

C A P . V .

An Act to prevent the unlawful training of persons to the use of arms, and to practice Military evolutions or exercises; and to authorize Justices of the Peace to seize and detain arms collected or kept for purposes dangerous to the public peace.

[Assented to 15th August, 1866.]

Preamble.

HER Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows :

Meetings for drill, &c., without lawful authority prohibited.

Punishment of persons acting as instructors at such meetings.

And of persons receiving instruction.

1. All meetings and assemblies of persons for the purpose of training or drilling themselves, or of being trained or drilled to the use of arms, or for the purpose of practising Military exercises, movements or evolutions, without any lawful authority for so doing, shall be and are hereby prohibited, and declared unlawful, as dangerous to the peace and security of Her Majesty's liege subjects, and of this Province; and every person who shall be present at or shall attend any such meeting or assembling for the purpose of training any other person or persons to the use of arms or to the practice of military exercises, movements or evolutions, or who, without lawful authority for so doing, shall train or drill any other person or persons to the use of arms, or to the practice of military exercises, movements or evolutions, or shall aid or assist therein, being legally convicted thereof shall be liable to be imprisoned in the Provincial Penitentiary for the term of two years, or to be punished by fine and imprisonment in any of the common jails of this Province for a period not less than two years, in the discretion of the Court in which such conviction shall be had; and every person who shall attend or be present at any such meeting or assembly, for the purpose of being or who shall at any such meeting or assembly be trained or drilled to the use of arms, or the practice of military exercises, movements or evolutions, being legally convicted thereof shall be liable to be punished by fine and imprisonment not exceeding two years, in the discretion of the Court before which such conviction shall be had.

Such meetings may be dispensed, and persons attending them arrested; and committed for trial if not bailed.

2. It shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, or for any Constable or Peace Officer, or for any person acting in their aid or assistance, to disperse any such unlawful meeting or assembly as aforesaid, and to arrest and detain any person present at or aiding, assisting or abetting any such assembly or meeting as aforesaid; and it shall be lawful for the Justice of the Peace who shall arrest any such person or before whom any person so arrested shall be brought, to commit such person for trial for such offence under the provisions of this Act,

unless