M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 360
29-44

Press
Mis.

Dated 17. 3. 19[illegible]

Not to be folded or roughly handled

360

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 19th March 1858.

Read the following papers.

No. 29. From Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 30th October 1857, No. 148.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Circular, No. 1366, dated the 19th Instant; and with reference to which, I beg to state that I am decidedly of opinion, that under present circumstances, it is desirable to "call for a Registry of Arms," and offensive weapons of every description, in possession of *all* persons residing within the local limits of this Presidency town; and with this view, and in accordance with the desire of Government, I would suggest the following arrangements for giving effect to that object.

First.—The publication of a Notice in the Official Gazette that, under the provisions of Section I of Act XXVIII of 1857, the registry will be made at the office of the Commissioner of Police.

Second.—The appointment of certain days, in which the registry *in each* of the seven Police Divisions will be made.

Third.—The publication of a Notice, of the days appointed in the Official Gazette, and in the several European and Vernacular Newspapers at the Presidency; and also proclaiming the same by beat of tom-tom, and drawing particular attention to the penal consequences of neglecting to register.

Fourth.—The appointment of an efficient and intelligent Clerk to the office of the Commissioner of Police, for the purpose of keeping the necessary Register, and attending to all matters of this branch of the department, under the orders of the Commissioner. Salary, Rupees 50 per month.

The following I submit as the Form of Certificate to be delivered, if required, under Section III of the Act No. page of Register.

I, A. B., Commissioner of Police for the Town of Madras, do hereby certify under Section III of Act XXVIII, that C. D., Merchant, residing at Kilpauk, has under date the 10th November 1857, given at this office, the notice required by Section I of the above recited Act, of the number and description of Arms at present in his possession, viz.,

One Revolver,
One Musket,
&c., &c., &c.,

Police Commissioner's Office,
Madras, 11th November 1857.

A. B.
Commissioner of Police.

The Register of Arms ought to be alphabetical, to facilitate reference, and I would propose that it be in the form here submitted.

Register of Arms, Offensive Weapons and Ammunition in possession of parties residing within the local limits of the Presidency.

No.	Names.	Occupation or calling.	Place of residence.	No. and description of Arms.	Date of Registry.	Date of Certificate.

No. 30. From H. A. BRETT, Esq., Magistrate of Salem; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Oossoor, 17th November 1857, No. 397.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Acting Chief Secretary, No. 1366, dated the 19th October 1857, requesting me to report,

1st. My opinion whether it is desirable to call for a registry of Arms in the whole of my district, or in particular towns or places only;

2ndly, to describe the arrangements which I have to propose for bringing Sections I to VI of the Act into operation;

And 3rd, to state what time ought to be given for complying with the provisions of Section XXVI of the Act, when it is brought into operation.

Answer to 1st Qn. 2. I think it best to register all the Arms in the district. There is probably a larger number of Arms in the hands of persons residing among the agricultural class than in the chief towns. A large number of persons who reside in the Moottahs and Poliputs carry Arms as dependants on the Moottadars and Poligars. It is desirable that in all such cases the Arms should be registered.

Answer to 2nd Qn. 3. I propose that the registry in the towns should be made by the heads of Police and their sub officers. In each town, a week may be allowed from the date on which the order calling upon persons to register, is published in the town. Persons who reside in the smaller villages may be required to register their Arms at the ensuing Jummabundy. In this case the order requiring the people to register would be published in every village through the Village Curnums and Monigars. Persons belonging to the Moottahs can be required to register at the same period, on notice previously given through the Village Moonsiffs.

Answer to 3rd Qn. 4. A week's time is I think, enough to allow for compliance with the provisions of Section XXVI of the Act.

No. 31. From F. B. ELTON, Esq., Magistrate of Nellore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 19th November 1857, No. 42.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Circular, No. 1366, requesting my opinion as to whether it is desirable to call for a registry of Arms in the whole of my district, or in particular towns or places only, with the arrangements I would propose for bringing Sections 1 to 6 of Act 28 of 1857, into operation.

2. I have called for the opinion of all my European Subordinates on the points referred to me.

3. It appears to be considered that the quantity of Arms in this district is not large, except in the Zemindary portions, where they are usually kept for purposes of self-defence against gang robbery from the west, or as a sign of distinction by wealthy land-owners.

4. The people of Nellore are not, as in some countries, in the habit of drawing deadly weapons in private quarrels, neither are they likely to make attacks on the neighbouring districts for purposes of gang robbery, but are much more likely to be attacked by them, as experience shows. They are I consider, less bold and warlike than in many other places in southern India.

5. The Joint Magistrate thinks that even in the Zemindaries no sufficient advantage will be obtained by enforcing a registry of Arms, to counterbalance the evils to which such a measure may give rise. He considers that it could only be carried out by domiciliary visits of the Police,

which he fears would be a fruitful source of exaction on the part of the lower officers who would have to be entrusted with the duty.

6. I am myself of opinion that neither the circumstances of the Madras Presidency at the present time, nor of Nellore in particular, demand that there should be any registration of small Arms in this district.

7. The provisions of Section 26 of the Act should however, I consider, be brought into effect, and that 2 months will be sufficient time for complying with its provisions, chiefly in order to allow time to get Licences from the Presidency, otherwise 1 month would be sufficient.

No. 32. From A. PURVIS, Esq., Magistrate of Rajahmundry; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cocanada, 21st November 1857, No. 365.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Acting Chief Secretary's letter of the 19th Ultimo, on the subject of Act XXVIII of 1857, and to state that the Registry of Arms required by the first six Sections of that Enactment should, in my opinion, be called for from the whole of this district, and not be confined to particular towns or places. If the latter plan were to be adopted, the provisions of the Act would be evaded to so great an extent as very greatly to weaken its effect.

2. In bringing the Sections of the Act into operation, all that seems necessary, is to give all possible publicity to their provisions and to the order of the Executive Government, declaring them in force throughout the district, fixing a date within which the notice required in Section I, should be given to the Magistrate or Joint Magistrate as the case may be. The period allowed should not, I think, be less than fifteen days from the date of the publication in the district, of the order of Government. On receipt of the Notices, the Magistracy would proceed as laid down in Section III of the Act, in cases where they may have no grounds for believing that the Arms are likely to be used by disturbers of the public peace, and are not in unreasonable quantities. In carrying out the provisions of Sections II and IV, and in enforcing the penalty laid down in the former Section, the Magistracy will require to exercise some little discretion, and care must be taken to guard against the Enactment being turned to bad uses by the subordinate officers of Police.

3. I am of opinion that a period of fifteen days may be allowed for complying with the provisions of Section XXVI of the Act when it is brought into operation. As far as this district is concerned, it will be almost a dead letter, for I do not believe there is a serviceable cannon, howitzer, or mortar within it.

No. 33. From A. HATHAWAY, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Madura; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 24th November 1857, No. 150.

SIR,

No 1366, 19th October 1857. With reference to your Circular, calling for my opinion upon certain points connected with the bringing into operation of Act 28 of 1857, I have the honor to report as follows:—

2. The population of the Madura district is split into parties so hostile to one another, (as for example the weavers and Mahomedans in the town of Madura) that any combination is believed to be difficult of formation, its character moreover is very peaceful. As a body, they are unused to fire-arms and destitute of the ordinary weapons of defence. Such a thing as a gang robbery effected with the use of weapons, is rarely heard of, and where they have been used, it

has generally been found that the robbers came from Tinnevelly. The Cullers, who are the most turbulent class in the district, confine themselves in their attacks upon property, to the use of bill-hooks, and bamboos encircled with iron rings, and their victims are generally found unprovided even with these weapons.

3. Within the last 5 years, however, the possession of fire-arms has become more common. Previously, the increase was checked by a rule that then prevailed, of stamping them with the Magistrate's seal; but on the lapse of this custom, the manufacture of matchlocks became common, and these weapons were introduced into the district, the principal possessors however being the inhabitants of the villages in the vicinity of the hills, where game is procurable.

4. Having thus shewn that the circumstances of the district do not particularly call for the enforcement of the Act, I proceed to consider the arrangements necessary to its general application.

Section I. 5. There is nothing in their size or the character of the inhabitants, to call for the restriction of the Act to the towns only. It should be introduced universally.

6. Owners of guns, of Native or European manufacture, should be called upon, within two months, to register them, and the old practice of affixing the Circar seal to the stocks of matchlocks and muskets, not otherwise susceptible of identification, might be reverted to. The owners also would have "permits" given to them.

7. Guns of foreign manufacture, possessed only by Zemindars, would be registered in the Magistrate's office, by petition, describing calibre, &c., and stating the maker's name—their spears, swords and daggers might be stamped with a special stamp in the talooks, the number being reported to the Magistrate or his Assistants in their charges, who would severally keep registers.

8. These weapons, when in the possession of other parties, might be stamped either in the talook, or at the Hoozoor, as might best suit the owners.

Section II. 9. After the expiry of the time allowed by the notice calling upon parties to register, persons found in possession of Arms not bearing the Government stamp, would be liable under this Section.

Section III. 10. It would be advisable in all cases to give a Certificate of the registry.

Section IV. 11. Seizures under this Section should be reported to Government with the reasons for making them; very little powder of European manufacture, and but a small quantity of inferior percussion caps, are, it is believed, to be found for sale in the towns.

Section V. 12. All armed travellers should obtain a license, which would serve as a passport; but, as all Arms would be registered, it would be unnecessary to enforce this on persons journeying in the district. An intended departure from the district is generally known previously, and a safe guard would exist in a demand for the exhibition of the license being made upon all entering a district.

Section VI. 13. I see no reasons for enforcing registry amongst European residents, but if deemed advisable, they could be called upon to register their Arms as stated above, mentioning by letter calibre, name of maker, &c.

Section XXVI. 14. In conclusion, the state of Poodoocottah calls for some remark. The population thereof is peaceful, but there is a class of Enamdars holding hereditary lands upon a Military service tenure (now no longer required of them) which is habituated to the use of spears, daggers and other lethal weapons.

15. This class should especially be called upon by proclamation to register its Arms at the office of the Minister, and the Arms should be stamped.

16. A register of the guns and cannon in the possession of the Rajah and his dependants should be made; and a special report on the subject if necessary, forwarded to Government.

