

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3194

DATED 30th July 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communicating with remarks to the B.S. of Revenue G.O. (Judicial)
reviewing the reports on the working of the Indian Arms act and the
~~Explosives~~ Explosives act during 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
200	4194/97						

10.5058
27-9-97

Revenue 1898 Department

Government (1898) of Madras. JUDICIAL.

Recd. 25 July

Regd. 25

} 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1073, 11th July 1898.

JULY.

Indian Arms Act.

Reviewing reports on the working of the —, 1878, and the Explosives Act, 1884, during the year 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

Reports from all District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police, Madras, &c.

Extract from a letter from the Acting District Magistrate, Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 29th March 1898, No. 498.

7. In G.O., No. 1261, Judicial, dated 7th August 1896, the Government observed that the right to exemption as paiks or retainers of zamindars under rule 1 (9) of the rules under the Act seemed to have been too widely interpreted. From inquiries and observation I have little doubt that this is the case, but I am not aware exactly how widely the Government wishes it to be interpreted. Practically I find that all servants and employes of exempted persons claim exemption, and that so-called paiks, who live at a great distance from the zamindar's residence and seldom or never are called on to attend him, also enjoy the same privilege. I do not think there is any reason why they should, and I consider that it would be quite sufficient if the immediate personal attendants of exempted persons, including, of course, the body guards which some of them maintain, were allowed exemption. Persons who merely hold paiks' service inams and do practically no paik duty should not be allowed to carry arms without license. If the Government approves this principle, I will call on all the zamindars to furnish a list of retainers for whom they claim exemption and will decide their claims each on its own merits.

ORDER—No. 1073, Judicial, dated 11th July 1898.

There was again a general want of punctuality in the submission of these reports.

Cuddapah—3rd May.

Kurnool—5th

Nellore—10th

The reports from four districts only (Bellary, Gódvári, Kistna and Madras) were received by the prescribed date, viz., 1st April, and in the case of the three marginally-noted districts, the delay exceeded a month.

2. The statement appearing as Appendix I to this proceedings exhibits the number and description of the licenses issued during the year under review in each district of the Presidency under the Arms Act and the rules issued thereunder. The total number of these licenses amounted to 72,703, the highest figure on record.

The following table gives particulars of the principal forms of licenses issued during the past five years:—

Year.	Form VI.	Form VII.	Form VIII.	Form X.	Form XI.	Licenses to possess gunpowder and fuses for blasting.	Total of all classes of licenses.
1892	354	229					
1893	363	246	48,262	295	2,697		
1894	364	245	51,790	316	2,827	7,809	60,185
1895	371	269	54,477	388	2,434	7,096	63,269
1896	378	256	58,194	243	1,785	9,584	68,218
1897	372	236	62,607	178	774	4,974	66,618
			66,843	154	861	3,865	68,849
						3,504	72,703

* The figures entered under these headings in the report for 1896 are now reported by the District Magistrate of Kistna to be incorrect.

The variations in the several districts between the figures for 1897 and those for the preceding year are shown in the subjoined abstract:—

Districts.	Form VI.	Form VII.	Form VIII.	Form X.	Form XI.	Licenses to possess gunpowder and fuses for blasting.
1. Anantapur	— 2	+ 1	+ 369	+ 4	— 1	— 5
2. Arcot, North		+ 1	40			— 5
3. Arcot, South		— 2	192			
4. Bellary			171	+ 5	+ 2	+ 12
5. Canara, South	+ 2		1526	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4
6. Chingleput		— 2	374			+ 5
7. Coimbatore			261			373
8. Cuddapah		— 1	279	— 4	— 18	— 2
9. Gánjám			76			
10. Gódvári	— 2		44			
11. Kistna			245			
12. Kurnool			20			
13. Madras	+ 4		29	+ 1		+ 1
14. Madura	+ 3		749			+ 11
15. Malabar	+ 1	+ 1	232		+ 71	+ 7
16. Nellore	+ 1		8			8
17. Nilgiris			22			
18. Salem		+ 2	415			
19. Tanjore			33	+ 31	+ 41	
20. Tinnevely			116		+ 1	
21. Trichinopoly	+ 6	+ 1	132			+ 6
22. Vizagapatam			11		+ 3	+ 1
Total	— 6	— 20	+ 4,236	— 24	+ 87	— 361

3. Nearly 92 per cent. of the total number of licenses issued during the year were in Form VIII, which covers the possession of arms and ammunition and the going armed for purposes of sport, protection or display. An increase in the number of these licenses is noticeable in all but seven districts, the largest advance having occurred in South Canara (1,526) and Madura (749). The rise is in most instances attributed to greater vigilance on the part of the authorities in enforcing the provisions of the law. The Government notes that the District Magistrate of Madura is taking steps to restrict the issue of licenses in this form in his district. The number of licenses in this form issued in North Arcot, Cuddapah, Salem and Malabar is very large. In the two former districts wild beasts are not so numerous that the possession of fire-arms is frequently necessary for the protection of crops or persons. In Salem and Malabar wild beasts are more common, but the number of licenses issued seems still inordinately great. The District Magistrates of these districts will be requested to give their attention to the matter.

