CHAPTER III

POLICE FORCE: RULES AND REGULATIONS

The prosperity of a country largely depends on the general peace which can be maintained only by the reign of law and order. For the maintenance of law, a state requires a powerful, well disciplined and well organized police force.¹ The two great factors that contribute to the success of police force are the efficiency of the force and the co-operation of the public. The police force has to be thoroughly specialized if it is to serve efficiently in modern times. Therefore a police officer should possess the vigour of youth, energy, alertness, health, liveliness and vigilance and above all true courage in an emergency. He must be always ready to risk his own life as and when dangerous criminals are dealt with or when facing violent mobs. Hence he must have extensive acquaintance with all aspects of life and all branches of law and knowledge.²

With these noble ideas the first Police Regulation was passed in 1834 known as the Police Regulation VI of 1010 M.E/1834 A.D. This Regulation vested the Tahsildars with the police and magisterial authority. They were empowered to hear and decide all cases of trivial nature such as assaults or using abusive language and all petty thefts, and to refer all cases of heinous offences to the Zillah Criminal Courts.³ The Dewan was empowered to supervise the magistracy and the police force and could call up any case from a magistrate or public officer and to decide the same. This was a check on their powers and privileges. From this it is evident that the police force in the early period

enjoyed only limited powers and was placed under the direct control of the Dewan. Moreover police officers were debarred from taking cognizance of cases of adultery. The Dewan was given the power to deal such complaints. He only passed order for investigation, reports being made to the Huzur of the decision taken afterwards.4

In 1847-1848 the first Regulation VI of 1834 was amended to enhance the authority of Tahsildars. By this Regulation, the Tahsildar was given the power to proceed himself in the cases of murder, robbery, and other offences. Usually they visited the places where such crimes were committed, and made proper enquiries. The Sumprethey Pillay and the Police Goomastah5 were the sub officers of the Tahsildar, who were authorized to conduct such investigation. The Tahsildars attested and forwarded the proceedings to the Criminal Court. In the absence of the Tahsildar, the Deputy Tahsildar or any person appointed temporarily for the purpose exercised full authority of the Tahsildars.6 As this Regulation was inadequate, it was again modified in 1871. Under the Regulation II of 1871, the Magisterial powers were redistributed. The Zillah Court and Sadar Courts were invested with certain appellate and revisionary powers over the proceedings of the magistracy. The Dewán had enjoyed full administrative and executive control over the magistracy and the police before the Act. But after the introduction of this Act the Dewan was relieved of his functions as a magistrate. However, even after the introduction of this Act, he was authorized to conduct any such enquiries according to the directions of His Highness the Maharaja.7

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4 Ibid.
5 Sumprethey Pillay, Police Goomastah – various ranks of Accountants.
6 The Regulations of Travancore, Part I, State Archives, Trivandrum, 1881, p.10.
7 Judicial History of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1932, p.20.
From this it is inferred that the rulers longed to preserve the authority of the Dewan at any cost.

As the revenue officials were empowered with the police and judicial powers, law and order situation in Travancore gradually began to deteriorate. Therefore, to maintain law and order strictly and to preserve peace and tranquillity of the state, it was decided to separate the police powers from the revenue officials. With this intention the Act of 1881 called the Police Regulation of 1881 was passed and it came into force on 17th July 1881. Accordingly, in the same year, the police force from the magistracy was separated, as it was necessary for the improvement of the administration of criminal justice. Before this Act the revenue officers had performed the revenue, magisterial and police powers. Therefore the revenue officials could not detect crimes effectively. To cope with the situation, the Regulation created the post of Superintendent of Police for the first time in Travancore. Such a move was intended to make the police force a more efficient instrument for the prevention and detection of crime throughout Travancore.

The new Regulation clearly demarcated the powers of the police officers and his subordinates. Moreover, it also emphasised that other officials were not permitted to use the uniforms of any police officer. Further, whenever people wanted to conduct assemblies or processions they were required to obtain prior permission from the Superintendent of Police or other superior officers of the police under the orders of the magistrate. In the case of murder, culpable homicide, grievous hurt, dacoity, robbery, housebreaking, theft, receiving stolen property, minting counterfeit coin, kidnapping and mischief by fire to destroy any building used as a place of worship, the police were

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8 Cochin Police Manual, Trichur, 1931, p.149.
empowered to arrest a person without even a warrant.\textsuperscript{11} The Regulation further stated that the Constable must wear uniform except when they were engaged in their own private business. Every police officer was required to obey all orders of the magistrates as their subordinates obeyed their orders without delay. It also emphasised the rules of salute. According to the rules police officers with drawn swords would “carry” them when passing a person entitled to a salute. Police officers without arms when speaking to a superior officer were to salute first on approaching him and again on going away. Police officers with arms when speaking to a superior officer would stand steady at the position of attention. Police parties and guards would not turn out to officers of the rank of Inspectors.\textsuperscript{12}

The Regulation of 1881 introduced the British Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in Travancore.\textsuperscript{13} According to the Penal code, nothing was an offence which was done by a child under seven to twelve years of age, who had not attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of his conduct on that occasion. Similarly, nothing was an offence which was done by a person who at the time of doing it was of unsoundness of mind.\textsuperscript{14} Later on, the Regulation of 1919 emphasised that a History Sheet was not to be opened for a juvenile discharged from a Borstal school nor should be treated as a bad character, nor watched nor interrogated, unless suspected of committing crime.\textsuperscript{15} According to the Regulation of 1881, it also mentioned that if any area was found disturbed, the number of police stationed was

\textsuperscript{11} Ibid., p.21.