17. One fortnight's notice would suffice to parties affected by Section XXVI.

No. 34. From M. MURRAY, Esq., Magistrate of Cuddapah; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort St. George, dated 26th November 1857, No. 36.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular letter, No. 1366, dated 19th October last, wishing to know whether it would be desirable to call for a Register of Arms throughout the district of Cuddapah, or in particular towns or places only, and that the arrangements required to carry this into effect may be stated, and also what time ought to be given for complying with Section XVI of the Act XXVIII of 1857.

2. In reply, I would beg to state, that I see no immediate necessity for causing a registry of Arms, as the district never was in a more quiet and tranquil state than it is at present, and the people have shewn no symptoms of rebellion. However, should the Government wish to know the number of fire-arms, swords, daggers, &c., within the different provinces forming the Presidency of Madras, they can call for a Register which will be supplied. The mode of registry I would propose would be, to order the heads of the different villages to prepare a list shewing the names of the different individuals who possess any of the offensive weapons stated above, together with the number, and transmit it to the head of Police of the talook in which the village is situated, and each list ought to be signed by the Reddies and Curnums jointly, who will be answerable for its correctness, these lists being condensed, will be forwarded to the Hoozoor, thence to Government, the time allowed for completing the lists may be stated at one or two months, it will then require some considerable time to copy them fair, as they will probably require many quires of paper.

3. I would further beg to add that the firelocks in general use throughout the province, are of the very rudest description, being chiefly matchlocks, and the powder used is manufactured by the parties themselves in small quantities as required. The number of swords, daggers and knives are very numerous, and those who can wear one in their belts do so more for show than for use.

No. 35. From C. PELLY, Esq., Magistrate of Bellary; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort St. George, dated Ramandroog, 27th November 1857, No. 46.

SIR,

I have the honor, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Circular letter, No. 1366, of 19th Ultimo, to report that in my opinion it is not desirable to call for a registry of Arms in the whole of this district, but if necessary at all, the registry should be confined to the 11 towns in all. towns and principal villages, as per list enclosed. The arrangements I would propose for bringing Sections I to VI of the Act XXVIII of 1857, into operation, are as follows.

The village authorities, under instructions from the Tahsildars of the talook, should require all persons in their respective villages, to give in person a list of all Arms in their possession. The Curnum should then prepare a register and forward it to the Tahsildar, by whom it should be sent to the Magistrate.

The village authorities should be empowered to exact a trifling penalty not exceeding ½ Rupee in the first instance, upon persons neglecting to report within a week after notice has been given the Arms in his possession, and if further delay takes place, to report to the Tahsildar, who should send him to the Magistrate to be dealt with under Section II of the Act.

If the provisions of the Act are to be put in force, though I have thought it sufficient to confine it to particular places, I would suggest that the Magistrate have authority to extend it to any other localities, should he deem it at any time expedient to do so.

The provisions of Section XXVI will not be applicable to Bellary, as there are no persons possessed of Cannon, &c., in the district, and all that would be necessary with respect to that Section, would be to give notice that a license is necessary for the possession or manufacture of such.

The registry in the Military Cantonment at Bellary, might properly be made under the orders of the Officer Commanding the station.

List of towns and principal villages in the district of Bellary where it is desirable to call for a registry of Arms for bringing Sections I to VI of Act XXVIII of 1857.

Talook.	Towns and principal villages.	Talook.	Towns and principal villages.	Talook.	Towns and principal villages.	Talook.	Towns and principal villages.
Bellary.	Bellary.	Raidroog.	Raidroog.	Pennaconda.	Pennacondah.	Taudpurry.	Taudpurry.
	Cooragode.		Yaradakerah.		Bookaputnum.		Vellaloor
	Seragooppah.		Tallakerah.		Cottacheroo.		Goddoomary.
	Teckalacotah.		Belagooppah.		Pootapurthy.		Pootloor.
Kumply.	Kumply.		Honnore.		Siddarampoor.		Casanoor.
	Camalapoorum.		Gungaverum.		Purghee.		Coommanamalah.
Hurponhully.	Hurponhully.		Yerragoontah.		Roddum.		Daudetotah.
	Hoochungidroog.		Yalumjee.		Goottoor.		
	Munnaramasalavadah		Racutla.		Moonemudgoo.		
	Coonchoor.	Madakaserah.	Madakaserah.		Cottacotah.		
Koodleghee.	Koodleghee.		Senkaragull.		Vengalamacheroo.		
	Hospett.		Rutnagirry.		Bramhanapully.		
	Chithavodagee.		Mootakoor.	Codeconda.	Codeconda.	Dhurmaverum.	Dhurmaverum.
	Narraindavarkerah.		Mathodee.		Hindooporum.		Canamoockalah.
	Cottoor.		Amarapoorum.		Lapatchee.		Culleyandroog.
	Goodacotah.	Ananapoor.	Ananapoor.		Codecondah.		Coondurpy.
	Jaremadah.		Mademedodoy.		Chelamottoor.		Canaganpully.
Hoovenahadagalee.	Hoovenahadagalee.		Coracodoo.		Cunchisamoodrum.		Ramagirry.
	Heralhadagalee.		Coodair.		Condapoorum.		Pairoor.
	Magalah.		Taudmurry.		Boodalee.		Chennacottapully.
	Humpasugur.		Singanamalah.		Paulasamoodrum.		
			Bundamedipully.		Chowloor.	119	Total of the 17 Talooks.
Punchapollem.	Punchapollem.	Gollem.	Gollem.	Adonie.	Adonie.	Yadakee.	Yadakee.
	Putticondah.		Auloor.		Adonie.		Yadakee.
	Penpally.		Huttybelagull.		Naguldinny.		Yadakee.
	Doodacondah.		Gollem.		Cosagee.		Yadakee.
	Pemdiconah.				Cowtall.		Yadakee.
	Tarunckull.				Yameganoor.		Yadakee.
	Cuppatrall.				Polacull.		Yadakee.
	Davanacondah.				Changhee.		Yadakee.
	Muddekerah.						Yadakee.
	Codemore.						Yadakee.
	Moonemudgoo.						Yadakee.
	Jaladoorg.						Yadakee.
	Boongalah.						Yadakee.
	Roncherlah.						Yadakee.

(Signed) C. PELLY,
Magistrate.

Bellary District Magistrate's Office,
Ramandroog, 27th November 1857.

No. 36. From M. MURRAY, Esq., Magistrate of Cuddapah; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 27th November 1857, No. 37.

Sir,

Para. 1. With reference to your Circular letter, No. 1366, under date the 19th October last, in para. 12 of which is stated that the following Circular will be sent to all Magistrates for their opinion as to the mode of bringing Sections I, II, III, IV, V and VI of Act 28 of 1857 into operation, I have the honor to state in reply, that no symptoms of rebellion or ill-feeling have shewed themselves among the people in general, but it is not to be supposed that the whole of the Mahomedan population are favorable to the British rule. There are many, no doubt, who would prefer to see rulers of their own persuasion at the head of affairs instead of the British Government, and as there are a number much too lazy to work and obtain a livelihood for themselves, some would be glad of an opportunity of attempting to better their condition by plunder, but of these, the number is small. The Mahomedan merchants carrying on trade, have found the benefit of the present rule, and security of property, seem to be contented with the present state of affairs. The Hindoos are quiet and show no discontent; the ryots are becoming annually more wealthy, and the capital employed by merchants, chiefly natives, in their commercial transactions, is annually becoming larger, this is shown by the number of Bills drawn by the Accountant General upon this Treasury. A few years ago, the sum amounted to 5 and 6 lacs, but within the last 2 or 3 years, the demand has arisen to 17, and would be much larger, were sufficient funds available in the Treasury to meet their requisition. Merchants have sent up large sums of money in specie from Madras, as they could not obtain bills upon this Treasury, seeing that the people are increasing in wealth, and it may be believed, in confidence in the British Government, it is worthy of consideration whether the issue of an order to register all Arms would not act as a check against this confidence, as it would tend to induce the people to believe that the Government was not so strong as it appeared, and they, under apprehensions from secret information they may possess, had ordered the provisions of the Act to be brought into operation. I am inclined to believe that bringing Sections from I to VI of Act 28 of 1857 into effect would tend to lessen the confidence in the present rule. It may be said, as was done at the late Mohoram, that the Mohamedans would rise, and unfounded reports on this subject were spread far and wide and the arrangements entered into of at once putting down any disturbance, seem to create a feeling that there was truth in the absurd reports that were spread abroad. It is a question of policy whether this feeling should be again revived after having once subsided. If Government will make such arrangements to protect our frontiers from the inroads of the lawless tribes, such as the Rohilahs, peace and quietness will reign and I have no fear of rebellion from the people.

2. There is no manufactory of Arms in the district of Cuddapah, and only in a few villages can they repair the very rude matchlocks now in use. Flint guns, there are a few, chiefly in the hands of Shikaries, who gain their livelihood by shooting game for sale, and wild animals to obtain reward from Government. In 1832, the Mohamedan population of Cuddapah was disarmed after the murder of Mr. Macdonald, and being greatly reduced in circumstances, have been compelled to dispose of their swords and daggers, which had come down to them from their ancestors. There are no manufactories of copper caps nor are there any merchants who make it their trade in dealing in fire-arms or gun powder. The powder used by the people is of a very coarse description and prepared by themselves in small quantities for their immediate use, made in lumps and ground, the strength of which, is by no means great and would not be used by Government, it however answers their purposes as they stealthily approach the animal and give their fire very close.

3. Under the above circumstances, I am of opinion, that carrying out the provisions of the first six Sections of the above Act would be rather prejudicial than otherwise, should however Government arrive at a different conclusion, I shall be prepared to carry out their instructions to the letter.

No. 37. From WILLIAM KNOX, Esq., Acting Magistrate and Agent to the Governor in Ganjam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Berhampore, 28th November 1857, No. 108.

SIR,

1st. Under the instructions contained in Mr. Maltby's letter of the 19th Ultimo, No 1366, I have the honor to submit a report on the desirability of calling for a registry of Arms in this district.

