

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
14th May 1861.*

No. 81. Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Magistrate of Nellore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Krishnāpatnam, 13th April 1861, No. 15.

With reference to paragraph 2 of Proceedings of Madras Government, Judicial Department, No. 1,198, under date the 18th September last, and under the provisions of Section IV, Act No. XXXI of 1860, I have the honor to forward for the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, translation of a communication to my address from the Zémindár of Venkatagiri, soliciting the permission of Government to retain in his keeping the cannon and other arms, enumerated in the accompanying list, translation of which is also forwarded herewith.

2. The Zémindár bases his request on the grounds, that some of the arms are required for the protection of person and property; some on occasions of public rejoicing, &c., and, thirdly, that the destruction of arms, which have been in the possession of his ancestors, since the grant of the Istimírā Sannad would be a personal degradation, painful to his feelings; and on these grounds, and with reference to the good character borne by the Zémindár, I have the honor to recommend that he may be permitted to retain in his keeping the arms, &c., enumerated in the enclosed list, and that he be accordingly granted a license for the purpose, under Act No. XXXI of 1860, on payment of the authorized fee of 50 Rupees.

3. The list does not show either the quantity or description of ammunition at present in the Zémindár's possession. Detailed information on this point has been called for, and should the Government be pleased to comply with the Zémindár's request, I would respectfully recommend that the permission should be accompanied with such proviso, as may seem requisite, with regard to the ammunition that he is authorized to have in his possession.

From RAJAH VALUGOTI KUMARA YACHAMA NAYUDU BAHADAR VAR, to
J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of the District of Nellore, dated Venkatagiri, 2nd
February 1861.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor under date the 27th September 1860, containing a requisition to the effect that a Statement should be forwarded of cannons and arms in the possession of the Estate, with explanations of their different uses, and that an application for a License might be sent accompanied by a fee of 50 Rupees.

1. The arms, which were acquired in the life time of my ancestors, who held a position of dignity, save those that were rendered useless, are now in our keeping.

2. No new ones were made in my time. Further, it is evident that no necessity exists at present for having new ones made; nor is it likely that there will ever occur an occasion for us to abet those who make them.

3. A list of the several arms with explanations as to their various uses, has been prepared agreeably to your orders and forwarded for your perusal.

4. That the various arms embodied in the list, with a proportionate quantity of powder, bullets and shots are indispensably necessary on the following occasions, you can easily conceive;—Dasara, New year's day, and similar days of festivity, Christening, Marriage, Coronation, Bestowal of Khillats and Titles, Day of Victory achieved by the Government, Interviews with Collectors and other Officials, and festivals of Gods. In addition to these, arms are requisite for my Body Guards at my residence in Venkatagiri (being situated in the vicinity of thick forests infested with wild beasts and robbers); at Granaries existing in every Village; at the Túlúq and Huzúr Treasuries; for guards at Temples containing golden and silver vehicles, ornaments of decoration and Treasure; for convoys accompanying remittances from the Villages to the Túlúqs, and thence to the Huzúr.

5. From the time of my ancestors downwards, these arms have been applied for the purposes prescribed to them at the beginning; and it is my belief that you will confirm the honors conferred upon your dependant allies, and protect me from the infamy of destroying or selling those arms in my time.

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6. I have therefore the honor to request earnestly that you will grant a license or document of permission, and allow me to apply those arms for the purposes for which they have been set apart from the time the Istimir Sannad was conferred on the Estate.

(True translation.)

(Signed) J. W. B. DYKES,
Magistrate.

No. 82. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1861, No. 634.

From the list of arms forwarded with the above letter, it appears that the Zemindar of Vencatagherry in the Nellore District has in his possession eighty-nine pieces of ordnance described as cannon, field pieces, and mortars. He has also, besides other weapons as swords, pistols, spears, &c., upwards of eight hundred muskets.

2. Of these pieces of ordnance some are said to be required for the purpose of being fired on ceremonial occasions. Others were mounted for the defence of the Zemindar's Forts in troublous times and have remained there ever since. The muskets and other small arms are stated to be needed for the destruction of wild animals, to repel attacks of robbers, for protection of the Zemindar's treasuries, &c.

3. The Zemindar prays that he may be allowed to retain all these arms, on the ground that they are in part required for the protection of his property, and that to deprive him of any of them would be an indignity to him, and wound his feelings.

4. The Government regret that they cannot accede to this request. They are most unwilling to do any thing which could be unpleasant to the Zemindar, but the public security must be paramount, and it clearly would be most imprudent to allow these arms to remain as at present. They do not question the Zemindar's loyalty and attachment to the British Government, but in the event of any popular excitement he might not be able to prevent these cannon and other weapons being turned to evil purposes.

5. Under these circumstances the Government will permit the Zemindar to retain any two pieces of ordnance which he may select, for firing salutes on festivals, but the whole of the rest must at once be given up, and either burst, or sent down to the Arsenal at Madras if worth sending. The cannon, &c., will be appraised in due course under orders of the Principal Commissary of Ordnance at Madras, and their value paid to the Zemindar.

6. The Magistrate will report to Government the number and description of muskets and small arms which the Zemindar may be allowed to retain for the protection of his houses, Talook Cutcherries and Treasuries. The remainder must be given up and their value will be made good to the Zemindar.

7. The Magistrates of other Districts in which there are any great Zemindars will report what weapons, large or small, they have severally in their possession, and what course should be taken in respect to them.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Judicial Dept.

No. of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letter
from the Magistrate of Nellore.

/H.E. 13 April 1861. No. 151.

Order thereon, 14th May 1861, No. 634.

From the list of Arms forwarded with the above letter, it appears that the Zemindar of Vencatagherry in the Nellore District has in his possession 89 pieces of Ordnance described as Cannon, field pieces, and mortars. He has also, besides other weapons as swords, pistols, spears &c., upwards of eight hundred muskets.

2. Of these pieces of Ordnance some are said to be required for the purpose of being fired on ceremonial occasions. Others were mounted for the defence of the Zemindar's Forts in troublous times and have remained there ever since. The muskets and

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to repel attacks of robbers
for protection of the Zemindar's
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and that to deprive him
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an indignity to him, and
wound his feelings. —

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to the Zemindar, but the
public security must be
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to allow these Arms to
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JF

Inspector General,
Principal Commissioner of Ordnance
Magazine, 1st Dist.
Magistrate of Nellore.

Madura ✓

North Arcot. - ✓

Virajapalam.

Masulipatam

Kistna ✓

Godavary. ✓

Ganjapur

Dec/15-5-61

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