Sunday Observance Act (Ireland) 1695

Chapter 17

An Act for the better Observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday.[1]

FOR the better observation and keeping holy the Lord's-day, commonly called Sunday;

All persons to observe the Lord's-day, and exercise duties of religion publickly and privately. No worldly labour or calling exercised, works of necessity or charity excepted. Penalty 25p on offenders of age of fourteen. Goods cried or exposed to sale forfeited.

[I.] ALL and every person and persons whatsoever shall on every Lord's-day apply themselves to the observation of the same, by exercising themselves thereon in the duties of piety and true religion publickly and privately: and no tradesman, artificer, workman, labourer, or other person whatsoever, shall do or exercise any worldly labour, business, or work of their ordinary callings upon the Lord's-day, or any part thereof (works of necessity and charity only excepted:) and every person, being of the age of fourteen years, or upwards, offending in the premisses, shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of [2 25p]; and no person or persons whatsoever shall publickly cry, shew forth, or expose to sale any wares, merchandizes, fruit, herbs, goods or chattels whatsoever upon the Lord's-day, or any part thereof, upon pain that every person so offending shall forfeit the same goods so cried, or shewed forth, or exposed to sale.

No drover, carrier, &c. to travel or come to his inn on Sunday on pain of £1.

II. AND no drover, horse-courser, waggoner, carrier, butcher, higler, their or any of their servants, shall travel, or come into his or their inn or lodging, upon the Lord's-day, or any part thereof, upon pain that each and every such offender shall forfeit [2 £1] for such offence.

To prevent breach of the peace by disorderly meetings, hurling, foot-ball, cudgels, and other

III.[3] AND for prevention of disorders and breaches of the peace, which commonly happen in divers parts of the kingdom, by reason of tumultuous and disorderly meetings, which have been, and frequently are used on the Lord's-day, commonly called Sunday, under pretence of hurling, commoning, foot-ball playing, cudgels, wrestling, or other

pastimes on Sunday prohibited.

sports; no person or persons whatsoever shall play, use, or exercise any hurling, commoning, foot-ball playing, cudgels, wrestling, or any other games, pastimes, or sports on the Lord's-day, or any part thereof: and if any person or persons shall offend therein, and be thereof convicted in such manner as herein after directed, every such person and persons shall forfeit the sum of [[2]5p] for every such offence, to be immediately paid to such justice of the peace, . . .[4], before whom such conviction shall be: and that if any person offending against this act, or any thing therein contained, shall be thereof convicted before any justice of the peace . . .[4] the said justice, . . .[4] shall given warrant under his or their hands and seals to the constables . . .[4], to seize the said goods cried, shewed forth or put to sale as aforesaid, and to sell the same; . . .[5] provided that nothing in this act contained shall extend to the prohibiting of dressing meat in families, or dressing or selling of meat in inns, cooks shops, or victualling-houses, for such as otherwise cannot be provided; nor the crying or selling of milk or fish before ten of the clock in the morning, or after four of the clock in the afternoon. . . .

Penalty 5p every offence.

Justice of peace upon conviction to issue warrants to the constable.

Meat may be dressed in families, inns, &c. for such as otherwise cannot be provided; and milk or fish sold before ten or after four.

Prosecution to be in ten days.

IV. PROVIDED also, That no person or persons shall be impeached, prosecuted, or molested, for any offence before-mentioned in this act, unless he or they be prosecuted for the same within ten days after the offence committed.

S.V rep. by SLR (I) 1879. S.VI rep. by SLR (I) 1878

Service of process on Sunday void, except in treason, offences triable on indictment or breach of peace.

VII.[6] PROVIDED also, That no person or persons upon the Lord's-day, commonly called Sunday, shall serve, or execute, or cause to be served or executed, any writ, process, warrant, order, judgment, or decree ([[7]except in cases of treason or any offence triable on indictment or any breach of the peace]); but that the service of every such writ, process, warrant, order, judgment, or decree, shall be void to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and the person and persons so serving or executing the same shall be as lyable to the suit of the party grieved, and to answer damage to him for doing thereof, as if he or they had done the same without any writ, process, warrant, order, judgment, or decree at all.

Ss.VIII, IX rep. by SLR (NI) 1953

Not to extend to persons in inns before, and intending to abide there on Sunday.

X. PROVIDED nothing herein contained shall extend to persons who have been in any inns before the Lord's-day, commonly called Sunday, and design to abide there on Sunday; but it shall and may be lawful for such persons to continue and remain in such inns and publick-houses, as if this act had never been made.

S.XI rep. by SLR (I) 1878

References

1. Short title "The Sunday Observance Act (Ireland) 1695", 1951 c.1 (NI) Restr. as to shops, retail trades and business, 1946 c.7 (NI) s.34(5)

2. Subst. by virtue of 1969 c.19 s.10
3. Certain functions of JP now exercisable by resident magistrate, 1964 c.21 (NI) s.13
4. Rep., SLR 1980
5. Rep., SLR (I) 1879; SLR (NI) 1953; SLR 1980
6. Excl., 1966 c.17 (NI) s.176(2A); 1968 c.34 (NI) s.8(3)
7. Subst., 1967 c.18 (NI) s.13 sch.1