2nd. The first consideration is the natural position of the district. This has so often been brought to the notice of Government during late disturbances, that I need hardly repeat, that surrounded on the Kimedy and Goomsur sides, by semi-savage tribes who wear Arms and delight in plunder, our great object should be, to induce parties to possess themselves of Arms for defence, this in Kimedy is more difficult than any person not acquainted with the people would believe. On the other hand, to attempt to disarm the Khonds and Sowerahs would to attempt an impossibility; and any partial disarming would be of little use. Several of the native officials with whom I have been in correspondence, advocate the taking away of the Arms of such hill men as come down to the plains, but I think this would have little good effect, give rise to much distrust and check the intercourse now springing up between the low country and the hills.

3rd. Leaving the hills, there is still a large portion of the district where jungle prevails and affords ready harbour for wild animals, bears may be seen almost every morning between Ganjam and Rumbah, and Arms are therefore in some measure required by those who travel; the wearing of Arms has also been encouraged by the Zemindars who live in these parts, and who all keep up a number of armed retainers, men who are but too willing to use their Arms at their lord's bidding, particularly if it is merely to take a long shot at an opponent, for they rarely come to close quarters.

4. There are no large towns with the exception of Chicacole, Berhampore and Kimedy calling for particular notice, both the former of these towns are infested with thieves, who are skilled in digging through mud walls and petty plundering, but I do not believe they have any quantity of Arms. Certainly no fire-arms, except those with the Pensioners at Chicacole. In Kimedy the greater number of armed men are dependent on the Zemindar or are peons or their relations.

5. I think within the last 4 years I can see a diminution in the number of persons going armed, and I am happy to say that, except in the hills, the number of murders and aggravated assaults and woundings, by armed men, has been but few, still after recent experience, it would be folly not to act with prudent caution.

6. I have consulted several of the Native officers in the district best able to advise, their opinion is, that the people near the hills should not be disarmed unless the hill people were also deprived of the means of attacking them, this however they admit cannot be done. The Tahsildar of Itchapore alone fears that a general licensing might shake the confidence of the people and give rise to suspicion. No doubt an operation of this delicate nature, unless carried out judiciously and with conciliatory firmness, might give rise to much heart-burning and discontent, but this ought to be avoided by full explanation of the meaning and working of the Act, in fact by making the license to carry arms, a mark of respectability and honor.

7. Taking the portions of the district in the order I have already, observed, I would let the Principal Assistant Agent go through Kimedy, call the villagers together, and explain to them that Government were anxious that they should defend themselves against the Sowerahs, &c., and required that each village should have a certain number of matchlocks, &c., for which licenses would be given. To enable him to do this correctly, the Curnum and Carzee should bring in a return of all the armed men in the village, with the nature of their Arms, and should it appear that any of these were suspicious characters, of course, the license should be withheld. I would require this return to be brought in yearly at the Jummabundy, and in every instance in which parties who had no licenses were proved to have committed any robbery or assault with Arms in their hands, I would dismiss and fine the Curnum and Carzee heavily.

8. In Goomsur, I would call on all the Samusthanum peons to come up under their respective Sirdars, and take out licenses in the first place, and then proceed to register and give licenses to villagers. In each Zemindaree, the Zemindar should be called on to furnish a Return as well of all his own store of arms as of all his armed retainers, with the names of the villages in which they reside, and he should be held responsible for the correctness of these and liable to fine should unlicensed Arms be found in his estate. It appears to me also that there should be a limit grounded on the amount of Peishcush to the number of retainers at the discretion of the licensing officer, the nature of the country and state of the Zemindaree being duly considered.

9. It would be impossible to carry this out very speedily, each European officer in his own range should begin with the villages nearest to him, and whose character stands best for general good conduct, and then, if a few come forward, all will follow. It will, I should say, require 3 months to bring the Act fully into force.

10. If, in the opinion of law officer, a Curnum or Carzee, or a Zemindar and landed proprietor cannot, under Clause II of this Act, be held responsible, I think it would be well to have a Clause to this effect added.

11. There are several pieces of Ordnance in the district, of native manufacture, but there would be no difficulty in at once obliging all the Zemindars to act up to the provision of Section XXVI of the Act.

No. 38. From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Tanjore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vellum, 5th January 1858, No. 5.

SIR,

No. 1366. 1. I have the honor to submit the report required by your Circular, of date the 19th October last, relative to the desirability of calling for a Registry of Arms in the whole of the Tanjore district or in particular towns or places only, and as to the measures I propose for carrying out Sections I to VI of Act 28 of 1857.

2. Inferring that the Government have decided to enforce a Registry of Arms, I abstain from offering an opinion on the measure. Had an opportunity been afforded to me of stating my views, I should have deprecated its adoption in this province. As however, the step is to be taken, I see no reason for exempting any part of the district from the operation of the six first Sections of the Act.

3. The period within which persons possessing Arms should appear for registry, ought not, I think, to be less than two months. Prior to and during that period, I would cause a printed Tamil abstract of the first six Sections of the Act to be widely circulated, and I would require every officer in the Revenue and Police service of Government in the receipt of a salary of 10 Rupees and upwards, to use his best exertions in making known what is required of the inhabitants, and in explaining to them that their own comfort and safety are involved in an arrangement to provide the ruling power with a knowledge of those who have offensive weapons at their disposal.

4. It will not be convenient, I consider, to vest the power of registry in any officer of a grade below that of Thasildar; but during the limited period of two months, these functionaries should be directed specially to visit every part of their talook with the particular object, and that object should previously be made known of receiving from persons having Arms, an intimation of their description and quantity.

5. The inhabitants should also be informed that it will be optional to appear and register their Arms at the office of either member of the Magistracy, or at the Tahsildar's own Cutcherries.

6. I would further intimate that there will be one principal register, and that its place of deposit will be the Magistrate's Cutcherry, but that persons requiring the Certificates mentioned in Section V, are free to apply for them in writing to the Magistrate or to the local Tahsildars or the Joint and Assistant Magistrates, who will transmit to the Magistrate such further application as may be necessary for the issue of the Certificates.

7. In respect of granting the Certificate to carry Arms, which is adverted to in the latter part of Section VI, it will be simply necessary to keep a supply of printed forms in readiness at the offices of the Magistracy, whence they will be issued on application. In practice, the latter system exists at present, though few applications reach the Magistrates in this district.

8. All Arms seized and detained for safe custody should be registered, labelled and sent for deposit in the rooms that can be rendered available for such a purpose in the small fort at Tranquebar.

9. A week will, in my opinion, be an ample period for yielding compliance with provisions of Section 26 of the Act. It will have effect, I believe, in respect of only one person in this district, who I am told has two small Cannons at Tranquebar.

No 39. From WILLIAM FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Moodbedey, 7th January 1858, No. 1.

SIR,

In reply to your Circular, No. 1366, dated 19th October 1857, I have the honor to state for the information of Government, that although I am aware of no present circumstances connected with the district itself which call for a registration of the Arms in the hands of the population, I think that considering the position of Canara on the Map, and the number of people here who have, and are accustomed to use fire-arms, a registry of these weapons is desirable.

2. Swords which are numerous above the Ghauts, might also be registered, but other Arms are not very common.

3. On reference to the records of my office, I find that registers of Arms have been made in former days, and though the orders on this subject were not strictly carried out in the first instance, and soon fell into abeyance afterwards, a registry of Arms can easily be effected, and the arrangement will be one which will neither take the people by surprise, or be even unpopular.

4. In some parts of the district, Arms have been brought to the Talook authorities for registration long after the order on the subject had fallen into general disuse, and the Tahsildars have affixed their seals to the stocks of match-locks, for the mere satisfaction of the owners.

5. In a country so clothed with forests as Canara, a large portion of the population are armed, and in the habit of hunting wild animals either for amusement or for the protection of their cattle and crops; and though in some of the coast Talooks, especially those named in the margin, the number of fire-arms in the hands of the people may not be great, I would include them and prepare a register for the whole district.

Oodapee.
Barcoor.
Mangalore.

6. With reference to the arrangements I would propose for bringing Section I to Section VI, Act XXVIII of 1857, into operation, I think the first thing to do is to issue a proclamation calling on the people to produce correct lists of Arms before the heads of Police of each talook, and pointing out the penalty for wilful neglect of the order.

7. Sections III and IV require no particular observation, but Section V would involve the necessity of carrying the license to go armed whenever a person might have occasion to use his weapons, and this would usually be on hunting expeditions, as a match-lock is seldom seen on other occasions. I would therefore resort to the old practice of letting a seal into the stock of each registered gun or match-lock, as this mark is not liable to be lost or injured, and might always with safety be considered primâ facie evidence of the bearers holding a certificate, until sufficient opportunity had been allowed him to produce it.

8. As regards travellers, it has always been the practice to grant native gentlemen travelling with any retinue or armed followers, a pass, giving his name, a description of his followers, and a list of their Arms; and this might always be granted in addition to the license that each individual bearing arms must hold under previous Sections.

No. 40. From C. WHITTINGHAM, Esq., Collector of North Arcot; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Narrainvaum, 11th January 1858, No. 1.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular letter No. 1366, dated 19th October 1857, directing me to report whether it is desirable to call for a Registry of Arms in the whole of this district or in particular towns and places only.

1 Chittoor.
2 Damalcherry.
3 Maderpauk.
4 Congooody.
5 Chendraghery.
6 Tirpatty.
7 Tertany.
8 Narnanams.
9 Cawripauk.
10 Vellore talook.
11 Vellore town.
12 Arcot.
13 Sarghur.

2. The heads of the 27 Police Divisions were called upon to state their opinion on the advisability of the measure. No reply has been received from six of them, of the remaining 21, eight consider the measure unnecessary; and thirteen, as per margin, advocate it.

The grounds on which the eight first named advocate it are, that the villages under their supervision are in part, or altogether attached to Polliems and Zemindaries, and that the inhabitants are in the practice of carrying arms; but it is not alleged that they make a bad use of them, nor can I see any sufficient reason for making any distinction between Zemindary and Circar villages.

The remaining 5 heads of Police recommend the measure on the ground that some of the towns in their respective ranges are populous, and that as many persons carry Arms, it would be advisable to register them.