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid., p.64.


\textsuperscript{14} Das, M.N., Criminal Court Practice and Procedure, Calcutta, 1984, pp.300-301.

increased in that area and the inhabitants of the area were required to meet the cost of additional police force.\textsuperscript{16} These regulations show that the rulers of Travancore attempted not only to stabilise the police force, but safeguard their welfare too. With this intention the Superannuation Act was passed in 1884.

**The Superannuation Act of 1884**

The Act provided a superannuation fund for the benefit of officers of certain grades of the police. Under it a monthly deduction was made from the pay of all police officers. The rules continued up to 1892 when the new pension and gratuity rules were passed, which extended the benefit of a pension to all police servants drawing Rs. 10 and above. But the last grade Constables got only Rs. 6 as remuneration. Therefore effective measures were adopted to protect them also. To extend the same benefit to the Constables, the general pension scheme was modified. In order to repeal this Superannuation Act of 1884 another act was passed in 1894, namely, the Act to repeal the Superannuation Act which came into force on 14\textsuperscript{th} June 1895.\textsuperscript{17}

The Act of 1894 emphasised the need to give some relief to all grades of policemen. No policeman was required to contribute to the superannuation fund and as such no deduction was to be made from the pay of any policeman, amount already released to be at the disposal of government and no payment from the fund claimable by contribution or his legal representative.\textsuperscript{18} The police force was considered as a very hard working class of public servants entrusted with considerable responsibilities and

\textsuperscript{16} Unrepealed Regulation of Travancore, Vol. I, Trivandrum, 1910, p.90.


\textsuperscript{18} Legislative Department File No: 46/10, 1916, Police Superannuation Regulation of 1060 M.E/1884 A.D.
powers. In order to make progress and to create the sense of security, care should be
taken to safeguard police morale and motivation both at lower and higher levels. With
these objectives the policemen were permitted to form their association.

Rules of the Travancore Police Inspectors Association

The Travancore Police Inspectors Association was formed in 1932 at Trivandrum
to advance the social and material welfare of the members and to promote esprit de
corps among the members. Further it also suggested improvements in their terms and
conditions of service and prospects of pay, pension and allowances and take such other
steps as were necessary to safeguard and promote the interests of the members.

The Association so started suggested various work schemes beneficial and
conducive to the amelioration of its members, like co-operative societies, housing
schemes, insurance scheme, pension contribution, provident fund, scholarship fund,
widows and orphans fund, sickness and marriage provisions. All the Inspectors of Police
in the service of His Highness Maharaja of Travancore were eligible for membership.
To implement these schemes effectively, it created an executive committee consisting of
five members, one president, one secretary, one treasurer and two executive members
elected by the members.

The Secretary was empowered to convene the meetings of the Association and to
keep the records of the proceedings. The quorum for general meeting was twenty and
for extraordinary meeting was forty. In addition he could convene a general meeting on
the requisition of not less that fifteen members. A quarterly statement of receipts and

expenses was also submitted to the managing committee through the Secretary. The services of the office bearers were only honorary.

**Police Regulation Amendment Bill of 1084 M.E/1908 A.D**

The Regulation of 1881 made provision for the deployment of an additional police force in disturbed areas. The Superintendent of Police was given the power to send such additional force and the expense of the additional police deployed for the service was met by the public. The period in which the force remained, its withdrawal and continuation of the force from time to time was decided through the notification of the government. If death, or grievous hurt or loss of property or damage to property had been caused, it must be reported to the District Magistrate within sixty days from the date of injury or such shorter period as might be prescribed. The District Magistrate fixed the amount of compensation to be paid to such person and the manner in which it was to be distributed. The Magistrate should not make any declaration or assessment, unless he was of the opinion that such damage or injury had arisen from the particular riot or unlawful assembly within such area.

If the police officers deputed for preserving the peace were not sufficient for its protection the police officer not below the rank of an Inspector could apply to the nearest Magistrate to deploy some special police officers for that area. They were given same powers and privileges like the ordinary police officers. If any special police officer deputed for such duty neglected or refused to serve without sufficient excuse, he should be liable for conviction before a magistrate to a fine not exceeding fifty Rupees for such neglect.

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21 Regulation IV of 1056/1881 passed by His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore on 17th July 1881.


