

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY *Mis*

G.O., No. 16922

Confidential No 132

DATED 13-8-95-95

[Despatch Abstract.]

Arms and ammunition

Approving proposals of the Govt. Agent, Godavari,
to require all possessors of rifled arms in the
Agency to take out licenses for them and to
open registers for all non-rifled arms.

CONFIDENTIAL.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	56	Con	1895				
	152	Con	1894				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Confidential
No 9.

Godavari District
Special Asst. Agent's Office
Rajahmundry, Dated 9.7.95

From

C. G. Spencer Esquire
Special Asst. Agent
Godavari

To

The Collector & District Magistrate
Godavari.

Sir,

With reference to your letter Extraordinary No. 4 of 95 dated 19.2.95 directing me to make confidential enquiries as to the extent to which non-sporting rifles have come into the possession of Natives of India, I have the honor to state that my subordinate Magistrates have reported the following number of rifles to be in the possession of Natives of the Agency:—

Bhadrachalam Taluk	non-sporting rifles	4
Polavaram Division	none	
Chodavaram Division		4
Yellavaram Division		2
Total		10

2. The above rifles are now used for sporting

purposes, but as non-sporting rifles have not been defined and as I have not been able to personally examine each of the arms in question, the figures may require some modification. They would no doubt be equally serviceable in warfare. One rifle which I saw belonging to an inhabitant of Waddi-gudem in Bhadrachalam Taluk was a military carbine with lever action. The other three are said to be of a similar description. One of them belongs to a Koya of Dummagudem. The Muttadar of Musurumilli in Chodavaram showed me a Winchester repeating rifle which, I suppose, comes under the definition of non-sporting rifle. If time be given to make more systematic enquiries, probably 4 or 5 more rifles which have escaped the Sub-Magistrate's notice would be found.

3. The Scheduled Districts have been withdrawn from the operation of all prohibitions and directions of the Arms Act ^{save} ~~save~~ in respect to rifled arms and cannon and those directions contained in sections 12 & 25. I cannot find a definition of "rifled arms" anywhere in the Arms Act, but I presume that according to the ordinary meaning of the word "a rifled arm" may be taken to denote a weapon of any description with spiral grooves in the interior of the barrel that have the effect of giving the bullet a spinning motion

when projected thus improving the accuracy of its flight.

4. Hitherto no distinction seems to have been made between rifles and smooth-bore guns in the Agency and no steps taken to prohibit the importation or possession of the former. This may be due to the fact that the notifications under the Act were not revised and published in their present form until May 1st 1894.

I therefore request your orders as to whether it is necessary to take any steps with regard to the rifles already imported and now in the possession of inhabitants of Agency, as previously no license has been required.

5. Besides rifles, and besides the antiquated match locks that about one in every five hillmen carry, there are reported to be 19 guns in Bhadrachalam Taluk and 70 guns in Rampa. Most of these guns are muzzle loading guns discharged by means of percussion caps and commonly known as "Tower muskets," though a few are breach loading smooth-bores. I think it probable that the number has been considerably understated. The number of Tower muskets in Rampa can fall little short of 200.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant
(Signed) C. G. Spencer

Special Asst. Agent & Magistrate

(True Copy)

Ref on Ex. Conf. Cur No 12 of 25.7.95 JUDICIAL DEPT. NO. 3653

Submitted to the Chief Secretary to Government in C No. 1523 of 20.8.95

Continuation of this office letter Extra Conf. Dis No 2 dated the 21st March 1895.

2. With reference to para 4 cl. 2 of the Special Asst. Agent's letter I propose if Government has no objection to direct the Special Assistant Agent to insist on all ~~possessions~~^{possession} of rifled fire-arms in the Agency taking ~~out~~^{out} licenses for the same and to make it known generally hereafter that for such weapons licenses are required in the Agency tracts.

3. As regards Tower muskets & smooth-bore generally, as the law stands, the provisions of the Arms Act cannot be applied to them but it would be well to maintain registers of all such weapons and their possessors in the different Agency divisions and I propose to direct the Special Assistant Agent to have such opened.

Godavari District
Collector & Magistrate
Office Cocanada.
25th July 1895

Decurated
Acting Collector
and District Magistrate

Judicial Dept

CURRENT NO. 3653

Revenue {1895} Department.

From

The Collector, Dt. Nagre
Godavari District.

Ref. on Ex. Comp. Current No 12

Dated 25th

Despatched 26th

Received 31st

Regd 1st Aug

Enc. Nil.

SUBJECT.

Submitting with

remarks Special Asst.

Agents' letter reporting

on the number of Non-

spotting rifles in the

possession of private

persons in the Agency

tracts of the Godavari Dt.

Cor. 56/95

15/8/95

Arms list rules

H. M.

Mis

Order of 13th August 1895, No. 1692

The proposals of the
District Magistrate in paras. 2 &
3 of his indt. on the 4th
last Agents' letter are approved.

15/8/95

for the forwarde 12/8

Note

As the Govt. of India have
informed in G.O. 879-880
27.4.95 that the
info obtained re the number of
non-spotting rifles in this Pres.
was "admittedly incomplete",
but that further enquiries
would be instituted if
necessary, there seems no
necessity to communicate to it
the particulars reported in
the present letter.

Cor.
g.g.

There is no use in giving information
presented 12/10/95.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for Signature.

Despatched.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

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C.F. 73.

DEPARTMENT.

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