

*Weights and Measures.***No. 8 of 1876.****An Ordinance to amend the Law as to Weights and Measures,  
and to provide for the more effectual prevention of False  
Weights, Measures, and Balances.***(See No. 14 of 1878.)*

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to amend the law as to weights and measures, and provide for the more effectual prevention of false weights, measures, and balances: It is hereby enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

Preamble.

**1** From and after the time when this Ordinance shall come into operation within every part of the island of Ceylon the imperial standard yard established by the Statute of the British Legislature of the 18th and 19th Vict., c. 72, intituled "An Act for legalizing and preserving the restored standards of Weights and Measures," shall be and is hereby declared to be the only standard measure of extension, from which all other measures of extension, whether lineal, superficial, or solid, shall be derived and computed; and the imperial standard pound avoirdupois by the said Statute established shall be and is hereby declared to be the only standard measure of weight, from which all other weights shall be derived and computed; and one equal seven-thousandth part of such pound avoirdupois shall be a grain, and 5,760 such grains shall be and be deemed to be a pound troy; and the imperial standard gallon established by the Statute of the British Legislature of the 5th George IV., c. 74, intituled "An Act for ascertaining and establishing uniformity of Weights and Measures," shall be and is hereby declared to be the only standard measure of capacity, from which all other measures of capacity shall be derived and computed; and the parts or multiples or proportions of the said standards shall be respectively computed according to the schedule to this Ordinance annexed.

Imperial  
standard  
weights and  
measures  
declared to be  
the standards  
in this island.

**2** For the purpose of enabling every person to ascertain with certainty whether any weights and measures in use or intended for use do conform to the standards hereby declared, copies of the standard weights and measures of brass, or of some other material or materials best adapted for preserving accuracy in the climate of this island, shall be provided by Government and shall be preserved as hereinafter provided; (that is to say,)

For each municipality, such standard weights and measures shall be preserved by the chairman of the municipal council at the office of the municipality.

For any town possessing a local health and improvement board established under the provisions of "The Local Health and Improvement Ordinance, 1876," such standard weights and measures shall be preserved by the chairman of such board at the office of such board.

Copies of  
imperial  
standards to be  
preserved in  
municipalities  
by the municipal  
chairman;  
in towns  
incorporated  
under the Local  
Health and  
Improvement  
Ordinance by  
the chairman  
of the local  
health and  
improvement  
board;  
and at all  
katcheries.

*Weights and Measures.*

And the government agent of each province shall likewise preserve such standard weights and measures at each and every kachchéri of his province.

**3** Every person shall be at liberty, on giving reasonable notice, to have any weights or measures, which he may bring for that purpose, tested by comparison with the standards aforesaid and duly stamped in manner hereinafter provided.

**4** It shall be lawful for the Governor, by Proclamation published in the *Government Gazette*, with the advice of the Executive Council, from time to time to prescribe fees to be paid for the testing and stamping of weights and measures in any place as provided by this Ordinance; and any such Proclamation from time to time, with the like advice, to amend, alter, or revoke. Provided that such fees shall in no case exceed 25 cents for each weight or measure tested and stamped, and that in the absence of any Proclamation prescribing such fees, or in so far as any such Proclamation may not extend, such testing and stamping shall be free of charge.

**5** All contracts and dealings, which shall be made or had within any part of this island for any work to be done, or for any articles or things to be sold, delivered, done, or agreed for by weight or measure, where no special agreement shall be made to the contrary, shall be deemed to be made and had according to the standard weights and measures hereby established; troy weight being the measure of weight applicable to contracts and dealings relating to gold, silver, platina, diamonds, and other precious stones; apothecaries' weight applicable to contracts and dealings relating to the sale by retail of drugs; and avoirdupois weight applicable to contracts and dealings relating to all other articles.