23 The Unpealed Regulations of Travancore, Vol. I, Trivandrum, 1910, pp.33-34.

24 Ibid., p.35.
As the additional or special police were paid from the general revenue of the state or by the public, it was felt that on such occasions the common people were heavily taxed. Realising this, the Amending Act of 1908 was passed. By this Regulation a fund called "The General Police Fund" was created for the maintenance of the police who worked as special police in disturbed areas.\(^{25}\) This relieved the sufferings of the innocent people greatly.

**Arms Regulation V of 1084M.E/1908 A.D**

In Travancore the affluent and influential persons kept arms and ammunition on receipt of licence. But, in course of time, many people kept unauthorised weapons. This created tension in some places, where arms and ammunitions were freely used for theft, loot and murder. Therefore to avoid this catastrophe, the Arms Regulation was passed in 1908. According to this Act arms possessed unlawfully or on expiry of license should at once be deposited in the nearest police station. The particulars of the arms so deposited were entered in a "Register of Arms Deposited" stating the accurate description of the arm with the maker's name, number and the actual measurement. The Station House Officer was responsible for the safe custody of all the arms deposited in the station.\(^{26}\) The arms deposited in stations for over three years for which no license had been obtained was considered forfeit to government. In the case of such arms the Station House Officer reported the matter to the District Magistrate through the District Superintendent of Police for formal orders declaring the arms "forfeit to government". The Inspecting Officer checked all the arms deposited with the Arms Deposit Register

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\(^{25}\) Legislative File No : 46/73, Police Regulation Amendment Bill passed as Regulation IV of 1084 M.E/1908 A.D.

\(^{26}\) Legislative File No : 40/1, 1913 The Arms, Regulation V of 1084 M.E/1908 A.D, Vol.IV.
and would see that an accurate description of every arm was entered in the Register. Such a system prevented the use of unlawful weapons which enabled the people to live peacefully.

Amendment in Criminal Procedure Code

The rulers of Travancore attempted to strengthen the authority of the police force. Therefore, it was decided to invest them with suitable powers and privileges. Such rights and privileges were suitably modified according to the requirements of the time. With this motive, a series of amendments were made in the existing rules, regulations and practices. To realise this, an amendment was made in 1909 in the Criminal Procedure Code. Accordingly, in the matter of prosecution, the prosecuting Inspectors who were sent from their own taluk to the neighbouring taluk were given an allowance of Rs.20. Similarly, section 6 of the Tobacco Regulation I of 1087 M.E/1911 empowered the Sub Inspectors of the Excise Department to admit on bail persons arrested under this section. Likewise, Regulation III of 1088 M.E/1912 A.D authorised all officers of the police department not below the rank of a Sub Inspector and all executive Land Revenue Officers not below the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar, to make searches without warrant and exercise such other powers as were conferred by the said section.

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28 Judicial File No: 40, 1910, Appointment of Prosecuting Inspectors.


Regulation IV of 1095 M.E/1919 A.D

The police department wanted to bring a complete change in their organization and powers, in order to avoid crimes and to run the department more efficiently than before. Even though several Amendments were made from time to time they did not satisfy the Maharaja. So to modernise the police department, the Regulation IV of 1095 M.E/1919 A.D was enacted. This Regulation provided for the consolidation and made suitable amendment to the law relating to the police force in Travancore. It was more than thirty five years ago the Police Regulation of 1881 was passed. Even though certain amending regulations were passed, the Regulation was found to be defective.31 Therefore, a new bill was drafted suggesting several changes in the police department. The bill was introduced in the Council and referred to a Select Committee on 25th June 1917. The Committee after a thorough and detailed study published the report on 5th November 1918 which came into force in 1919. The bill was divided into seven chapters.32 This Regulation consolidated all laws and Regulations passed previously and revised them as a whole.

The First Chapter suggested to change the title Superintendent of Police into Commissioner of Police; Assistant Superintendent into District Superintendent of Police, and mentioned about other subordinate officers. Chapter II related to the organization of the Police and it said about the administration of police throughout the local jurisdiction of a District Magistrate should be under the general control of the District Superintendent of Police. It also said that a police officer under suspension was no longer a police


32 Ibid., p.12.
Chapter III dealt with the Regulation, control and discipline of the police force. It said that a police officer overstaying his leave without reasonable cause should be deemed to withdraw himself from the duties of his office. Chapter IV dealt with the powers of the District Magistrate to make rules for the regulation of traffic and for preservation of order in public places. Clauses 31, 32, 33 and 34 of this chapter dealt with the powers of the District Magistrate and the other clauses dealt with the powers of the police. Chapter V dealt with the executive powers of the police. Clause 35 of this chapter gave details about the various duties of the Police. Clause 36 dealt with the powers of the police on the occasion of a fire. Clause 37 empowered the police to deal with property suspected to be stolen. Clause 42 made it obligatory upon all persons to conform to the reasonable directions of a police-officer given in fulfilment of any of his duties under the bill. Chapter VI focussed on offences and punishments. Clause 52 of this chapter penalised the solicitation of any person in a public place to immorality. Chapter VII dealt with other miscellaneous provisions.