3. Not one of the heads of Police who have reported on the subject, has given any sufficient reason in support of his advocacy of the registry; and I am of opinion that none such can be assigned. However desirable it might be that possession of Arms should be confined to the orderly and well-disposed members of the community, I am satisfied that the difficulty, delay, and annoyance that would attend the enforcement of a registry, would have the effect of deterring the well disposed from keeping Arms, and of thus placing them more completely at the mercy of the evil disposed.

4. I have the honor to annex copy of a letter from the Joint Magistrate, stating his opinion on the subject.

From A. W. SULLIVAN, Esq., Joint Magistrate of North Arcot; to C. WHITTINGHAM, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot, dated 7th December 1857, No. 281.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 26th October last, No. 597, and enclosure, I have the honor to state, that I should sooner have replied to it, but that I was desirous of ascertaining quietly through the means of my Police subordinates, whether any necessity at present existed for calling for a Registry of Arms in any of the towns or portions of the sub-division under my charge, under Sections 1 to 6 of Act XXVIII of 1857.

2. So far as I can ascertain, and I believe my information to date to be good, I see no necessity of calling for such a Registry of Arms, nor do I believe that offensive weapons exist to a degree or of a quality to render such a precaution necessary or advisable.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WHITTINGHAM,
Magistrate.

No. 41. From C. J. SHUBRICK, Esq., Magistrate of Chingleput; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Sydapet, 15th January 1858.

SIR

In reply to your Official Memo. of the 7th Instant, calling for the report required in a Circular from your office, No 1366, dated the 19th October last, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that on the receipt of the Circular in question, the necessary orders were issued to the Police officers in this district, to furnish this office with lists of parties in possession of Arms, &c., and from the reports received from the heads of Police of the Sydapet, Teercoporoor, and Manimungalum talooks, it appears that there are about 120 individuals in 35 villages in the first named talook, 230 individuals in 73 villages, in the second, and 132 individuals in 56 villages in the third, in possession of a gun, a sword, or a bayonet. The lists from the other talooks, have not as yet been received; but from what I can judge from those before me, I am of opinion that a Registry of Arms is not called for either in the whole district, or in particular towns. The guns above referred to, are either intended for self-defence or belong to Shikarries who supply the markets of the Presidency, and the adjoining Cantonments with game. To such latter parties, I have granted fresh licenses after having withdrawn those they formerly had. As a matter of form, Proclamations might be issued requiring conformity to Section XXVI; but of its utility, I see no object, as there are no independant Rajahs or Jagheredars of substance or family in the district with armed retainers in their pay, and the returns would probably be blank except from perhaps one or two Mootahdars who may have an old honey-combed gun or two in their possession, more for dignity than use. The population of Chingleput is not armed, as is the case in many of the districts in Bengal and the Upper Provinces; and give rise to no special fears. I see no necessity, therefore for enforcing Sections I to VI unless it is intended to enforce them throughout the other districts when uniformity would be advisable; for, it must be remembered that the penalties attached to the commission of gang robberies by open violence, sufficiently meet the cases of injuries from fire-arms and other weapons in peaceable times, and that the possession of Arms under licence or pass, would not prevent their being used for rebellious purposes, if the parties holding them were so inclined, nothing short of an absolute disarming would meet such a contingency.

I think one month might be allowed for bringing Section XXVI into operation if it is thought to be necessary.

No. 42. From C. W. READE, Esq., Magistrate and Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Saloor, 22nd January 1858, No. 3.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, of date the 19th October 1857, No. 1366, desiring to know my opinion whether the provisions of Sections 1 to 6 of Act XXVIII of 1857, should be enforced generally throughout the whole district or only in particular portions of it, and further what arrangements I would propose, if any are needed to enforce the above 6 Sections. I am also directed to state the period which in my opinion should be allowed to bring into force the provisions of Section XXVI of the said Act.

2. As I considered it expedient that the Act in question should be enforced in respect of all the Zemindary and Proprietary Estates as well as of the Mokassadars, &c., of the Government estates who possess both retainers and arms, orders were immediately issued on receipt of the Government proceedings to the persons enumerated in the accompanying list marked A, intimating the purport of the Act and desiring them to send in their lists within as short a time as possible. Some of these Zemindars and Proprietors who subscribe for the Fort St. George Gazette perfectly understand the meaning and intent of the Act, and they have not only cheerfully furnished lists of the Arms, &c., in their possession for registry, and have expressed themselves willing to receive licenses, but they have also voluntarily engaged to obtain similar lists from their followers and retainers.

3. The accompanying statement marked B shows the particulars of the Arms &c., possessed by the persons who have already sent in lists for registry accompanied by applications for licenses, and Government will observe that in no case is the quantity in excess of the reasonable requirements of the individual, and I am of opinion that this quantity is no more than really necessary for their personal protection and that of their respective properties.

4. There are no large or populous towns in this district with the exception of the 4 noted in the margin,* of these, the three last named are held by their respective Zemindars or Proprietors, while Vizagapatam, the Cusbah of the district alone belongs to Government. This town is inhabited by several landed proprietors and by other wealthy people in respect of whom the provisions of the Act will also be enforced. The Act has been published throughout the entire district, and Sections, 1 to 6 can gradually be brought into operation without any difficulty, two months time might I think, be allowed from the date of the final orders of Government on the subject, the province being composed of hills and jungle tracts inhabited for the most part by a semi-civilized population.

*1 Vizagapatam.
2 Vizianagrum.
3 Parvateepoor.
4 Ankapilly.

5. The penalties quoted in Sections 1 to 6 for all who transgress the law will be carefully promulgated, and they do not in my judgment require any alteration.

A.

Statement shewing the several Zemindars and Proprietors and chief Mocassadars in Government Estates of the Vizagapatam District, who possess Arms and retainers.

Number.	Zemindars.	Number.	Proprietors.	Number.	Government Estates.	Remarks.
1	Zemindar of Vizianagrum	1	Proprietor of Ankapilly &c.	1	Palcondah Head of Police.	
2	do of Bobbely	2	,, Waltair.	2	Golgondah Tahsildar.	
3	do of Jeypoor	3	,, PeddaGoomooloor.	3	Survasiddy do.	
4	do of Madgole	4	,, Woorutlah.	4	Vizagapatam Head of Police.	
5	do of Marunghy	5	,, Cossimcottah.	5	All Heads of Police in the Zemindary and Proprietary Estates.	
6	do of Sungumvulsah	6	,, Nuckapilly &c.,			
7	do of Belgam	7	,, Seerepoorum.			
8	do of Salloor	8	,, Cheepoorapilly.			
9	do of Coorpaum	9	,, Appecondah.			
10	do of Chamoodoo	10	,, Edoolapauka Bonunghy.			Note! Requiring them to report who, in their respective talooks should be called upon to submit lists with applications for Licenses.
11	do of Patchepenta	11	,, Coorada Condiahvulsah.			
12	do of Andra	12	,, Mamedevadah.			
		13	,, Woongaradah &c.			
		14	,, Cheedecadah and Juggunnadaporum.			
		15	,, Ravadah.			
		16	,, Sharemohommedpoorum.			

Vizagapatam District, Saloor, Magistrate and Government Agent's Office, 22nd January 1858.

(Signed) CHARLES READE,
Magistrate and Agent to the Govr.

B.

Statement shewing the number of Arms in possession of the undermentioned Zemindars and Proprietors, as per their detailed lists furnished to the Governor's Agent.

Number.	Names of Estate.	Names of Zemindars and Proprietors.	Guns.	Muskets.	Pistols.	Pikes.	Swords.	Daggers.	Arrows and Quivers.	Creeses, &c.	Chacras.	Gudgahs.	Total.	To be retained in their holding.	Remarks.
1	Vizianagrum	Stree Poosapaty Vizeeramagajapate Raj Maharaj	24	412	31	173	167	0	223	0	5	2	839	839	Of these 24 guns, 4 only are stated to be serviceable, and the other 20 unserviceable.
2	Madgole	Cristnabhoopate Deo	0	10	0	10	45	0	0	0	0	0	73	73	
3	Maringhy	Satroocherla Jugunnatha Raj	2	37	0	4	25	0	0	0	0	0	68	68	It is stated that these 3 guns are small ones, used during the Dusserah.
4	Sungumvulsah	Mroottinjaya Nessencooloo	0	15	0	18	19	9	223	8	0	0	86	86	
5	Belgam	Stree Veeravora Todaramalloo Viswenchara- tatraj	1	9	0	4	14	0	0	0	0	0	28	28	
6	Woongaradah, &c	Rayadupparow	0	20	0	27	6	0	51	0	0	0	104	104	
7	Scripoorum	Inoogunty Seetaramaswamy	0	17	0	27	11	0	51	0	0	0	98	98	
8	Ankapilly	G. Jaukiah	0	62	0	54	13	0	63	0	0	0	191	191	
9	Nuckapilly	G. Naraingajapati Row	0	41	0	63	11	0	4	0	0	0	127	127	Of the guns 5 are small ones, used on festival occasions.
10	Shairmahanudpoorum	G. Bungarumah	8	53	0	35	13	0	5	0	0	0	159	159	
11	Woorutlah	S. Soobadriah	0	28	0	0	41	0	8	0	0	0	115	115	
12	Waltair	M. Venkutnarain Row	0	22	0	12	2	0	5	0	0	0	10	10	The gun is stated to be a small one used on festival occasions.
13	Chepooroopilly	G. Venkutnarain Row	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	19	19	
14	Peddagoomooloor	G. Reddy	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	9	
15	Cooradah Condiarulsah	C. Rajagopal Row	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	6	
16	Appecondah	Minor proprietor's Guardian, M. Yenbariah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	

Zemindars who have not yet sent in their lists of Arms.

1 Bobily.
2 Jeyapore.
3 Saloor.
4 Coorpaum.
5 Chamoodoo.
6 Andra.
7 Cassimcottah.
8 Edoolapaka Bonunghy.
9 Mamidivadah.
10 Cheedecadah and Jugunathapoorum.
11 Ravadah.
12 Patchipentah.

} There may be some difficulty in getting lists from Jeypoor, but the others will no doubt be sent in very shortly.

Vizagapatam District, Saloor, Magistrate's and Govt. Agent's Circuit Office, 22nd January 1858.

(Signed) CHARLES READE,
Mag. and Agent to the Govr.

No. 43. From H. WOOD, Esq., Magistrate of Guntoor; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Innacondah, 23rd January 1858, No. 1.

