of infectious diseases.

2 If any person shall disobey or contravene any regulation made under the provisions of the preceding section, or shall obstruct, hinder, or resist any officer appointed to enforce any such regulation, or any officer of the police force, or any headman, police, or peace officer aiding and assisting in enforcing any such regulation, he shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or to rigorous or simple imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Disobedience of such orders or obstructing officers enforcing them made penal.

3 It shall be the duty of the officers appointed to enforce the regulations made under the provisions of the first section hereof, and of all officers of the police force, and of all headmen, police, and peace officers generally, to aid and assist in the prevention of offences against this Ordinance or the regulations made thereunder; and every officer or headman who, being made cognizant of any such offence, shall fail to make complaint thereof, or shall fail to act promptly and vigorously thereupon, or who shall wantonly exceed or abuse his authority in the execution of any act or the exercise of

Officers to assist in enforcing regulations.

Liability of such officers.

any power under this Ordinance, or the regulations made thereunder, shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees.

Case may be tried before Police Courts though otherwise out of their jurisdiction.

4 It shall be lawful for a Police Court to take cognizance of any offence committed under this Ordinance or the regulations made thereunder, and to award in respect thereof so much of the punishment assigned thereto as Police Courts are empowered by law to award.

Repeal.

5 The Ordinance No. 14 of 1873, intituled "An Ordinance relating to the Annual Pilgrimage to Kataragama," is hereby repealed.

12th December, 1896.

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