**Rules for a Police Officer**

In order to run the police department properly and to give needed support and help to the people, the Travancore government framed various rules and regulations. It enabled the police officers to understand their rights and privileges and to act accordingly. It clearly explained the people’s expectation too. To promote public safety and security, the police officer must be earnest in all his efforts; keep imperturbable good temper, calm firmness and coolness in facing and handing difficult and anxious

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33 Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, 1079 to 1090 M.E / 1903-1914, Trivandrum, 1915, pp.747-748.


35 Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore, 1079 to 1090 M.E/1903-1914, Trivandrum, 1915, p.748.
situations; avoid pursuit of private interest at the expense of public interest; make sacrifices of personal feelings and personal interests in the discharge of public trusts and responsibilities; make allowance for youth and inexperience; be a powerful master and correct and reliable leader to their followers; be not intriguing and deceitful; be steady and effectual in suppression of crimes; do not alarm the mind of government without understanding the situation correctly and above all avoid vain glory, vanity and pretence. If the police officer obeyed the above rules he could enjoy the complete confidence of the government and the people.  

The Regulation of 1919 not only fixed rules for the police officers but it granted powers to the Magistrates also. Section 6 of the Police Regulation said that if a Magistrate of a district observed marked incompetence or unfitness on the part of any officer below the rank of an Inspector, subordinate to the Superintendent of Police of that district, he might call on that Superintendent to substitute another officer in the place of such incompetent or unfit officer and the Superintendent should be found to comply with such requisition. In the case of an Inspector or officer of higher grade, the Magistrate of the district might communicate with the Commissioner of Police, who should thereupon determine the measures to be taken in the light of the views of the Magistrate and inform him of the orders he issued. It also said that the Commissioner of Police might make, with respect to the Police force in the state any order which the Magistrate of a district might make and any order which he might be authorised to make by any rule


\[37\] Ibid., p.2.

\[38\] G.O. No : R.D.S.No : 1607/35/Judl; dated 22nd June, 1935.

lawfully made by the government under provisions of the Police Regulation IV or other law in force and he might also in case of emergency direct any portion of such force appointed for one district to be employed in any other district and in such a case the Magistrate of the district from which the police force was transferred for employment and the magistrate of the district to which such police force was transferred would be informed promptly of such transfer.  

**Rules for the Promotion of Clerks as Sub Inspector of Police**

In order to encourage the establishment staff in the Police department, they were given chance in the recruitment. For this purpose, the Travancore government made suitable amendments. According to the rule, promotion from the ministerial establishment to the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police would be the exception and not the ordinary method of recruitment. No clerk should be treated as Sub Inspector without giving him full training in law and drill procedure. Clerks so recruited would be treated as direct recruits. Their age limit was raised to thirty. So that they were also given chance to work in the regular force.

**Rules for the Defence of Police Officers in Civil suits or Criminal Prosecution**

Rules were passed not only to prescribe the powers of the police officers but also to describe the powers to handle civil and criminal cases. Accordingly, section 67 of the Police Regulation of 1919 said that the Police Officer should report the cases at once to the District Superintendent of Police through the officer to whom he was immediately subordinate. He must give sufficient particulars to enable the formation of an opinion on it. After enquiry, the District Superintendent of Police should submit a detailed report to

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40 G.O. No: R.D.S. No.1607/35/Judl, dated 22nd June 1935.
the Commissioner of Police with his recommendation whether government should be addressed to defend the case or not.\textsuperscript{42} Section 175 of the criminal procedure code said that whenever a Prosecuting Inspector or the private vakil appearing on behalf of the Police Officer, that the proceedings in the court were likely to be prolonged and to interfere with the discharge of the police officers' public duties or to harrass him, the prosecuting Inspector or the Private Vakil should request the court to deal with the proceedings with the utmost possible speed.\textsuperscript{43} When a complaint came against a police officer, the enquiring officer carefully should enquire into the matter to find out whether the charge was true or false, and then only proper punishment must be given.\textsuperscript{44}

\textbf{Principles of Police Conduct}

The Travancore Police Regulation gave a vivid description of the conduct of police and the people. As the Police department became the law-enforcing agency, they should enforce the law firmly and impartially, without fear or favour and vindictiveness. The police should recognise and respect the limitations of their powers and functions. They should not usurp or even seem to usurp the functions of the Judiciary and sit in judgement on cases, nor they would avenge individuals and punish the innocent. For maintaining law and order the police should use the methods of persuasion, advice and warning. If it failed, the application of force became inevitable.\textsuperscript{45} The police must realise that they were members of the public, with the only difference that in the interest of the Community and on its behalf they were employed to give constant attention to duties which were normally incumbent on every citizen to perform. The police should

\textsuperscript{42} The Travancore Police Gazette, Vol. VII, 1\textsuperscript{st} January 1937, p.257.

\textsuperscript{43} Ibid., p.258.

