

No. 5 of 1889.

An Ordinance for the suppression of Brothels.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the suppression of brothels: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows :

Offences.

1 Any person who—

- (1) Keeps or manages or acts or assists in the management of a brothel ; or
- (2) Being the tenant, lessee, or occupier of any premises, knowingly permits such premises or any part thereof to be used as a brothel, or for the purpose of habitual prostitution ; or
- (3) Being the lessor or landlord of any premises, or the agent of such lessor or landlord, lets the same, or any part thereof, with the knowledge that such premises or some part thereof are or is to be used as a brothel, or is wilfully a party to the continued use of such premises or any part thereof as a brothel ;

shall be guilty of an offence, and shall on conviction be liable—

Penalties.

- (1) To a penalty not exceeding two hundred rupees, or, in the discretion of the court, to simple or rigorous imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months ;
- (2) On a second or subsequent conviction to a penalty not exceeding four hundred rupees, or, in the discretion of the court, to simple or rigorous imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months ;

(3) And in case of a third or subsequent conviction such person may, in addition to such penalty or imprisonment as last aforesaid, be required by the court to enter into a recognizance, with or without sureties as to the court seems meet, to be of good behaviour for any period not exceeding six months, and in default of entering into such recognizance, with or without sureties (as the case may be), such person may be sentenced to simple or rigorous imprisonment for any period not exceeding three months in addition to any such term of imprisonment as aforesaid.

2 Any person who shall appear, act, or behave as master or mistress, or as the person having the care, government, or management of any brothel, shall be deemed and taken to be the keeper or manager thereof, and shall be liable to be prosecuted and punished as such, notwithstanding that he or she shall not in fact be the real keeper or manager thereof.

Who shall be deemed keeper or manager of a brothel.

3 All offences under this Ordinance shall be "non-cognizable" and "bailable" within the meaning of those terms as defined in "The Criminal Procedure Code, 1883," and shall be tried in the police court, which is hereby empowered to award all or any of the punishments hereinbefore provided, anything in section 16 of the said Code to the contrary notwithstanding.

Offences triable by police court and to be non-cognizable and bailable.

28th June, 1889.
