

Gold Coast (Colony) Laws,
" Statutes etc.



THE LAWS
OF THE
GOLD COAST COLONY

CONTAINING
THE ORDINANCES OF THE GOLD COAST COLONY
AND THE ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS, RULES, REGULATIONS
AND BYE-LAWS MADE THEREUNDER

IN FORCE ON
THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1919,

AND THE PRINCIPAL
IMPERIAL STATUTES, ORDERS IN COUNCIL, LETTERS
PATENT AND ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE
GOLD COAST COLONY

REVISED EDITION

PREPARED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ORDINANCE, 1920,

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IN THREE VOLUMES:
VOL. I.

CONTAINING THE ORDINANCES, CHAPTERS 1-100.

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solution, or otherwise, as aforesaid, after they have been produced in evidence, or when they have been seized and are not required to be produced in evidence, shall be forfeited and applied as the Court directs.

Book II.—
Part VI.
Title XIII.

119. Whoever, without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on him), has in his custody or possession any greater number of pieces than five pieces of false or counterfeit coin resembling, or apparently intended to resemble or pass for, any gold or silver coin of any foreign prince, state, or country, or any kind of coin not being the Queen's current coin, but resembling, or apparently intended to resemble or pass for, any copper coin, or any other coin made of any metal or mixed metals, of less value than the silver coin of any foreign prince, state, or country, shall, on being convicted thereof, forfeit all such false and counterfeit coin (which shall be cut in pieces or otherwise destroyed by order of any District Commissioner), and shall, for every such offence, be liable to a fine of two pounds for every such piece of false and counterfeit coin which is found in his custody or possession.

Having possession of more than five pieces of counterfeit foreign coin, &c.

PART VI.—OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER, HEALTH, AND MORALITY.

TITLE XIII.—PUBLIC NUISANCES.

Drumming and Firing Guns, &c.

120. (1) Every occupier of any house, building, yard or other place situate in any town, who, without a licence in writing from the Governor or a District Commissioner, permits any persons to assemble and beat or play or dance therein to any drum, gong, tom-tom, or other similar instrument of music, shall be liable to a fine of two pounds.

Allowing house, &c., in town to be used for drumming. (See s. 139 (10).)

(2) It shall be lawful for any constable to enter any such house, building, yard, or other place where any persons may be so assembled, and to warn them to depart and to seize and carry away all such drums, gongs, tom-toms, or other instruments, and the same shall be forfeited.

(3) Whoever, after being so warned, shall not depart forthwith (except the persons actually dwelling in such house or building), may be apprehended, without warrant, by any constable or person acting in his aid, and shall be liable to a fine of ten shillings.

121. Whoever during the sitting of a Court, and after being warned by a constable or officer of the Court to desist, beats or plays any drum, gong, tom-tom or other instrument, or makes any

Drumming, &c., near Court during sitting.

Book II.—
Part VI.
Title XIII.

loud noise of any kind within a radius of three hundred yards from the place where such sitting is held, shall be liable to a fine of two pounds.

Drumming
with intent
to challenge
or insult.

122. Whoever beats a drum with intent to challenge or provoke any other person to commit a breach of the peace, or with intent to insult or annoy any other person, shall be liable to a fine of twenty-five pounds or to imprisonment for three months.

Discharging
guns, &c.,
in town.

123. Whoever in any town without lawful and necessary occasion:—

- (1) Discharges any firearm, or throws or sets fire to any fire-work in any public place, or in any house, building, or yard; or
- (2) Being the occupier of any house, building, or yard, knowingly permits any firearm to be discharged therein, shall be liable to a fine of ten pounds.

Stray Cattle, Mad Dogs, &c.

Stray cattle.

124.* (1) If in any town, any cattle are found at large in any public place without any person in charge thereof, any peace officer or health officer or inspector or assistant-inspector of nuisances may seize and impound such cattle in any common pound, and may detain the same therein until the owner thereof pays to the Treasury a fine not exceeding two shillings for each head of cattle, other than swine, and a fine of not less than five shillings, nor exceeding ten shillings for each head of swine, besides the expenses of keeping the same at rates not exceeding sixpence a day for each head of swine, sheep or goats, and one shilling a day for each head of other cattle.

(2) If the said fine and expenses are not paid within four days after such impounding, the pound keeper, or other person appointed by the health officer for the purpose, may sell any such cattle; but previous to such sale, six days' notice thereof shall be given or left at the dwelling-house of the owner if he is known, or, if not then the notice shall be conspicuously posted in some usual place for the posting of public notices in the town where the cattle were seized; and the proceeds of the sale, after deducting the fine and expenses, shall be paid to the Treasurer, and be by him paid on demand to the owner of the cattle.

(3) Instead of impounding the cattle so found at large, any constable or health officer or inspector or assistant inspector of nuisances may summon the owner before the District Commissioner, who may impose on the owner a fine of not more than two shillings for each animal so found.

* But when a town council is established, see sect. 38 of Chapter 66.

Book II.—
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Title XIII.

(2) Every constable is hereby authorised and required, on the demand of such owner, manager, occupier, agent, or servant, to assist in expelling any such drunken, riotous, quarrelsome, or disorderly person from any such shop, house, premises, or place.

Person drunk
whilst in
charge of
vehicle, &c.

135. Any person who is drunk whilst driving, riding, or in charge of, any vehicle or beast of burden on any public way or in any public place shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months or to a fine of twenty-five pounds or to both. (*Added by 13 of 1919, s. 9.*)

Unlawfully
carrying
arms.

136. If two or more persons together in any public place openly carry, without lawful cause, any deadly or dangerous instruments, with intent to cause terror to any of the public, each of them shall be liable to a fine of one pound or to imprisonment for one month.