\textsuperscript{44} T.A.R., 1898-1899, p.20.

always be courteous and well-mannered.\textsuperscript{46} Integrity of the highest order was the fundamental basis of the prestige of the police. They should recognise that they could enhance their utility to the administration and the country only by maintaining a high standard of discipline, unstinted obedience to superiors and loyalty to the force and by keeping themselves in a state of constant training and preparedness.\textsuperscript{47}

**Amendment to the Regulation IV of 1919**

To regulate the authority conferred on the police by the District Magistrate this amendment was made on 3\textsuperscript{rd} June 1935. The District Magistrate should verify the weekly diaries sent by the Assistant Superintendent of Police and record remarks by his own handwriting and put it on strictly confidential.\textsuperscript{48}

**Unlawful assumption of police function**

This rule was passed to prevent the cheating of public by using Police uniform unlawfully. This Act said that those who would unlawfully assume the functions or power belonging to the police, who would have in his possession any distinctive article of the dress or appointment directed to be worn exclusively by the police force, without being able to account satisfactorily for the possession thereof or who should put on the dress of any police officer or any dress designed to represent it or to be taken for it\textsuperscript{49} or who should otherwise personate the character or act the part of any police officer for any purpose whatever; should in addition to any other punishment to which he might be liable for any offence committed under the assumed character, be liable to a penalty not

\textsuperscript{46} Unrepealed Regulations of Travancore, Vol.I, Trivandrum, 1910, pp.34,35.


exceeding two hundred rupees, or to imprisonment of either description for a period which might extend to six months or to both. Doing crime using the police uniform was thus prevented in Travancore through the passing of this Act. The police not only gave protection to their own subject but also to foreigners. For that the Travancore government took measures and enacted Act accordingly. It was not only to protect the foreigners but also to check the foreigners from doing any crime in Travancore region.

The Travancore Special Offences Regulation

This law was enacted to look after the safety of diplomatic envoys who visited Travancore from other provinces. According to this Act special protection was given to the diplomatic envoys. If any one violated the law and gave any disturbance to the foreigners they were given severe punishment, because the Maharaja wanted to maintain the prestige of the Travancore government both in native and foreign countries. In the mean time the Travancore police watched the activities of foreign gangs when they entered the border of Travancore. The police were asked to watch the gangs and their movements and associations and collect information regarding any absentees or new arrivals. If there were no grounds for suspecting a foreigner to be of criminal propensities he should not be followed or watched. The Act said that the police should take note of suspicious strangers; Station House Officers should arrange to shadow strangers whose actions gave rise to decided suspicion. Preventive action might be taken against them.

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50 The Acts and Ordinances of Travancore Cochin, Trivandrum, 1952, p.29.
51 C.S.File No.830, 1925, The Travancore Special Offences Regulation.
52 Government Order No : 114, 1932, dated 21st September 1932.
53 Section 42 and 105 of the Criminal Procedure Code.
Amending Regulation IX of 1108 ME/1932

This Regulation otherwise known as the Travancore Prohibition Act was passed to check drunkenness and disorderly conduct in public place. It said that those who were found even in a state of intoxication in any public place and whoever not having been permitted to consume any intoxicating drug in pursuance of this Act was found in a state of intoxication in any private place, should be punished with imprisonment which might extend to six months or with fine which might extend to one thousand rupees or with both.\textsuperscript{54} If anybody was driving a vehicle in a state of drunkenness he was liable to conviction or to fine not exceeding fifty rupees or to imprisonment not exceeding one month or both.\textsuperscript{55} By this act, the Travancore government attempted not only to take measures to prevent drunkenness but it also took measures to prevent habitual prostitution.

Moreover, the Travancore government issued a notification for the prevention of habitual prostitution. It said that in the vicinity of a place of worship or an educational institution or a boarding house, hostel or mess, a place was used as a brothel or for the purpose of habitual prostitution\textsuperscript{56} or by disorderly persons of any description or was used as aforesaid to the annoyance of respectable inhabitants of the locality or in the immediate neighbourhood of a cantonment, was used as a brothel or for the purpose of habitual prostitution action must be taken under section 33 of the police Regulation.\textsuperscript{57}

\textsuperscript{54} Acts and Proclamation of Travancore, Trivandrum, 1947, p.4.


\textsuperscript{57} Judicial File No : 2391, 1926 – The Government have sanctioned the extension of section 33 of the Police Regulation IV of 1095 M.E/1919 A.D.
However, crimes and violations continued to increase day by day in Travancore. Therefore the Travancore Maharaja decided to modify the Travancore police department.

Proposal for Modification in the Police Department

For the betterment of the Police department a proposal for the modification of the whole police force was brought up and it was accepted by the Maharaja and came into force on 1st Dhanu 1114 M.E/1938 A.D. Accordingly the designation of various grades of officers including the establishment staff was changed. Several branches were created in the police department for better administration. Besides, the traffic and the Criminal Investigation Departments were modernised. It aimed to make each police district self-sufficient in itself holding the District officers concerned responsible for every kind of police work in his district, whether it was related to crime or traffic or political enquiries so that the spirit of rivalry and the tendency to evade responsibilities that existed between the District police on the one hand and the C.I.D and the Traffic branches on the other might be avoided.