SIR,

In reply to a Circular in the Judicial Department, No. 1366, of the 19th October last, I have the honor to state for the information of Government that I consider the Registry of Arms throughout the whole district a very desirable measure.

2. Arms belonging to parties residing in the Cusbah town might be registered in the Magistrate's office, whilst those owned by parties residing in the talooks might be carried to account by the heads of Police; a copy of registry being forwarded to the Magistracy for record.

3. It appears to me that a period of 3 months might be allowed to enable parties to conform to the orders contained in Section XXVI of Act No. XXVIII of 1857.

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, No. 360; dated 17th March 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

2. The above letters are the replies made by the Magistrates of the several districts, to the enquiry made of them by Circular, under date 19th October 1857, on the putting in force within their Zillahs, the provisions of Sections I, VI and XXVI, Act XXVIII, 1857.

3. The opinions of the various Magistrates upon the subject are much divided. Some advocate the enforcement of these provisions, others regard their introduction as unnecessary or inexpedient.

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council observes that the Registry of Arms has been brought into operation in the town of Madras.

5. He is not prepared at present to extend the measure to the provinces.

Ordered therefore that the consideration of the above reports do lie over.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Precis of replies of the Magistrates to the Circular, calling for their opinion respecting the registry of arms in their districts

Letter dated 29 Oct/57
No 28.

The Offg Agent to the Governor at Plymouth considers it desirable to call for a Registry of arms in the whole district in preference to particular towns or places only; and recommends that Secs: I to VII of Act XXVIII of 1837 be brought into operation by a specific notice calling upon parties to register their Arms within say three months He intimates that being at the time impressed with the absolute necessity of disarming all dangerous characters, he had, as a measure of safety to the public, directed the Heads of Police to open a Registry, and to recommend for permits, those only in whom could be trusted, confiscating the arms of parties concerned in any crime. He is of opinion that not less than 30 days' notice may be sufficient to comply with the provisions

provisions of Sec: XXII, but observes that he is not aware of there being a Common Howitzer or Mortar of any description in his district.

The Acting Magistrate of South Arcot states, that if it be determined to extend the provisions of Sec: 1 & VII of Act XXVIII of 1857, and to call for a registry of arms throughout this Presidency generally, he is not of opinion that any portion of his district ought to be exempted. His recent appointment to the district does not enable him to speak from personal observation, but he is informed that on more than one occasion, within the last few years, serious loss of life has occurred and a considerable amount of property plundered by the unlawful use of deadly weapons in caste disputes. He is also given to understand that numerous honourable avocations and other turbulent characters among cultivators and inhabitants of the jungle in particular, victoriously furnish professional robbers for purposes plunder and dacoity. Without reference before present political events, it seems Mr Taylor, that the proposed registration arms is a desirable measure viewed only

Letter dated 29 Oct/57 No 356.

only with respect to the ordinary preservation of the Peace of the Province. The Joint Magistrate, he states, is however of opinion, that the call for a registry of arms in possession of private individuals is unnecessary and would create an alarm in the minds of the people which does not now exist. But it seems to the Acting Magistrate, that no well disposed person can reasonably object to give notice to the Magistrate of the arms in his possession, provided he be not subjected to loss and inconvenience by unnecessary detention from his business or his home. Certificates are in fact, he adds, now granted annually, at the Summahkenny, to Shikarries and others who apply for permission to use fire-arms for the destruction of tigers and other beasts of prey under the act, he observes, this practice will be extended and will receive the sanction of the law. The arrangements that Mr Taylor would propose for carry out the provisions of Secs: 1 & VII of the Act are - that the greatest possible publicity should in the first instance be given to the order of Government extending

19

extending these sections to the entire district, - that a period of six weeks, after publication of the order of Govt. in each Town or Village, be allowed as the limit within which the written notices specified in Sec: I should be given, personally or otherwise, to the respective - and that certificates be given only after the Magistrate has satisfied himself, by reference if necessary to the Talook Police officers, that the applicant can safely be left with arms in his possession. It is probable, Mr Taylor states, that the Registry will be very imperfect and the order not strictly attended to within the prescribed period, but, he thinks, there can be no doubt that the Registry so far as it may be extended to go, will consciously fall into the hands of the Magistracy. - The Acting Magistrate is disposed to think that 6 weeks after the publication of the Order of Govt. will be sufficient time to allow for complying with the provisions of Sec: 26 of the Act. He is led to believe that there are very few cannons of any description in the District.

The Magistrate of Trichinopoly is

Letter dated 13 Nov/67
No 141.

of opinion that there is nothing in the political or social state of the province to make necessary the putting in force of the first six sections of Act XXVIII of 1867. The people of the town of Trichinopoly itself and of the whole district, he states, have behaved so loyally & well during the last months of trial & anxiety that he should be sorry to see them called upon for a registry of arms or require to do any thing indicating a distrust of them. He furnishes a return, as per margin, obtained from the several Talooks, showing approximately the number of arms supposed to be possessed by the inhabitants of the entire province. The number, he remarks, is not great when distributed among a population of more than eight hundred thousand souls. - Sec: XXVI seems useless, & quite inapplicable to the Southern districts where the manufacture or use of Cannon, Howetzer or Mortar is unknown to the people, and of consequence gives rise to no opinion. The period specified in the section in the event of no term being fixed, he adds, seems time sufficient.

Firearms 590 - Pistols 129 - Bayonets 49 - Swords 1002 - Shields 621 - Shields heads 39 - Daggers 382

The

The Magistrate of Tinnevelly does not consider it necessary, at present, to issue Letter dated 3d Nov/57 No 881.
orders under Act XXVIII of 1857, and
There are numerous Zemindars in the District who, with their dependants, possess a few guns and matchlocks and shot-guns, but these weapons, Mr Dillon observes, are chiefly, if not altogether, kept for the purpose of hunting. The Zemindars generally, the Shanars, are quiet and well disposed, their conduct having undergone a great change for the better, in this respect, from what it was in former years. He recommends that any decision appeal is heard of in which the defendants of any of the Zemindarees concerned. As regards Sec XIII of the Act, the Magistrate does not believe that there is in the possession of any one in the District any kind of ordnance worth the name of a cannon.

The Magistrate of Coimbatore is of opinion that it would be highly desirable to call for a general registry of arms throughout the whole district. There is scarcely the slightest hardship inflicted on individuals in requiring them to obtain permission to retain their arms, whilst at the same time the registration would afford useful information

Letter dated 3d Nov/57 No 85

as to the authorities as to the general distribution of arms in the district and the classes who have unlicensedly provided themselves with them, and operate as a wholesome check against their recent accumulation for purposes hostile to the use of society. The arrangements he would suggest for carrying out the provisions of the Act would be to open a general register at the Kuzzoor Cutcherry, of which he should publish a notice and direct Tahsildars to make the order known:- applications to be made in the first instance, to the Tahsildars of the Talooks and by them to be referred to the quarters with a list of the applicants & what is known of their general character. It would then, he proceeds, upon this report or on the result of other enquiries, receive or withhold the license. Mr Thomas would allow one month to all hunters for sending in their applications, and a similar period for complying with the provisions of Sec: XXVI.

Letter dated 28 Nov/57 No 767.

The Acting Magistrate of Malabar

conditions it highly expedient that the registry of Arms required by Act XXVIII of 1857, should extend over the whole District, and be put in force with as little delay as possible. The registry of Arms in the County, Mr Robinson states, is of more importance than in the Towns. The latter are occupied by trading classes, who are, and always have been, well affected. In the county the population, Hindoo & Mussulman, is of a formidable character. It is a well known a country naturally very disorderly, where houses are of considerable strength enclosed by high earthen walls. Mr Robinson would except no class in the County. He further considers it most desirable to restrict the number of offensive weapons distributed among the people, & what is necessary for ordinary purposes of defence in times of peace. In carrying out the provisions of the Act he proposes to address a circular to the Rajahs and principal inhabitants, stating the provisions of the Act, with a few words of explanation and advice, and enquire them to make returns within

a certain short period (10 days) of all weapons in their possession. The ordinary ryots will be required by proclamation to make a return of his weapons to the Adigharry of his village. A register will then be opened, in each Talook for the registry of arms of all descriptions. Every licenced weapon, the Magistrate thinks, must be stamped in such a way as the Govt. may direct & all newly manufactured weapons should be stamped before they leave the makers' hands. Mr Robinson requests sanction for the entertainment of itinerating Tomashahs in each Talook who should proceed to the different districts with an assistant (Peon & Smith) & there examine, register, and stamp every species of weapon without necessitating attendance at the Talook Office. One monthly he recommends, should be given for complying with the provisions of Secs: XXVI of the Act.

(Letter dated 31 Aug 1857 (No 1134.)

The Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam states that were he asked, he would have advocated the propriety of not extending Secs: 1 to 6 of Act XXVIII of 1857 any part of this

this district. But as the question has not been put in a form to give such a reply, he would state that he does not think it necessary to extend these rules to the whole district. The inhabitants of these hills, he remarks, are generally very awkward with and unused to fire-arms, and the facilities to poach therein are well known by shikarrees, - a number of Ruckahapen people who are, by the tenure of the land, required to have matchlocks for a few hangers on in each Zemindar's retinue. The scarcity of sulphur which can be so easily maintained is, he believes, a sufficient check upon these people to far more than the restrictions as to Parwanah in cases. Mr Knox does not believe that there is a flint-lock gun in the district save among Govt. officers & perhaps as a curiosity with 2 or 3 of the richer Zemindars. He proposes only to include within the towns of Vizianagram & Ellore under the Act. The Acting Magistrate would require every man having fire arms, bayonet, swords or steel to produce them before him

and receive from him a certificate, of which he would retain a duplicate, describing the weapon & the private marks on it, and in the case of a Proprietor or Zemindar, he would allow him a certificate for his entire stock with the names of his retainers entitled to use them. Mr Knox would arrange this in Vizianagram in Nov: & do the same for Ellore when on circuit there in Decr. As for sec: 26, he feels sure there is no howitzer or Mortar in the District. He does not know of any cannon there; it is probable that some of the ancient Zemindars have an old gun used perhaps on state occasions for salutes and dangerous only to the man who fires it. The time necessary to be allowed is of no moment for he is sure a license may be given to any body having such articles in their possession.