**6** All weights representing or intended to represent or be used as any of the weights mentioned in the schedule hereto, which shall be made after this Ordinance comes into operation, of the weight of one ounce avoirdupois or more, shall have the number of pounds or aliquot parts or multiples thereof contained in every such weight stamped or cast on the top or side thereof in legible figures and letters in the English, Sinhalese, or Tamil language; and all measures of capacity representing or intended to represent or be used as any of the measures of capacity mentioned in the said schedule shall, if made after this Ordinance comes into operation, have their contents denominated, stamped, or marked on the outside of such measures in legible figures and letters in the English, Sinhalese, or Tamil language.

**7** From and after the passing of this Ordinance examiners of weights and measures shall be appointed as follows:

The examiners for any municipality shall be appointed by the chairman of the municipal council thereof.

The examiners for any town possessing a local health and improvement board incorporated under the provisions of "The Local Health and Improvement Ordinance, 1876," shall be appointed by the chairman of such board.

Liberty to the public to have weights and measures tested by the standards.

Power to the Governor in Executive Council to prescribe fees for testing weights and measures. In the absence of any Proclamation prescribing fees, testing to be gratis. Contracts to be construed with reference to standard weights and measures except where the contrary is specified.

Contents of weights and measures to be stamped on them.

Examiners may be appointed.

Examiners in municipalities to be appointed by the chairman, in towns incorporated under the Local Health and Improvement Ordinance by the chairman of the local health and improvement

*Weights and Measures.*

The examiners for any other locality shall be appointed by the government agent of the province within which such locality may be situated.

heard, and in other towns by the government agent.

The number of examiners for any municipality, town, or other locality shall be in the discretion of the authority empowered to appoint them, and may from time to time be increased or diminished at such discretion.

8 An examiner appointed under the 7th section of this Ordinance may be removed by the authority by which he was appointed.

Removal of examiners.

9 Good and sufficient stamps or dies of a pattern to be approved of by the Governor, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, for the stamping or sealing weights and measures, shall be provided and kept by the municipal council of every municipality, and by the local health and improvement board in every town possessing such board, and at every kachchéri; and all weights and measures representing or intended to represent or be used as any of the weights or measures mentioned in the schedule hereto, or any multiple or aliquot part thereof (except as hereinafter excepted), which shall be used for buying, selling, or receiving any goods or merchandise by weight or measure, shall be examined and compared with one or more of the copies of the standard weights and measures, provided under the authority of this Ordinance, by such examiners aforesaid, or by such other persons as shall be authorized in that behalf by such municipal council or local board or by the government agent of the province in places therein situate, where there is no municipality or local board, and such examiners or other authorized persons shall stamp in such manner as best to prevent fraud such weights and measures when so examined and compared, if found to correspond with the said copies. Provided that nothing herein contained shall extend to require any single weight above fifty-six pounds to be inspected or stamped; and that nothing herein contained shall extend to require any wicker measure used in the sale of lime or other articles of a like nature, or any jug or drinking cup made of glass or earthenware or partly of metal and partly of glass or earthenware, though represented as containing the amount of any imperial measure or of any multiple or aliquot part thereof, to be stamped; but any person buying by any vessel represented as containing the amount of any imperial measure or of any multiple or aliquot part thereof is hereby authorized to require the contents of such vessel to be ascertained by a comparison with a stamped measure, such stamped measure to be found and provided by the person who shall use such wicker measure, glass jug or drinking cup as aforesaid; and in case the person who shall use the last mentioned measure or vessel shall refuse to make such comparison, or if, upon such comparison being made, such wicker measure, glass jug or drinking cup shall be found to be deficient in quantity, the person who shall use the same shall be guilty of an

Weights and measures to be examined and stamped.

Proviso.



*Weights and Measures.*

offence, and on conviction be subject to the forfeitures and punishment hereinafter imposed on any person using light or unjust or unstamped weights or measures. Provided also that nothing herein contained shall extend to require any weights or measures to be re-stamped, if the same shall have been constructed in England and shall bear the imperial stamp as provided by the 21st section of the Imperial Statute 5 and 6 William IV., c. 63, intituled "An Act to repeal an Act of the fourth and fifth year of his present Majesty relating to Weights and Measures, and to make other provisions instead thereof," or any other Imperial Statute to be enacted in that behalf.