General Conditions of Service in the Police department

After entering service in the police department one should devote his whole time to police service alone, not take part in any trade or other duties, conform himself implicitly to all rules passed by the government from time to time not to leave his headquarters while off duty, without the permission of his immediate superior, at all times in police dress and accoutrements when ordered to be worn, always neat and clean


in his appearance and not take or receive any gratuity, present or fee from any person whatsoever without sanction.\\n\\nThe Emergency Power Act – Act I of 1122 ME/1946 AD

The State of Travancore witnessed labour problem, sudden riots and disturbances due to political agitation. To meet such a situation, the Travancore Emergency Power Act of 1946 was enacted for one year which came into force on 1st October 1946. This Act stopped public meetings and processions in the places where political unrest was seen. But several prosecutions launched under this Act were pending before the First Class Magistrate Courts in various stages of action. The tendency was not brought down, in spite of the clear and repeated instructions issued to the Magistracy and the police. It was also understood that several cases registered by the police were under investigation. So by a notification the period was extended to one more year. Besides, public meetings and processions within the limits of North Alleppey, South Alleppey and Shertallai police stations were banned. However, the activities of the communists in the taluks of Ambalapuzha and Shertallai, created much political unrest, and unemployment continued to be acute in those two taluks. The food situation had not improved appreciably. So, for the interest of the public safety, again by a Notification, the period was extended for one more year. Consequently, this Act continued up to 1949.

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61 Letter No: ROC.No.C 466/23/Magl/48, dt. 1.10.1946 Letter from the District Magistrate to the Chief Secretary to Government.
63 Confidential Section file No : 2678/49 Public Safety Measures Ordinance.
Proceedings for the Police to the Suppression of Communist move

The political uprising which took place in Travancore made the government come out with those proceedings. It said that the antigovernment and subversive activities had to be closely watched. Prominent and potential agitators were to be arrested under the “Defence of Travancore Act”. They must find out whether there was any communist underground cell in Travancore where local agitators met for their celebrations, and if so to take action against those concerned. They should watch for any correspondence between local agitators with communist leaning and their sympathizers and supporters in British India or elsewhere and to seize the same. They were expected to find out whether there was any secret code or accommodation addresses for correspondence. Labour centers and labour agitators were watched. The local police everywhere should see that mischievous propagandists did not create panic amongst the masses by means of alarming and false rumours and should watch and report on people who spread such rumours. Police officers should keep themselves in touch with heads of educational institutions with a view to gauge from time to time the state of feeling amongst the students and co-operate with them to control attempts made to foment trouble amongst students. The police department took measures, not only to prevent agitations but also to prevent occurrence of crimes.

Police Beat Rules

In order to avoid the movements of criminals and to prevent theft, it arranged beat system and framed certain rules too. The local area of every police station was

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64 Letter Secret D.O.R.No : 656/40, 3rd May 1940, Letter from the Inspector of General of Police to the Chief Secretary.

65 Confidential Section File No : 157/1940 Proceedings of the Public Conference held at Trivandrum in April 1940 requisition from the Resident.
divided into beats. The names of all the villages on each beat were entered in the village roster. The Constable was sent for beat to gather information regarding crime, to watch specially dangerous criminals or gangs which require surveillance. They would pick up information from or about travellers at camping grounds, chatrams, ferries and place of public resort. They were also expected to make enquiries in particular villages whether bad characters had been there or in the neighbourhood. Gathering information regarding proclaimed offenders, undetected cases, any occurrence such as sudden or unnatural deaths, accidental fire and damage to government property was a part of their duty. Moreover, they had to preserve order, prevent commission of offence, regulate traffic to protect life and property as occasion demanded and to serve processes and ascertain any definite piece of information.66

The night beatsman should be on the move between 11 P.M and 4 A.M where the beatman met another beatman halfway, he would proceed straight so as to be at the meeting place at a fixed hour and after exchanging information or papers. He would return visiting as many villages, markets or other places as he could in his beat for the day. The beatman got the signature of the Head of the village or a respectable person in beat books to testify his visit.67 Watching the roads, streets and villages especially suspicious characters and known depredator's proceedings should be watched. After his duty, he should return to the station and report what he had done.68 As the beat constables performed their duties sincerely, the habitual criminals were carefully watched.