4. The remark of the District Magistrate of South Canara that no person has been empowered by the Local Government to disarm summarily persons going armed without a license, and his inquiry as to whether licenses in Form IX can be issued for long periods and without any limit as to distances, have been noted. Separate orders will be passed on these points.

5. The scheme laid down in G.O., No. 813, dated 4th May 1896, for the grant and renewal of licenses in Form VIII has been in operation in all but two districts of the Presidency, and its working appears, on the whole, to have been attended with satisfactory results. It is reported that, owing to the non-receipt of the necessary registers from the Government Press, it was not found possible to introduce the system in Trichinopoly and in certain taluks of the Salem district. The attention of the Superintendent, Government Press, will be drawn to the matter, and he will be requested to expedite the supply of the registers.

6. In paragraph 8 of his report, the District Magistrate of South Canara raises the questions whether licenses to repairers of arms should be issued in Form X or Form VI, and whether arms covered by licenses in Form VIII in previous years can, in any subsequent year, be possessed under a license in Form X. With reference to the

first question, the attention of the District Magistrate will be drawn to the resolution of the Government of India communicated with G.O., No. 4, dated 5th January 1892, from which he will see that no license is required for merely carrying on the business of repairing arms; and as regards the second, rule 15 of the rules framed under the Arms Act distinctly authorizes such possession, and the Government sees no sufficient reason for imposing any restrictions in this respect.

7. The Government is entirely in accord with the views expressed by the Agent to the Governor in Vizagapatam in paragraph 7 of his report in regard to the classes of retainers who should be allowed exemption under paragraph I (9) of the rules issued under the Indian Arms Act.

8. The decline in the number of licenses for possession of gunpowder and fuses for blasting, noticeable since 1895, continued during the year under report. The variations, however, were less marked than in the preceding year. The whole of the decrease occurred in Coimbatore (373) where, owing to the more favourable character of the season, the use of explosives for the purpose of deepening agricultural wells declined.

9. Licenses under the Indian Explosives Act were, as before, issued in only four districts, and statistics relating thereto, which call for no remarks, are given in Appendix II to these proceedings. The rules relating to the manufacture, possession and sale of explosives were not extended to other districts until about the end of the third quarter of 1897, and no applications for licenses under them appear to have been received before the close of the year. Information should be furnished in the current year's reports as to the extent to which the provisions of the Explosives Rules have been resorted to in the several districts of the Presidency.

10. Inspections of licensed shops were, on the whole, good and were repeated at sufficient intervals. They were particularly satisfactory in Coimbatore, Ganjam, Madras and Tanjore, where almost all the shops were visited by the police and the magistracy. The extent to which this duty was neglected in each district is indicated in the subjoined statement:—

Districts.	Number of shops licensed in Forms VI and VII.	Number of instances in which Inspectors of Police failed to inspect in the				Total for the year.	Number of omissions on the part of	
		First quarter.	Second quarter.	Third quarter.	Fourth quarter.		Superior officers of police.	The magistracy.
1. Anantapur..	4	..	..	3	..	3	4	..
2. Arcot, North	26	..	1	1	..	2	2	..
3. Arcot, South	38	8	..	1	..	9	2	2
4. Bellary ..	12	1	4	2	2	9	2	5
5. Canara, South	66	4	..	..	2	6	2	..
6. Chingleput	10	1	..	..	1	2	..	..
7. Coimbatore	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Cuddapah	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
9. Ganjam ..	27	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
10. Godavari	30	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Kistna ..	15	..	..	5	..	7	..	4
12. Kurnool ..	4	..	..	2	..	2	..	1
13. Madras ..	21	1	2	..	..	3	1	..
14. Madura ..	47	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
15. Malabar ..	32	1	1	..	..	2	6	1
16. Nellore ..	13	2	2	..	1	5	3	5
17. Nilgiris ..	4	3	..	1	..	4	4	1
18. Salem ..	49	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
19. Tanjore ..	62	1	..	..	3	4	7	2
20. Tinnevely	44	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
21. Trichinopoly	47	7	2	4	1	14	6	5
22. Vizagapatam	18	1	..	..	1	2	1	3
Total ..	597	34	12	19	12	77	43	25
Total for 1896 ..	634	39	28	32	10	109	32	55
Total for 1895 ..	640	55	28	34	20	137	53	48

Inspections by the magistracy were complete in thirteen districts, in three other cases there was only one shop left unvisited. The only instance in which the superior officers of police failed to make any inspection was in Anantapur. The attention of the Inspector-General of Police will be drawn to the matter.

