

CHAPTER 256.

PROMISSORY OATHS.

[No. IV of 1870.]

[20th July, 1870.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Promissory Oaths Ordinance.

Oath of allegiance.

2. The oath herein referred to as the oath of allegiance shall be in the form following, that is to say,—

“ I, _____ do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to his Majesty King George the Fifth, his heirs and successors, according to law.—So help me God.”

Oath of office.

3. The oath herein referred to as the official oath shall be in the form following, that is to say,—

“ I, _____ do swear that I will well and truly serve his Majesty King George the Fifth in the office of _____ .—So help me God.”

Judicial oath.

4. The oath herein referred to as the judicial oath shall be in the form following, that is to say,—

“ I, _____ do swear that I will well and truly serve our sovereign lord King George the Fifth in the office of _____ and I will do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages in force in this colony, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.—So help me God.”

Name of sovereign in oath.

5. Where in any oath under this Ordinance the name of his present Majesty is expressed, the name of the sovereign for the time being shall be substituted from time to time.

When affirmation or declaration to be substituted for oath.

6. Where any oath is required to be taken under this Ordinance, every person for the time being by law permitted to make a solemn affirmation or declaration instead

of taking an oath may, instead of taking an oath, make a solemn affirmation in the form of the oath hereby appointed, substituting the words "solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm" for the word "swear," and omitting the words "So help me God."

7. The oath of allegiance only shall be taken by aliens on naturalisation, and that oath shall be in the form in this Ordinance set forth.

Oath to be taken by alien on naturalisation.

8. The oath of allegiance and the official oath shall be tendered to, and taken by each of the officers named in the first part of the schedule hereto, as soon as may be after his acceptance of office.

Officers to take oath of allegiance and official oath; schedule; first part.

9. The oath of allegiance and the judicial oath shall be taken by each of the officers named in the second part of the schedule hereto, as soon as may be after his acceptance of office.

Officers to take oath of allegiance and judicial oath; schedule; second part.

10. Any officer specified in the schedule hereto who declines or neglects, when any oath required to be taken by him hereunder is duly tendered to him, to take that oath, shall, if he has already entered on his office, vacate it, and if he has not entered on it shall be disqualified from entering thereon; but no person shall be compelled, in respect of the same appointment to the same office, to take an oath or make an affirmation more than once.

Officer required to take oath declining or neglecting to do so.

11. The following oath shall be taken by every person appointed to be a member of the Executive Council of the colony, as soon as may be after his acceptance of office and before exercising any of the functions thereof:—

Form of oath of executive councillor.

"I, _____ being chosen and admitted of his Majesty's Executive Council in British Guiana, do swear that I will, to the best of my judgement, at all times when thereto required, freely give my council and advice to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or officer administering the Government of the said colony for the time being, for the good management of the public affairs thereof; that I will not, directly or indirectly, reveal the matters debated in council and committed to my secrecy, but that I will in all things be a true and faithful councillor.—So help me God."

Form of oath to be taken by clerk to the executive council.

12. The following oath shall be taken by every officer appointed to exercise the functions of clerk to the Executive Council of the colony before entering on the duties of his office :—

“ I, _____ being appointed to exercise the functions of clerk to his Majesty’s Executive Council in British Guiana, do swear that I will not, directly or indirectly, reveal the matters debated in council and committed to my secrecy. —So help me God.”

Saving as to oaths required to be taken by certain persons :

13. Nothing herein contained shall effect the oaths required to be taken by members of the Legislative Council, officers of the militia, or any other persons, not being officers in the public service of His Majesty, required by any law to take an oath :

Proviso.

Provided that when the oath of allegiance is required to be taken, the form of that oath hereby prescribed shall be substituted for the form of the oath of allegiance heretofore required to be taken.

Saving as to officers heretofore appointed and sworn.

14. No officer mentioned in the schedule hereto who has been heretofore appointed, and has already taken the oath or oaths heretofore required to be taken on his appointment shall be required to take any oath under this Ordinance.

SCHEDULE.

LISTS OF OFFICERS REQUIRED TO TAKE OATHS.

FIRST PART.

The Attorney General, and the Assistant to the Attorney General.
 The Crown Solicitor.
 The Colonial Secretary.
 The Assistant Colonial Secretary.
 The Auditor.
 The Colonial Treasurer.
 The Comptroller of customs.
 The Sub-Comptroller of customs.
 The Inspector General of police.
 Inspectors of police.
 The Superintendent of the penal settlement.
 The Director of Public Works.
 The Registrar of the Supreme Court.
 The Crown Surveyor.
 Revenue Officers.

SECOND PART.

The Chief Justice.
 The Puisne Judges.
 Justices of the peace.