Letter dated 10th Oct/57
No 1148

The Commissioner of Police for the Town of Madras, is decidedly of opinion, that under present circum-

stances

Persons who reside in the smaller villages may be required to register their arms at the nearest Summabundy. In this case the order requiring the people to register, he suggests, would be published in every village thro' the village Cummums and Choultries. Persons belonging to the Mootah can be required to register at the same period on notice previously given thro' the village Choultries. A week's time Mr Brett thinks is enough to allow for compliance with the provisions of Sec: XXVI.

Letter dated 19 Nov 1857 No 42.

Having asked the opinion of all his subordinates, the Magistrate of Nellore states, that it appears to be considered that the number of Arms in the district is not large, except in the Zemindari portions where they are usually kept for purposes of self defence against any robbery from the west, or as a sign of distinction by wealthy landowners. The people of Nellore are not, as in some Countries, Mr Elton remarks, in the habit of drawing deadly weapons in private quarrels, neither are they likely to make attacks on the neighbouring districts for purposes of Gang robbery, but are much more likely to be attacked by them as experience shews. They are, he considers, kept bold and warlike them in living other places in southern India

statutes, it is desirable to call for a registry of arms and offensive weapons of every description in possession of all persons residing within the Local limits of the Presidency Town. Within the municipal limits he proposes as the publication of a notification requiring the registry. The most at the office of the Commissioner of Police the appointment of certain days on which the registry in each of the seven Police Divisions will be made and the appointment of an intelligent Clerk to take the registry &c. He also forwards a form of certificate of the Registry.

The Magistrate of Salem thinks it best to register all the Arms in the district. There is, he states, probably a large number of Arms in the hands of persons residing among the agricultural class there in their chief towns. A large number of persons who reside in the Mootahs and Polliems carry arms as defence against on the Mootahdars and Polligars, who Brett proposes that the registry in the towns should be made by the hands of Police Station officers. In each town a week may be allowed from the date on which the order requiring the persons to register is published in the towns.

Letter dated 17 Nov 1857 No 397.

The Joint Magistrates thinks, Mr Wilson states, that even in the Zemindaries no sufficient advantage will be obtained by enforcing a Registry of Arms, to counterbalance the evils which such a measure may give rise. He considers that it could only be carried out by domiciliary visits of the Police which he fears would be a fruitful source of exaction on the part of the lower officers who would have to be entrusted with the duty. The Magistrate is himself of opinion that under the circumstances of the Province at the present time non of whatever description demand that Arms should be the provisions of Sec: 26 of the Act should become a dead letter.

He considers, he brought into effect and that two months will be sufficient time for the people complying with its provisions should in order to allow time to get Licenses from the Presidency, otherwise one month would be sufficient.

The Magistrate of Rajahmundry states in his letter of 17th Nov 1858 that in his opinion the registry of arms should be called for from the whole of his district. In bringing the sections of the Act into operation he all that seems to him necessary is to give for all possible publicity to their provisions and to the order of the Executive Govt. declaring them

in force. The period within which the registry should be made, should not, he thinks, be less than fifteen days from the date of the publication of the order in the district. On the receipt of the notice the Magistrate would proceed as laid down in Sec: 111 of the Act, in cases where they have no ground for believing that the arms are likely to be used by disturbers of the public peace have not in unreasonable quantities. In carry out the provisions of Sec 11 & 16 and in enforcing the penalty laid down in the former the Magistrate, Mr Purvis observes, will require discretion some little discretion, and care must be taken to guard against the enactment being turned to bad use by the subordinate officers of Police. The Magistrate is of opinion that a period of 15 days may be allowed for complying with the provisions of Sec: XXII of the Act when it is brought into operation As far as the district of Rajahmundry is concerned it will be, he states, almost a dead letter, for he does not believe there is a serviceable Cannon, howitzer or Mortar within it.

The Magistrate of Cuddalore sees no imme- Letter dated 26 Nov/57
diate necessity for causing a registry of Arms as the No 35
District was never in a more quiet and tranquil state
than at present and the people have shewn no symp-
toms of rebellion. However should the Government
wish to know the number of fire arms, swords,
Daggers &c within the different provinces forming
the Presidency of Madras they may call for a Register.
The mode of registry he would propose would be
to order the heads of the different villages to give
a list shewing the names of the different individuals
who possess any of the offensive weapons stated
above together with the number and to transmit
it to the Head of Police of the Taluk in which the
village is situated, each list being signed by the
Reddies & Curnums jointly who are to be held an-
swerable for its correctness. These lists being col-
lected are to be forwarded to the Magistrate and then
to Govt. The time to be allowed, he suggests, for
completing the lists may be stated at one or two
months. The Magistrate adds that the fire locks
in general use throughout the Provinces are of
the very rudest description being chiefly matchlocks
and the powder used is manufactured by the
Ryotties themselves in small quantities as required.
The number of swords, daggers and knives are
very numerous & those who can wear one
in their belts do so more for show than for use.

In a letter of subsequent date the same Letter dated 27 Nov/57
Magistrate (Cuddalore) reports, in regard to the No 37

questions put to him respecting the bringing into
operation of Secs: 1 & 2 of Act XXVIII of 1857, that no
symptoms of rebellion or ill-feeling
have shewed themselves among the people in
general, but that it is not to be supposed that
the whole of the Mahomedan population are
favorable to the British rule; there are many no
doubt, he observes, who would prefer to see rulers of their
own persuasion at the head of affairs instead of the
British Government, and as there are a number such
as easy to work and obtain a livelihood for themselves
some would be glad of an opportunity of attempting
to better their condition by plunder, but of these the
number is small. The Mahomedan merchants
seem to be contented with the present state of
affairs & the Hindoos are quiet & shew no discontent,
and the gentlemen are unanimous in declaring moreover that,
being that the people are unarmed in wealthy
(Mr Murray has read it) and it may be believed
in confidence in the British Government, it is
worthy of consideration whether the issue of an
order to register all arms would not act as a check
against this confidence as it would tend to induce
the people to believe that Govt. was not so strong
as it appeared to be, and that they had, under the
apprehensions from secret information, ordered
the provisions of the Act to be brought into operation.
The Magistrate is inclined to believe that being
Secs: 1 & 2 into effect would tend to lessen the con-
fidence in the present rule. If the Govt. will
be stated, make such arrangements to protect

our frontiers from the inroads of the lawless tribes such as the Rohilahs, Beaus and gooicotys will reign and be fears no rebellion from the people. There is no manufactory of arms in the district of Cuddapah and only in a few villages can they repair the very rude matchlocks now in use. Still gunsmiths there are a few, chiefly in the hands of Mukkanis who gain their livelihood by shooting game for sale, and wild animals to obtain reward from Govt. The inhabitants being generally reduced in circumstances, since the late Mahomedan persecution, have been compelled to dispose of their swords and daggers which had come down to them from their ancestors. There are no manufactories of copper caps nor are there any merchants who make it their trade in dealing in fire-arms or gunpowder. The powder used by the people is of a very coarse description and prepared by themselves in small quantities for their immediate use and the strength of which is by no means great. Under these circumstances the Magistrate is of opinion that carrying out the first six sections of the Act would be rather prejudicial than otherwise.

The Magistrate states that the population of the Madras District is split into parties so hostile to one another that any combination is believed to be difficult of formation its character moreover is very peaceful as a body they are unused to firearms and destitute of the ordinary weapons

Letter dated 24 Nov/57 No 156.

of defence. Such a thing as a Gang robbery effected with the use of weapons is rarely heard of. And where they have been used, it has generally been found that the robbers came from Cumerelly. The Cullers, who are the most turbulent Class in the District, confine themselves in their attacks upon property, to the use of bill hooks, and have been unarmed with fire arms, and their returns are generally surrounded with these weapons within the last 5 years however the possession of fire arms has become more common. Generally the increase was checked by a rule that then prevailed, of stamping them with the Magistrate's seal but on the cessation of this custom the manufacture of matchlocks became common, and these weapons were introduced into the District, the principal possessors however being the inhabitants of the villages in the vicinity of the Hills where stones is procurable. Having thus

on this shews that the circumstances of the
su District do not particularly call for the
an suspension of the Act. the Magistrate
is proceeds to consider the arrangements
an necessary to its general application.
ver There is nothing in the size or the
the character of the inhabitants he alleges
w to call for the restriction of the
su Act to the towns only. It should be
to introduced universally. Owners of
co Guns, of Native or European manu-
w facture, should be called upon
th in writing two months, to register them
u and the old practice of affixing the
fo Circar seal to the Locks of Match
Locks and Muskets not otherwise
g distinguishable of identification might
su be resorted to. The owners should
ta have "permits" given them. Guns
of foreign manufacture, so procured
only by Zemindars, should be registered
in the Magistrate's Office by petition
describing Calibre &c. and stating
the makers name. Their Spears,
Swords, and daggers, might be
stamped with a special stamp, in
the Talooks the number being
noted to the Magistrate's Cowle of the

in their Charges, who would generally
keep registers. These Weapons, when
in the possession of other parties
might be stamped either in the
Talook, or at the Hoozoor, as might
best suit the owners. It would
be advisable in all cases to give
a Certificate of the Registry. Very
little powder of European manufac-
ture, and but a small quantity of
inferior percussion caps are, the
Magistrate states to be licensed, to
be found for sale in the towns.
All Armed travellers, should obtain
a license which would serve as
a Passport. But as all arms
should be registered, it would be
unnecessary to enforce this on persons
journeying in the District. An
intended departure from the Dis-
trict is generally known privately,
and a safeguard would excite
no demand for the Exhibition
of the license being made upon
all entering a District. The
Magistrate sees no reasons for
enforcing Registry amongst
European

European residents be declared
advisable they could be called
upon to register their Arms as
stated above. Mentioning by letter
Calibre, name of Maker &c.
Mr Hathaway remarks that the
population of Pondicherry
is peaceful, but there is a class
of Chaundars holding hereditary
lands upon a Military Service, (since
(now no longer required of them)
which is habituated to the use
of Spears, daggers and other
lethal weapons. This Class should
especially be called upon by Proc
Clamation to register its Arms at
the Offices of the Ministers and
the Arms should be stamped &
Registered of the guns and cannon in
the possession of the Raja and
his dependants should be made,
And a special Report on the subject
if necessary forwarded to Government
One fortnights notice would suffice
to parties affected by Section XXVI

The Magistrate of Cuddalore states that Letter dated 9th January 1858
although he is aware of no recent circumstances

2d

connected with the District itself, which could form
any indication of the army, still he thinks that con-
sidering the geographical position of Cuddalore &
the number of people there who possess and are
accustomed to use such weapons, a registry of them
is desirable. Swords, he suggests, might also be
registered as they are numerous about the Offices,
but other arms, he adds, are not very common.