Inspections of shops licensed under the Explosives Act were also duly performed except in Malabar, where nine shops were left unvisited by the superior officers of police.

11. Fewer persons were prosecuted for offences against the Arms Act and the rules framed thereunder, viz., 412 against 489 in 1896; but a larger proportion of them were convicted—80 per cent. as against 76 in the previous year. Prosecutions were most frequent in Coimbatore (115). Almost all the persons convicted were punished by fines which rarely exceeded Rs. 20. The District Magistrate of Anantapur states that complaints in two cases were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, on the ground that the possession of a sword or spear is not an offence under the Arms Act. It will be pointed out to the District Magistrate that spears alone are excluded from this operation of the Act in this Presidency under rule II of the rules framed by the Government of India.

Ten prosecutions were instituted for offences against the Explosives Act and the rules made thereunder against two in 1896, and all the cases ended in conviction.

12. The following defects are noticeable in the District Magistrates' reports:—

(a) In Cuddapah and Ganjam—either Schedule A or B has been submitted in manuscript or in the obsolete form.

(b) Kurnool.—Schedule A shows that no license was issued in Form IX in 1896, but one such license appears in the return submitted for that year.

(c) Tinnevely.—The total entered in column 6 of Schedule A is incorrect, the figure being 2,577 and not 2,563 as shown therein. The necessary correction has been made in the statement appearing as Appendix I to these proceedings.

(d) Malabar.—Particulars relating to prosecutions under the Indian Arms and Explosives Acts have not been furnished.

(e) The Nilgiris.—No information has been given as to the inspections of shops licensed under the Explosives Act.

(True Extract.)

J. J. J.
Chief Secretary.

To all District Magistrates.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
" the Inspector-General of Police.
" the Superintendent, Government Press.
Editors' Table.

[Appendix.

APPENDIX I.

Districts.	Form II. Licenses to transport arms, ammunition or military stores in British India.	Form III. Licenses to import arms, ammunition or military stores into the ports of Madras and Calcutta.	Form IV. Licenses to export arms, ammunition or military stores by sea from the Port of Madras.	Form V. Licenses to export arms, ammunition or military stores beyond the limits of British India either by land or river.	Form VI. Licenses to manufacture, convert, sell or keep arms, ammunition or military stores.	Form VII. Licenses to keep and sell arms, ammuni- tion or military stores.	Form VIII. Licenses to possess arms and ammunition, and to go armed for purposes of sport, protection or display.	Form IX. Licenses to possess fire-arms, ammunition or military stores in a district which has not been disarmed.	Form X. Licenses to possess arms and ammunition for the purpose of destroying wild animals.	Form XI. Licenses to possess and transport gun- powder and fuses for <i>bona fide</i> blasting purposes (India Resolution, dated 30th September 1881, recorded in G.O., No. 2114, dated 13th November 1881).	Licenses to import and export without transshipment of arms, &c., in the port of Madras.	15 Total.	16 Number of licenses in Form XI produced before the Magistrate in accordance with Rule 16 of the rules under the Indian Arms Act.
Anantapur ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1,604	..	..	6	..	1,621	..
Arcot, North ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6911	..	..	2	..	6,939	..
Arcot, South ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8,323	..	..	14	..	8,361	..
Bellary ..	..	..	..	..	..	12	2,076	..	..	16	..	2,113	..
Canara, South ..	19	..	..	..	..	19	4,261	6	..	12	..	4,439	308
Chingleput ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3,238	1	..	3,063	..	3,282	..
Coinabatore ..	..	..	..	..	..	26	2,728	..	..	..	..	2,822	..
Cuddapah ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4,668	1	..	..	..	4,700	47
Ganjam ..	..	..	..	..	..	12	874	..	..	..	..	1,007	..
Godavari ..	..	..	..	..	..	15	1,704	..	..	..	..	1,736	..
Kistna ..	1	..	..	..	..	11	3,477	..	..	..	..	3,498	..
Karnool ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,006	..	..	..	..	1,010	..
Madras ..	132	107	..	380	..	17	823	1	..	179	3	1,175	..
Malabar ..	..	..	2	..	..	13	4,833	..	..	124	..	4,504	154
Nellore ..	26	1	..	..	..	28	9,725	49	..	24	..	9,959	..
Nilgiris ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1,400	..	..	33	..	1,417	..
Salun ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	81	8	..	34	..	282	681
Tanjore ..	..	..	..	..	..	15	6,113	78	..	2	..	6,636	1,035
Tinnevely ..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3,264	..	..	..	..	3,326	..
Trochinopoly ..	..	..	..	..	..	18	2,530	..	..	..	..	2,577	..
Vizagapatam ..	..	..	..	..	..	11	2,221	..	..	..	..	2,258	..
Total ..	178	108	2	380	372	236	66,813	50	164	8,601	3	72,703	2,116
1890 ..	152	82	..	408	878	266	62,607	49	178	3,555	1	68,819	2,316

