

Punishment
of riot.

82. Every rioter is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. R.S.C., l. 148, s. 13.

Reading the
Riot Act.

83. It is the duty of every sheriff, deputy sheriff, mayor or other head officer, and justice of the peace, of any county, city or town, who has notice that there are within his jurisdiction persons to the number of twelve or more unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously assembled together to the disturbance of the public peace, to resort to the place where such unlawful, riotous and tumultuous assembly is, and among the rioters, or as near to them as he can safely come, with a loud voice to command or cause to be commanded silence, and after that openly and with loud voice to make or cause to be made a proclamation in these words or to the like effect :—

“Our Sovereign Lady the Queen charges and commands all persons being assembled immediately to disperse and peaceably to depart to their habitations or to their lawful business, upon the pain of being guilty of an offence on conviction of which they may be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

“GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.”

2. All persons are guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for life who—

(a.) with force and arms wilfully oppose, hinder or hurt any person who begins or is about to make the said proclamation, whereby such proclamation is not made ; or

(b.) continue together to the number of twelve for thirty minutes after such proclamation has been made, or if they know that its making was hindered as aforesaid, within thirty minutes after such hindrance. R S.C., c. 147, ss. 1 and 2.

Duty of justice if rioters do not disperse.

84. If the persons so unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously assembled together as mentioned in the next preceding section, or twelve or more of them, continue together, and do not disperse themselves, for the space of thirty minutes after the proclamation is made or after such hindrance as aforesaid, it is the duty of every such sheriff, justice and other officer, and of all persons required by them to assist, to cause such persons to be apprehended and carried before a justice of the peace ; and if any of the persons so assembled is killed or hurt in the apprehension of such persons or in the endeavour to apprehend or disperse them, by reason of their resistance, every person ordering them to be apprehended or dispersed, and every person executing such orders, shall be indemnified against all proceedings of every kind in respect thereof : Provided, that nothing herein contained shall, in any way, limit or affect any duties or powers imposed or given by this Act as to the suppression of riots before or after the making of the said proclamation. R.S.C., c. 147, s. 3.