On a reference to the records of this office,
Mr Stokes finds, that registries of arms had been
kept in former days, and although the orders on
this subject were not strictly carried out and
soon fell into abeyance, still he is of opinion
that registration of them may be now easily effected
and that the arrangements for that purpose will unite
take the people by surprise nor be even unpopular
in some parts of the district, arms have been
brought to the Collector authorities for registration
long after the orders referred to had fallen into
general disuse, and the Tahsildars fixed their
scale of the Stamps of Rupees according to the
satisfaction of the owners. In bringing into
XXVII of the Act into operation the Magistrate
thinks that the first thing to be done is to issue
a Proclamation calling on the people to produce
correct lists of arms before the Heads of
Police, pointing out the penalty for wilful
neglect of the order. Section V he observes, in-
volves the necessity of carrying about the License
& go armed whenever a person may

ou frame a cessation to use his weapon, and this would
su happen usually on hunting expeditions as a
an matchlock is seldom seen at other times. Mr
is Fisher would therefore revert to the old practice
an of letting a seal into the stock of each registered
ve gun or matchlock as this mark is not liable
th to be lost or injured and the seal may always with safety
re be considered prima facie evidence of the person
se holding a certificate. It has always been the
bo custom, Mr Fisher adds, to grant native gentlemen travelling with
co any retinue or armed followers a pass giving his
n name, a description of his followers and a list of
th their arms, and this, he suggests, may still be
to granted in addition to the license that each in-
n dividual bearing arms must hold.

The Magistrate of Chingleput reports that a letter dated 15th March 188:
on the receipt of the Circular, the necessary orders
were issued to the Police officers in his district to
furnish him with a list of Pariahs in possession
of arms &c & from the reports received from the
Dy Supdt, Tirovallore and Chamiarmangalam Taluks
it appears that there are about 170 individuals
in 35 villages in the first ~~Taluk~~, 220 in
73 villages in the second and 182 in 56 villages in
the third above named Talooks in possession of
a gun, a sword or a bayonet. The lists from the
other Talooks have not been received, but Mr
Chadwick is of opinion that a registry of arms
is not called for either in the whole district
or in particular towns, except for their sake

of uniformity if the practice be introduced
throughout the other districts. It must be re-
membered, he adds, that the penalties attached
to the commission of many Robberies by open
violence sufficiently meet the cases of injuries
from fire arms and other weapons in peaceable
times and that possession of arms under these
or Pass would not prevent their being used for
rebellious purposes, if the parties holding them
were so inclined. Nothing short of an absolute
disarming would meet the contingency. The
guns above referred to are either retained for self
defence or belong to Shikarries who supply
the markets of the Presidency & the adjoining
Cantonments with game. To such parties
the Registrate states he has granted fresh
licences after withdrawing those they formerly
held.

As a matter of form, Mr Chadwick suggests Proclamations might be issued requiring in conformity to Sec: XXVI, but of its utility he sees no object as there are no independent rajahs or jaghiredars of substance or family in the district with armed retainers in their pay & the returns would probably be blank except from perhaps one or two Mootahdars who may have an old honey combed gun or two in their possession more for dignity than use. He thinks one month might be allowed for bringing this section into operation.

The Magistrate of Guntoor conceives the registry of arms throughout the whole district a very desirable measure. Arms belonging to hunters residing in the cushbah town might be registered in the Magistrate's office, whilst those owned by parties residing in the Talooks might be carried to account by the Heads of Police, a copy of registry being forwarded to the Magistracy for record. It appears to Mr Wood that a period of 3 months might be allowed to enable parties to conform to the orders contained in Sec: XXVI of Act XXVIII of 1837.

Letter dated 23d January 1838.

Informing that the Govt. have decided to enforce a registry of arms, the Acting Magistrate of Tanjore abstains from offering an opinion on the measure. Had an opportunity been afforded him of stating his views, he should have deprecated its adoption in the Province of Tanjore. But as the step is to be taken he sees no reason for exempting any part of the district from the operation of the 1st six Secs: of the Act. The period within which persons possessing arms should obtain for registry, ought not, he thinks, to be less than two months. Prior to and during that period Mr Phillips would cause a printed Tamil abstract of the first six Secs: of the act to be widely circulated and he would require every officer in the Revenue and Police service of Govt. in the receipt of a salary of 10 Rupees and upwards to use his best endeavours in making known what is required of the inhabitants and in explaining to them that their own

Letter dated 5th June 1838.

comfort

comfort and safety are involved in an arrangement to provide the ruling power with a knowledge of those who have offensive weapons at their disposal. It will not be convenient, he considers to vest the power of registry in any officer of a grade below that of Tahsildar; but during the limited period of two months, these functionaries should be directed specially to visit every part of their Talook with the particular object, and that object should previously be made known, of preserving from persons having arms, an intimation of their description and quantity. The inhabitants should also be informed that it will be optional to appear and register their arms at the Office of either member of the Magistracy or at the Tahsildars' own Cutcheries. Mr Phillips would further intimate that there will be one principal register and that its place of deposit will be the Magistrates Cutcherry, but that persons requiring the Certificates mentioned in Section V are free to apply for them in writing to the Magistrate or to the local Tahsildars, or the Joint and Assistant Magistrates, who will transmit to the Magistrate such further application as may be necessary for the issue of the Certificates. In respect of granting the certificate to carry Arms which is adverted

to

to in the latter part of Section VI, it will be simply necessary the Magistrate observes to keep a supply of printed forms in readiness, at the offices of the Magistracy, whence they will be issued on application. In practice the latter system exists at present, though few applications reach the Magistrates in the Tanjore District.

All Arms seized and detained for safe custody should be registered, labelled and sent for deposit in the rooms that can be rendered available for such a purpose in the small Fort at Trangambar.

A Fortnight will, in Mr Phillips' opinion be an ample period for yielding compliance with provisions of Section 21. of the Act. It will have effect, he believes, in respect of only one person in this District who he is told has two small Cannons at Trangambar.

The Magistrate of North Arcot states that the Heads of the 27 Police Divisions were called upon to state their opinion on the advisability of carrying into effect for a registry of Arms. No reply has been received from six of them. Of the remaining 21, eight consider the measure unnecessary, and thirteen as per margin, advocate it. The grounds on which the eight first named advocate it are, that the Villages under their supervision are in part, or altogether attached to Polliems and Zemindaries, and that the inhabitants are in the practice of carrying Arms, but it is not alleged that they make a bad use of them, nor can Mr Whittingham see any sufficient reason for making any distinction between Zemindary and Circar Villages. The remaining 5 Heads of Police recommend the measure on the ground that some of the towns in their respective ranges are populous, and that as many persons carry Arms, it would be advisable to register them. Not one of the Heads of Police who have reported on the subject the Magistrate states, has given any sufficient reason in support of his advocacy of the registry, and he is of opinion that none such can be assigned. However desirable it might be that possession of Arms should be confined to the orderly and well disposed members of the Community, he is satisfied that the difficulty, delay and annoyance, that would attend the enforcement of a registry, would have the effect of deterring the well disposed from keeping Arms, and of thus placing them more completely at the mercy of the evil disposed. The Magistrate encloses a letter from

Letter dated 11th Jany 1858

1 Chittoor
2 Dummalcherra
3 Nadendanuk
4 Cungoondy
5 Chandragherry
6 Tripatchy
7 Tertany
8 Narainnaum
9 Cauveripauk
10 Vellore Taluck
11 Vellore Town
12 Arnee
13 Satghur

119 in all

* The Joint Magistrate wherein he states that he sees no reason for calling for a registry of Arms.

Letter dated 27th Nov. 1857.

The Magistrate of Bellary is of opinion that it is not desirable to call for a registry of Arms in the whole of his District but that if necessary at all, the registry should be confined to the towns and principal Villages, as per List submitted by him. The

arrangement

arrangements he would propose for bringing Sections I to VI of the Act XXVIII of 1857 into operation are as follows. The Village Authorities, under instructions from the Tahsildars of the Taluk, should require all persons in their respective Villages, to give in person a list of all Arms in their possession. The Commune should then prepare a Register and forward it to the Tahsildar, by whom it should be sent to the Magistrate. The Village Authorities should be empowered to exact a trifling penalty not exceeding ½ Rupee in the first instance, upon persons neglecting to report, within a week after notice has been given, the Arms in his possession, and if further delay takes place, to report to the Tahsildar, who should send him to the Magistrate to be dealt with under Sec: II of the Act. If the provisions of the Act are to be put in force, though he has thought it sufficient to confine it to particular places, he would suggest that the Magistrate have authority to extend it to any other localities, should he deem it at any time expedient to do so.

The Provisions of Sec: XXVI will not be applicable to Bellary, as there are no persons possessed of Cannon &c in the District, and all that would be necessary with respect to that Section, would be to give notice, that a license is necessary for the possession or manufacture of such. The

Registry

Letter dated 28/Nov/57.

Registry in the Military Cantonment, at Bellary the Magistrate adds, might properly be made under the orders of the Officer Commanding the station.