67 Police Circular Memo No: 200, Tuesday 18th Oct 1881.
Rules for the use of fire arms in suppression of riots

Due to the wave of independence processions, meetings, committees and conferences were conducted by political leaders. The Travancore government wanted to nip the movement, which required the use of fire arms. For the suppression of riots it put forward some rules which were enforced from 12th April 1913. Accordingly, when a police party was formed for dispersing an unlawful assembly, it should be numbered for purposes of fire control, it should be grouped into section of not more than ten men, each with a responsible commander, if the size of the party and the time available admit of it. Bayonets must be fixed as soon as possible. If men had to be posted so as to face different ways they should not face about in one line, but two lines should be formed facing different ways with a clear space between them, so as to enable the officer in command to move between the lines and thus exercise control.69

All the commands were given by the available Senior Magistrate. If no Magistrate was present, it was commanded by the Police Officer.70 In order to guard against misunderstanding, the Magistrate or Police Officer in command when employed in the suppression of a riot, should give warning to the mob before an order was given to fire, and should take means to explain beforehand to the people who opposed. In the event of the police party being ordered to fire, the fire should be effective. If after being warned, the mob refused to disperse, the order to fire might be given.71 If the Magistrate or the Police Officer in command was of the opinion that it would suffice, he might give the order to fire one or two specific rounds only. If he considered that this would be

71 A report of the Kerala Police reorganization Committee, Trivandrum, 1960, p.4.
insufficient, he should give the word of command to one of the sections to hold off. The
fire of the other section being held in reserve until necessary. 72

Care should be taken not to fire upon a person separated from the crowd.
Sections ordered to fire should reload immediately after firing, without further word of
command until the order to cease firing was finally given. When the firing was resorted
to, it should be the duty of the Magistrate and the Police Officer in command to send the
wounded if any to hospital at once, and also send a report of all that had transpired to the
District Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police. The District Magistrate should
report the occurrence to the government without delay. 73

**Rules for the Protection of foreign visitors in Travancore**

When visitors from British Indian territory or other high officials visited
Travancore, the Travancore government gave proper protection. For their protection, the
uniformed police should be cut down to a minimum and replaced by plain clothes men
where security considerations called for police protective measures. Employment of
uniformed police should be confined as far as possible to duties connected with traffic
control in towns and villages and at important road junctions. It would probably be
unnecessary to have open cross-country roads lined by uniformed police, although a
small plain clothes patrol would probably be advisable on some sections. 74 In case of
any specific protective measures, the provision of pilot car is suggested. As regards
journey by train, it was understood that a considerable degree of permanent or
semipermanent protective arrangements existed in the form of Railway Security Police,


74 Confidential Section File No: 363/44, Visit of H.E. the Viceroy – Police Protection.
and Gangmen's patrols. It might be necessary to supplement these measures by some form of protective posts or patrols on culverts, and sharp bends, but whether anything more than this was necessary would depend on local conditions. Gangmen's patrols could, if necessary, be supplemented by additional plain clothes police.\textsuperscript{75} The employment of village police might, in certain circumstances, be considered necessary but this was left to the discretion of the state administration.\textsuperscript{76} Not only the police force gave prompt protection to the high officials but also they helped the natives when sudden fire or flood occurred. To meet such eventualities also the Travancore government enacted laws.

**Fire fighting rules**

When the intimation of fire was received from any locality, all police except traffic Constables in the vicinity should at once report themselves for duty unless prevented by work so important that they could not leave. The senior policeman present in a police station, on receiving information of a fire, should make sure that intimation was sent to fire fighting station.\textsuperscript{77} He should in any case telephone as laid down and make sure that fire fighting was started. He would then telephone to the District Magistrate, the staff officer, and the commandant of state forces. Steps should be taken at once to inform the Inspector and Head Constable through a special messenger or by telephone. All the available police personnel should be sent at once to the scene in the quickest manner possible.\textsuperscript{78}

\textsuperscript{75} Letter No: L.367/44/C.S.dt. 29.12.1944, Letter from the Residency to the Dewan of Travancore.

\textsuperscript{76} D.A.R., 1112 M.E 1936 - 1937 A.D, pp.34-35.

\textsuperscript{77} Regulation and Proclamation of Travancore 1112 M.E/1936 A.D. Vol.IX, Trivandrum, 1937, p.179.

The first police official to use the telephone in connection with a fire alarm and the officer in charge of the fire picquet were responsible for calling up the Superintendent of water supply, informing him of the locality of the fire and asking for the closure of the valves so as to obtain the maximum water supply in the fire area. If help was required from the neighbouring police station, the senior police official should send for it promptly.79

Steps taken by the police before the arrival of military fire party were to get every person out of the building and to rescue any person in peril and to check any out-houses in which horses, cattle or other animals were likely to be tethered. Any animal thus found should at once be cut loose and removed. They must see that all the doors and windows especially on the ground floor were closed. Openings, if any, were likely to create a draught which seriously increase the fire and hence they should be carefully closed. They should cut off the supply of electricity. This was necessary to prevent a person working in the house from being electrocuted.80

After fire fighter had arrived, the senior police official on the scene of the fire would see to the preservation of order and the safeguarding of property. If the police were engaged in their duty of protecting property and fighting of fire they must cooperate with the military officer in charge. Until the fire was extinguished or brought under control the senior police officer should take charge of the locality and was responsible for the general security. In the case of a fire occurring in a military area, the services of the police were not required.81

The Travancore Police band rules

The police force even entertained people through their orchestra at the time of festivals and also entertained the private parties when they called them. The police band was an adjunct of the Travancore Reserve Police Force and it was stationed at the police Headquarters, Trivandrum. The strength consisted of a Band Master and twenty bands men. The number of players might be varied at the discretion of the Commissioner of Police. The service of the band could be availed of by the public on payment of fees.  