Threat of
harm.
(*See s. 350.*)

137. Whoever threatens any other person with unlawful harm, with intent to put that person in fear of unlawful harm, shall be liable to a fine of one pound or to imprisonment for one month.

Causing
public terror.

138. (1) Whoever, in any public place, or being unlawfully in any place not public, wantonly does any act with intent to cause terror to any person, shall, if harm is thereby caused to any person, or if his act was of such a character as to be likely to cause harm to any person by terror, be liable to a fine of twenty-five pounds or to imprisonment for three months.

(*See s. 220.*)

(2) For the purposes of this section, harm shall in this case be deemed to have been caused by the act, although the harm be the mere inward effect of the terror caused by the act.

Illustrations.

(a) A. goes about the streets, or in a cemetery at night, dressed up in a white sheet in order to pass for a ghost. If any person is thereby seriously frightened and made ill or insane, A. is guilty of an offence against this section.

(b) A. lets off a firework in a crowd. Although he may not have actually purposed to cause harm to any person, yet, if any person is injured by fright or by the movement of the crowd in consequence of the explosion, A. is guilty of an offence against this section.

(c) A. wilfully raises a false alarm of fire in a theatre, and a panic ensues in which a person is injured. A. is guilty of an offence against this section.

Nuisances and Obstructions in Street, and the like.

139. Whoever does any of the following acts shall be liable to a fine of forty shillings, namely:—

Throwing
rubbish in
street.

(1) In any town places, or causes or permits to be placed, any carrion, filth, dirt, refuse or rubbish, or any offensive

- or unwholesome matter, on any street, yard, enclosure, or open space, except at such places as may be set apart by the District Commissioner or the health officer for that purpose; or
- (2) In any town commits a nuisance in any public place or open space, or in any place being an appurtenance of or adjoining a dwelling-house; or
- (3) Wilfully defaces any public lawful notice, or removes the same from any place where it is lawfully affixed; or
- (4) Without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof affixes or attempts to affix any placard, paper, or thing on any building, wall, fence, pillar, or post, or writes upon, soils, or marks any such building, wall, fence, pillar, or post; or
- (5) Without due authority affixes or attempts to affix any placard, paper, or thing on, or writes upon, soils, or marks any post office or post office letter box; or
- (6) Unlawfully releases any cattle lawfully impounded, or pulls down, damages, or destroys the pound wherein any cattle are lawfully impounded; or
- (7) In any public place is drunk and behaves violently or indecently; or
- (8) In any public place, or in any place within sight or hearing of persons then being in a public place, disturbs the peace by fighting or quarrelling with any other person; or abets an unlawful fight; or uses or applies to any other person then being in such public place or within sight or hearing thereof, any violent or abusive term of reproach; or sings any profane, indecent, or obscene song; or exposes any defamatory or insulting writing or object; or with the intention of annoying or irritating any other person, sings any scurrilous or abusive song or words, whether any person he particularly addressed therein or not; or is guilty of any riotous, indecent, disorderly, or insulting behaviour, to the obstruction or annoyance of any passenger or person in such public place; or
- (9) In any town wilfully or wantonly, and after being warned to desist, shouts or blows any horn or shell, or sounds or plays upon any musical instrument, or sings or makes any other loud or unseemly noise, to the annoyance or disturbance of any person; or
- (10) In any town, without a licence in writing from the Governor or a District Commissioner, beats or plays any

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Nuisances.

Defacing
public notice.

Defacing
building, &c.

Defacing
post office or
letter box.

Pound
breach.

Being drunk
and dis-
orderly.

Fighting, &c.,
in public
place.

Shouting, &c.,
in town.

Drumming
&c., in town
at night.
(See s. 120.)

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- Throwing stones, &c.
- Behaving violently in prison, &c.
(See s. 373.)
Behaving irreverently in place of worship.
- Disturbing public worship.
- Disturbing funeral.
- Extinguishing or damaging street lamp.
Obstructing working of telegraph.
(See s. 263).
- Furious riding or driving.
- Failure to give warning of approach of vehicle.
- Driving, &c., without light after dark.
- Leaving carriage unattended in public way.
- drum, gong, tom-tom, or other similar instrument of music between eight o'clock at night and six in the morning; or
- (11) In any town throws or discharges any stone or other missile in or into any public place; or
- (12) Behaves violently or indecently in any prison or Court or public place; or
- (13) Behaves irreverently or indecently in any church, chapel, mosque, or other place appropriated for religious worship; or
- (14) Disturbs or molests any minister of religion while celebrating any religious rite or office in any public place, or any person assisting or attending at the celebration of such rite or office; or
- (15) Behaves irreverently or indecently or insultingly at or near any funeral or in or near any public burial ground during the burial of a body; or
- (16) Wantonly extinguishes the light of, or destroys or damages, any street lamp; or
- (17) Wilfully obstructs or impedes or delays any person employed in the working of a telegraph, or in the delivery of a telegram, in the execution of his duty; or
- (18) In any public place rides or drives furiously any horse or other animal, or drives or propels furiously any vehicle, or drives furiously any cattle; or
- (19) In any public place or public way rides or propels any bicycle, tricycle, or other like machine, and, upon overtaking any vehicle, or any horse or other beast of burden, or any person on foot, fails within a reasonable distance from and before passing or reaching such vehicle, horse or other beast of burden, or person on foot, to give by bell, whistle, horn, or other like instrument audible and sufficient warning of the approach of such bicycle, tricycle, or other like machine so ridden or propelled as aforesaid (*added by 13 of 1919, s. 19*); or
- (20) In any public way drives or propels any vehicle after dark without a lighted lamp sufficient to warn persons in such public way; or
- (21) In any town leaves any carriage with a horse attached to it standing in any public way without someone to hold the horse; or