

# SUGAR.

ORDINANCE No. 29 OF 1919.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for the establishment and control of Sugar Experiment Stations. A.D. 1919

[30th September, 1919.]

**W**HEREAS the Sugar Planters of this Colony are desirous of establishing, maintaining and managing Sugar Experiment Stations for conducting experiments in connection with Cane and Sugar and the by-products thereof and for preventing the spread of Disease in Cane and otherwise for promoting the well-being of the Sugar Industry;

And whereas the said Sugar Planters have agreed to be assessed annually by the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association for the purpose of meeting the expenses in connection with such Experiment Stations;

And whereas the Sugar Planters consider that the scheme for giving effect to their wishes would be more effective if given statutory force, and have asked the Governor to legislate accordingly;

And whereas the Governor while deeming such legislation in the nature of private legislation, thinks that the establishment of such *Experiment Stations* will ultimately tend to the benefit of the Colony, and deems it expedient to give effect to the wishes of the Sugar Planters;

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of British Guiana, with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy thereof, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Sugar Planters' Experiment Stations Ordinance, 1919.

Interpretation clause.

2. In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires—  
 "The Committee" means the Committee appointed under the provisions of this Ordinance.  
 "The Fund" means the Sugar Planters' Experiment Station Fund, established under the provisions of this Ordinance.  
 "Proprietor" means the proprietor, whether jointly or severally, or the authorised agent of the proprietor, or the manager, or person in charge, of any plantation or land under sugar cane cultivation.  
 "Secretary" means the Secretary appointed under this Ordinance.

Appointment of Committee.

3.—(1) The British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association shall as soon as possible after the passing of this Ordinance elect six persons immediately connected with the sugar industry of this Colony to form with the Director of Science and Agriculture a Committee for the purposes of this Ordinance for the period ending 31st December, 1920, and on or before the 31st December, 1920, and of each year thereafter elect three such persons for the ensuing year.

(2) The Director of Science and Agriculture shall be, *ex officio*, the chairman of the Committee and a permanent member thereof. In the absence of the chairman from any meeting the members present may elect a chairman for that meeting.

(3) The three members of the Committee first in order of election shall retire on the 31st December, 1920, and the other three members on the 31st December, 1921, and so on from year to year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

(4) Any vacancy occurring on the Committee between the dates of election as aforesaid shall be filled by the Committee subject to the approval of the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association.

(5) The Chairman and three other members of the Committee shall form a quorum for the due and proper exercise of all the powers and duties of the Committee.

Establishment of Sugar cane Experiment Stations.

4. The Committee may from time to time establish, maintain and manage such and so many Sugar Experiment Stations as in its opinion are necessary and may provide and equip the same with all buildings, laboratories, machinery, instruments, apparatus and all other matters and things necessary or proper for conducting experiments in connection with cane and sugar and the by-products thereof, and for preventing the spread of disease in cane, and otherwise for promoting the well-being of the sugar industry.

Appointment of Superintendent and other officers of Experiment Stations.

5.—(1) The Committee may from time to time appoint a Superintendent of Sugar Experiment Stations and may out of the fund pay to such Superintendent such salary and allowances as it thinks fit.

(2) The Committee may from time to time appoint a Secretary and such other officers as may be necessary for the effectual execution

of the provisions of this Ordinance and may out of the fund pay to such officers such salaries and allowances as it thinks fit.

6.—(1) The Committee shall have the general direction and care and control of all such Sugar Experiment Stations.

Care and control of Experiment Stations.

(2) The Committee shall from time to time make or cause to be made such inquiries, researches, and investigations as are required by the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association and also such other inquiries, researches and investigations as it thinks fit in relation to any matters concerning the sugar industry.

7.—(1) There shall be established a fund to be called the "Sugar Planters' Experiment Station Fund" out of which shall be paid all expenses incurred by the Committee in the carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Establishment of Fund.

(2) All assessments or other moneys received under this Ordinance shall be paid by the Secretary into the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada to the credit of the Fund.

(3) All withdrawals of money from the Fund shall be by cheque signed by the Chairman and the Secretary and one of the other members of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chairman the Secretary and two members of the Committee or in the absence of the Secretary by the Chairman and two other members of the Committee.

8.—(1) The British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association may on or before the 30th September in each year assess upon all plantations and lands under sugar cane cultivation and recover from the proprietors thereof a rate not exceeding one dollar in respect of each acre of land under such sugar cane cultivation for the purposes of this Ordinance.

Assessment to be levied on land under cane cultivation.

Provided always that no assessment shall be recoverable in respect of land under sugar cane cultivation, not exceeding twenty-five acres in extent and cultivated by one person.

(2) Such assessment shall be recoverable upon the basis of the area under sugar cane cultivation during the preceding twelve months ending 31st March, and for the purpose of calculating such area the mean shall be taken of the area under sugar cane cultivation, as shown by the returns furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Mines under the Acreage Tax Ordinance, 1898<sup>1</sup>, in respect of the two periods of six months comprising such aforesaid period of twelve months ending 31st March.

(3) Such assessments shall be payable to the Secretary each year in two instalments one of which shall become payable on the 1st day of October, and the other on the 1st day of March in the ensuing year.

(4) For the purposes of this section the Commissioner of Lands and Mines shall furnish the Secretary on or before the 1st day of September in each year with a certificate setting out the area under sugar cane cultivation on every plantation or other land as shown by the returns referred to in sub-section (2) hereof.

(5) The Secretary may recover all assessments and sums due under this Ordinance by the proprietor of any plantation or land by parate or summary execution against such proprietor without

<sup>1</sup> See Ordinance No. 23 of 1898 under "Revenue."

naming such proprietor and a certificate purporting to be signed by the chairman stating the amount claimed shall without further proof of such signature or of any other matter or thing be held by all courts sufficient *prima facie* proof of the amount claimed being due.

Annual Report.

9. In every year the Committee shall publish a report upon the Experiment Stations and the administration of the fund under its control.

Power to  
Committee to  
make Regula-  
tions.

10.—(1) The Committee may from time to time make regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Ordinance and may alter, amend or revoke any such regulations.

(2) Such regulations may impose a penalty of not exceeding one hundred dollars for any breach of any such regulations and all such penalties may be recovered in a summary manner before any Magistrate by any person authorized in writing by the Chairman of the Committee for that purpose.

(3) Such regulations and any alterations, amendments or revocations thereof shall not come into force or have any effect until approved of by the Governor-in-Council and published in the *Gazette* and thereupon shall have the force of law.

No parate  
execution  
against Crown  
or Colony  
lands.

11. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed or held to authorize any summary or parate execution against any Crown or Colony land.

Duration of  
Ordinance.

12. This Ordinance shall continue in force for ten years from the commencement thereof.