The first consideration the Acting Magistrate of Gangam states is the natural position of the district, this has so often been brought to the notice of Government, during late disturbances, that he considers it hardly necessary to repeat, that surrounded on the Kistnedy and Goomsoor sides, by some savage tribes who wear Arms and delight in plunder, one great object should be, to induce parties to possess themselves of Arms for defence. This in Kistnedy is more difficult than any person not acquainted with the people would believe. On the other hand, to attempt to disarm the Khonds and Sowrahs would be to attempt an impossibility, and any partial disarming would be of little use. Several of the native Officials with whom Mr Knox has been in correspondence, advocate the taking away of the arms of such hill-men as come down to the plain but he thinks this would have little good effect, would give rise to much distrust, and check the intercourse now springing up between the low Country and the Hills. Leaving the hills, there is still a large portion of the district where jungle prevails and affords ready harbour for wild animals. Bears may be seen

almost

almost every morning between Gunjam and Rumbah, and arms are therefore in some measure required by those who travel. The wearing of arms has also been encouraged by the Kemmidars who live in these parts, and who all keep up a number of armed retainers, men who are but too willing to use their Arms at their Lord's bidding particularly if it is merely to take a long shot at an opponent, for they rarely come to close quarters. There are no large towns with the exception of Chicacole, Berhampore and Russelly calling for particular notice both the former of these towns are infested with thieves, who are skilled in digging the mud walls and petty plundering; but Mr. Knox does not believe they have any quantity of Arms, Certainly no fire Arms, except those with the pensioners at Chicacole. In Russelly the greater number of armed men are dependant on the Kemmidar or are peons or their relations.

The Magistrate thinks that within the last 4 years he can see a deminution in the number of persons going armed, and he is happy to say that, except in the Hills, the number of murders and aggravated assault and woundings, by Armed men, has been but few, still after recent experience, it would be folly not to act with prudent caution. He states that the

opinion of several of the Native Officers in the District best able to advise is, that the people near the Hills should not be disarmed unless the Hill people were also deprived of the means of attacking them. This however they admit cannot be done. The Tahsildar of Itchapore alone fears that a general licensing, might shake the confidence of the people and give rise to suspicion. No doubt, the Magistrate proceeds, an operation of this description, unless carried out judiciously and with conciliatory measures, might give rise to much heart burning and discontent, but this ought to be avoided by full explanation of the meaning and working of the Act, in fact by making the license to carry arms, a mark of respectability and honor. Taking the portions of the district in the order, he has already observed he would let the Principal Assistant Agent go thro' Russelly, call the Villagers together, and explain to them that Government are anxious that they should defend themselves against the Zemindars &c. and requires that each Village should have a certain number of Matchlocks &c. for which licenses would be given. To enable him to do this correctly, Mr. Knox proposes, that the Curnums and Carjee should bring in a return of all the Armed men in

the

the pillage with the nature of their Arms, and should it appear that any of these were suspicious characters of course, the license should be withheld. He would require this return to be brought in yearly at the Immunabmoy, and in every instance in which parties who had no licenses were proved to have committed any robbery or Assault with Arms in their hands, he would dismiss and fine the Curnum and Cargee heavily. In Coonsur he would call on all the Saunsthanum Peons to come up under their respective Sirdars, and take out licenses in the first place, and then proceed to register and give licenses to Villagers. In each Zemmidaree, the Zemmidar, should be called on to furnish a return as well of all his own store of Arms, as of all his Armed retainers; with the names of the Villages in which they reside, and he should be held responsible for the correctness of these and liable to fine should unlicensed Arms be found in his Estate. It appears to Mr Thorp also that there should be a limit grounded on the Amount of pishcush to the number of retainers at the discretion of the licensing Officer, the nature of the country and state of the Zemmidaree being duly considered. It would be impossible to carry this out very speedily. Each

European

European Officer in his own range should begin with the Villages nearest to him, and whose character stands best for general good conduct, and then, if a few come forward, all will follow. It will, the Magistrate would say, require 3 Months to bring the Act fully into force. If, in the opinion of Law Officer, a Curnum or Cargee, or a Zemmidar and landed proprietor, cannot under Clause II of this Act be held responsible he thinks it would be well to have a Clause to this effect added. There are several pieces of Ordnance in the district of native manufacture but there would be no difficulty in at once obliging all the Zemmidars to act up to the provision of Section XXVII of the Act.

Letter dated 22d January/58.

As the Magistrate at Vizagapatam considered it expedient that the Act in question should be enforced in respect of all the Zemmindary and Proprietory estates as well as of the Mokhasadars &c. of the Government estates who possess both retainers and Arms, orders were immediately issued on receipt of the Government Proceedings to the persons enumerated in the list accompanying his letter, marked A, intimating the purport of the Act and desiring them to send in their lists within as short a time as possible. Some of these Zemmidars and Proprietors who subscribe for the Fort St George Gazette, Mr Reade states perfectly understand the meaning and intent of the Act and they have not only cheerfully

Immediately

furnished lists of the Arms &c. in their possession for registery, and have expressed themselves willing to receive licences, but they have also voluntarily engaged to obtain similar lists from their followers and retainers. The statement marked B which accompanies the Magistrate's letter shows the particulars of the Arms &c. possessed by the persons who have already sent in lists for registery accompanied by applications for licenses, and it will be observed that in no case is the quantity in excess of the reasonable requirements of the individual; and the Magistrate is of opinion that this quantity is no more than really necessary for their personal protection and that of their respective properties. There are no large or populous Towns in this District with the exception of the 4 noted in the Margin, of these, the three last named are held by their respective Zemindars or Proprietors, while Vizagapatam, the Cutcherry of the District alone belongs to Government. This Town is inhabited by several landed Proprietors, and by other wealthy people in respect of whom the provisions of the Act will also be enforced. The Act has been published throughout the entire District and Sections 4 to 6 can gradually be brought

* 1 Vizagapatam
2 Vizianagaram
3 Parvatipoor
4 Anakapilly

brought into operation without any difficulty, Two months time might be allowed from the date of the final orders of Government on the subject, the Province being composed of Hills and jungle tracts inhabited for the most part by a semi-civilized population. The penalties quoted in Section 16 to 18 for all who transgress the Law will be carefully promulgated, and they do not in his judgement require any alteration

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded. —

2. The above letters are the replies made by the Magistrates of the several Districts, to the enquiry made of them by the Circular under date 19th October 1857, on the subject in force within their Zillahs the provisions of Sections I. VII and XXVII Act XXVIII 1857. —

3. The opinions of the various Magistrates upon the subject are much divided — Some advocate the enforcement of these provisions others regard their introduction as unnecessary or inexpedient. —

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council observes — that the registry of Births has been brought into operation in the Town of Madras. —

5. He is not prepared at present to extend the measure to the provinces. — Ordered therefore that the consideration of the above reports do lie over.

JP

Precis of replies of the Magistrates to the circular calling for their opinion respecting the registry of arms in their Districts.

Items –

On the 19th Nov last the Govt addressed the Govt of India on the subject of putting in force Sects I to VI and XXVI of Act XXVIII 1857 or the Arms Act – They desired a direction in carrying out the first dirs sections of the Act in the Provinces, but would at once give them effect in the Town of Madras: They would also draw attention to Sect XXVI or that relating to the Licensing or Numbering of Carriages throughout the Presidency —

The Supreme Govt (letter 28th Dec 57) left this Govt

C25 Feb
A5 March

al liberty to act in the matter as they thought fit - with this sole caution that they were not to introduce the act unless they had sufficient means at their command to ensure or put down all opposition -

The Act has thereupon been put in force throughout the Town of Madras -

The accompanying papers are the replies of the several Magistrates to a circular from Govt calling upon them for their opinion as to the carrying out of the provisions of 51 — VI & XXVI of the Act within their several Districts - A precis of their answers has also been drawn up - It will be seen that they differ

mate - Some are in favor of putting in force these sections - others are altogether opposed to it -

Those who would carry these sections into effect differ also widely as to the period to be allowed for the expiry of arms - Some would give three months, others only one -

J.P

5.2.58

I think there is no necessity there for proclaiming a registry of arms at present - Moreover I am disposed to question whether it would be expedient to make it general - under the present circumstances - I have it already in

C25 Feb
A5 March

The only District Judge of Coimbatore at present - a Native Gentleman - but the Judge attempted [illegible] entirety of supervising the Courts by any apprehension.

A

I think that some restriction on the possession & bearing of arms is very necessary in a Country like this. But to this end the attempt that cannot be carried out effectually & peremptorily. The people of Malabar have been disarmed already: how to [illegible] to have a good register of the arms in Salem & Calicut, Salem & Cuddapah where so many robberies take place [illegible]

C 25 Feb
R 5 March

Most robbers are armed. Only in Chingleput Cudgels - Dacoity attack by the Police well...

C 25 Feb
R 5 March

Judicial Depart.

No. 380

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 17th March 1858.

Read the following

Letters: —

From the Comm.r of Police — 1st December 30th Oct.r 1857 No. 2439
From the Magistrate of Salem — " — 17th Nov.r — " — 399
From the Magistrate of Tellore — " — 19 — " — " — 412.
From the Magistrate of Rajahmundry — " — 21st — " — " — 365.
From the Act.g Collector of Madura — " — 24th — " — " — 150.
From the Magistrate of Cuddapah — " — 26th — " — " — 36.
From the Magistrate of Bellary — " — 27th — " — " — 46.
From the Magistrate of Cuddapah — " — 27th — " — " — 37.
From the Act.g Agent to the Governor in Sangam — " — 28th — " — " — 108
From the Ag.t Magistrate of Sangam. — " — 5th Jan.y 1858 — 5
From the Magistrate of Canara. — " — 4th — " — " — 1.
From the Magistrate of North Arcot — " — 11th — " — " — 1.
From the Magistrate of Chingleput — " — 15th — " — " — 6
From the Magistrate and Agent to the Governor in Vizagapatam — " — 22nd — " — " — 3
From the Magistrate of Guntoor — " — 25 — " — " — 1.

Ordered

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded. —

2. The above letters are the replies made by the Magistrates of the several Districts, to the enquiry made of them by the Circular under date 19th October 1857, on the subject in force within their Zillahs the provisions of Sections I. VI. and XXVII Act XXVIII 1857. —

3. The opinions of the various Magistrates upon the subject are much divided — Some advocate the enforcement of these provisions others regard their introduction as unnecessary or inexpedient. —

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council observes that the propriety of

has been brought into operation in the Town of Madras. —

5. He is not prepared at present to extend the measure to the provinces. — Ordered therefore that the consideration of the above reports do lie over.

JP

In H.M. Cons: 19th March

Judl. Stat. Engd. 30th June
1859 - Para 9

Judicial 1858. Separate

No 360

Extract Minute of Cons

19/17 March 1858.

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