APPENDIX II.

LICENCES issued under the Explosives Act during 1897.

Serial Number.	Districts.	Form A. Licenses to manufacture, sell and possess explo- sives under Rule 8 of the Explosives Rules.	Form B. Licenses to sell and pos- sess explosives under Rule 8 of the Explosives Rules.	Form C. Licenses to possess explo- sives under Rule 8 of the Explosives Rules.	Form D. Licenses to possess explo- sives under Rule 14 of the Explosives Rules.	Form E. Licenses to possess explo- sives under Rule 17.	Form F. Licenses to sell explo- sives under Rule 23 of the Explosives Rules.	Form A. Licenses to import explo- sives under the rules regarding importation.	Total.
1	Coimbatore ..	92	108	..	..	1	..	..	201
2	Madras ..	13	177	..	..	4	4	65	263
3	Malabar ..	25	51	160	..	..	1	32	269
4	Nilgiris ..	..	29	..	27	3	..	..	59
	Total ..	130	365	160	27	8	5	97	792
	1896 ..	141	339	187	58	7	4	112	848

G.O. No 1073 Jnl 7 11-7-98
(C. No 5229)

G.O. Mis No: 3194 d/ 30th July 1900

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue

2. It is observed that the figures showing the number of free licenses issued during the year 1897 in form ST as now reported by the D^y Magistrate differ in the marginally noted way from those furnished by the Board in its Prop No 84 dated 25.3.98. The [#] collection & disbursement of the district revenue should be ~~should be~~ ~~satisfied themselves~~ ~~satisfied and reported for~~ like steps to reconcile the ~~the information of~~ figures & to prevent a recurrence of the discrepancy in next years reports

Me
28/7/98

Note.

The total number of free licenses issued in form ST as now reported in the current (Report on the working of the Army) is 81 against 883 reported in

28/7/98

	As reported by D ^y Magistrate	As reported by the Board
Ganjam.	106	1
Cuddapah.	28	857
Bekang	4	2

G.O. No 303 d/ 23.5.98.

A

2
The D^y of Revenue (2.R) }
(1.R) } 28/7/98

A & C.

S.O. No: 3194 of 30 July

2. It is observed that the figures showing the number of free licenses issued during the year 1897 in form XL as now reported by the D.^{ty} Magistrate differ in the marginally noted ^{ix.} ~~con~~ from those furnished by the Board in its Prop no 84 dated 25. 3. 98. The [#] ~~cause of the~~ ^{collection & dist} ~~Magistrate of the district come~~ ~~discrepancies should be~~ ~~should satisfy themselves~~ ~~satisfied and reported for~~ ~~like steps to reconcile the~~ ~~the inconsistency of figures.~~

114
2877688

The total number of false
licenses issued in Form XI
is now reported in the current
(Report on the work of the Army)
is 80 against 883 reported
in

44
9/8/77

	<u>As reported by <i>Dr. Meintz</i></u>	<u>As reported by the Board</u>
Ganjans.	106	1
Cardafsh.	28	57
Bekang	4	2

9.0.20 203 23.5.98.
A

✓
He B. of Rome (2. R)
.. (1. R) } $\frac{20.12}{4.8.68}$

A4C.

in B.O. No 847 25.3.1898 (Report on measures taken
to destroy Wild Beasts & Snakes)

The difference occurs only
in the districts above noted.
It seems hardly
worthwhile
calling for special
inspecting reports

W
29.7.1898

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____ } 189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____
189 ,

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.