False weights and measures to be forfeited and broken up.

**12** Upon any such conviction as in the preceding section mentioned, the court shall order the defective weight or measure, or weights or measures, or the false or unequal balance or balances, as the case may be, to be forfeited; and all weights or measures or balances so forfeited shall be broken and rendered useless.

Penalty on examiners who are guilty of a breach of duty.

**13** Any examiner of weights and measures, and any person legally authorized to examine and stamp any weights or measures, who shall stamp any weights or measures without duly verifying the same by comparison with a copy of the imperial standard in manner aforesaid, or shall be guilty of a breach of any duty imposed upon him by this Ordinance, or shall otherwise misconduct himself in the execution of his office, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees for each offence.

Penalty on counterfeiting stamps, weights, or measures.

**14** Any person or persons who shall make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be made, forged, or counterfeited, or knowingly act or assist in the making, forging, or counterfeiting any stamp which may be used for the stamping or marking of any weights or measures under this Ordinance, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding one year, or to both; and any person who shall knowingly sell, utter, dispose of, or expose to sale any weight or measure with such forged or counterfeit stamp or mark thereon, shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding three months, or to both; and all weights and measures with such forged or counterfeited stamps or marks shall be forfeited and broken up.

Repeal of Ordinance No. 2 of 1836.

**15** The Ordinance No. 2 of 1836 is hereby repealed.

Date of operation and short title.

**16** This Ordinance shall come into operation on such a day as the Governor shall, with the advice of the Executive Council, by Proclamation,\* appoint, and may be cited for all purposes as "The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1876."

\* Proclaimed the 1st day of May, 1879.

*Weights and Measures.*

## Schedule of Imperial Weights and Measures.

## LINEAL MEASURE.

Inches.						
12 =	1 Foot.					
36 =	3 =	1 Yard.				
198 =	16½ =	5½ =	1 Pole or Perch.			
7920 =	660 =	220 =	40 =	=	1 Furlong.	
63360 =	5280 =	1760 =	320 =	=	8 =	1 Mile.

## SUPERFICIAL MEASURE.

Inches.						
144 =	1 Foot.					
1296 =	9 =	1 Yard.				
39204 =	272½ =	30½ =	1 Pole.			
1568160 =	10890 =	1210 =	40 =	=	1 Rood.	
6272640 =	43560 =	4840 =	160 =	4 =	1 Acre.	

## AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.

Drams.						
16 =	1 Ounce.					
256 =	16 =	1 Pound.				
3584 =	224 =	14 =	1 Stone.			
28672 =	1792 =	112 =	8 =	1 Cwt.		
573440 =	35840 =	2240 =	160 =	20 =	1 Ton.	

## TROY WEIGHT.

Grains.						
24 =	1 Pennyweight.					
480 =	20 =	1 Ounce.				
5760 =	240 =	12 =	1 Pound.			

## APOTHECARIES' WEIGHT.

Grains.						
20 =	1 Scruple.					
60 =	3 =	1 Drachm.				
480 =	24 =	8 =	1 Ounce.			
5760 =	288 =	96 =	12 =	1 Pound.		

## MEASURES OF CAPACITY.

*Dry Measure.*

Pints.						
2 =	1 Quart.					
8 =	4 =	1 Gallon.				
16 =	8 =	2 =	1 Peck.			
64 =	32 =	8 =	4 =	1 Bushel.		
512 =	256 =	64 =	32 =	8 =	1 Quarter.	

*Liquid Measure.*

Pints.						
2 =	1 Quart.					
8 =	4 =	1 Gallon.				
504 =	252 =	63 =	1 Hogshead.			
1008 =	504 =	126 =	2 =	1 Pipe.		
2016 =	1008 =	252 =	4 =	2 =	1 Tun.	