For service within a radius of five miles of the Police Headquarters, Trivandrum Bh. Rs.25 together with a fixed conveyance charge of Bh. Rs.4 was collected. For service beyond the above area Bh.Rs.30 together with the actual conveyance charge to and fro and daily batta at the rate of Bh.Re.1 to the Band Master and Bh. Rs.8 to each of the men per day was charged. The fee specified above was for a period of three hours only. If the services were required for a long period, a fee of Bh.Rs.5 for every additional hour had to be paid. The services of the police band were allowed to gazetted officers of the police department at half rates, the conveyance charge and the batta for the men being the same as those fixed for the public. The charges should always be paid in advance to the Honorary Treasurer, Police Band Fund, Trivandrum. The band would not play for more than six hours in a day, and also the band would not accompany procession of any kind. Application for the services of police band should be made to the Commissioner of Police sufficiently early. The Commissioner of Police reserved the right to reject any such application without assigning reasons.

82 The Travancore Directory for 1938, Trivandrum, p.322.
84 The Travancore Directory for 1939, Part II, p.121.
Leave Rules

As policemen were the public servants and their duty was unavoidable, taking leave for them was also a difficult task. So the Travancore Government passed many rules for the benefit of police officials. After a period of six months of service, a Constable could obtain leave for three days. He could take privilege leave for one month for a period of eleven months on duty. This leave could be taken only when a Constable had not within the previous six months been absent on privilege leave. Sick leave for six months on half pay may be granted on satisfactory medical certificate, but leave for a month might be given by the Superintendent of Police on production of proof of sickness. Examination leave could be taken at the time of examination. Joining time of seven days was allowed with full pay when a Constable was transferred. A Constable who absented himself for twenty one days without leave might be dismissed. No Constable should absent himself without leave.85

Rules for awarding Medals and Rewards

The police force rendered a lot of service for the welfare and well being of the public. Wherever riots and processions took place they would reach the spot to suppress the riots and disturbances immediately. At times when the mob turned against them some of the policemen even lost their lives. They also suffered a lot when they were sent to arrest dangerous criminals. The criminals sometimes turned against them and they were wounded. When the political parties gained strength it gave threats to the Travancore Government. So the service of the police force was a tremendous one. In order to encourage them and to honour their service, the Travancore Maharaja announced several medals and rewards.

85 Ponnambalam Pillai,D., op.cit., pp.72-73.
His Highness the Maharaja’s Police Medal

His Highness the Maharaja’s Police Medal was established by a Royal warrant on July 7th, 1909 to award the members of police force. With a view to encourage conspicuous devotion to duty and the performance of acts requiring exceptional courage and skill on the part of police officers, His Highness Maharaja instituted “The Maharaja’s Police Medal”. The Medal consisted of a circular medal of silver with His Highness Maharaja’s effigy on the adverse and on the reverse the name of the person to whom it was awarded and it was presented on the last day of the Dasara Durbar.

Recipients of the Maharaja’s police medal or a bar to the medal would be entitled to monetary allowances subject to the following conditions. The allowance would be granted to officers below the rank of Inspector of Police. The amount of allowance should depend on the substantive rank of the recipient at the time when the act of gallantry was performed and it would continue to be paid at the same rate even on promotion to higher ranks. In the case of an officer already in receipt of an allowance, an addition would be made to the allowance on the award of a Bar to the Medal according to the substantive rank. The recipient at the time when the service for which the Bar was awarded and rendered, was of higher rank than when he was awarded the medal, should be entitled to substitute for the original allowance plus the additional allowance. The amount of allowances he was entitled to draw was in proportion the medal to be awarded in his present rank. The allowance would be granted from the date of the act for which the award was given and would continue until the death unless it was

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87 Judicial File No : 8, 1938, Enquiry Regarding Police Medal.
forfeited for misconduct.\textsuperscript{89} Where an individual was in receipt of the allowance at the
time of his death, it would be continued for his wife till her death or till remarriage of his
widow. The allowance was admissible to widows of men who were posthumously
granted the medal or Bar to the medal for gallantry.\textsuperscript{90} The rate of the allowance for the
different ranks was as below.

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
 & \text{Rs.} & \text{Chs} & \text{Casu} & \text{Rs} & \text{Chs} & \text{Casu}\textsuperscript{91} \\
\hline
\text{Inspector of police} & 15 & 7 & 8 & 7 & 17 & 12 \\
\hline
\text{Sub Inspector} & 10 & 5 & 0 & 5 & 2 & 8 \\
\hline
\text{Head Constable} & 5 & 2 & 8 & 2 & 14 & 4 \\
\hline
\text{Constable} & 4 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\
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\textbf{a. Maharaja’s Police Medal Procedure}

A list of the names of persons who were recommended for the medal should be
submitted every year to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja by the Inspector
General of Police in the month of September. Such a list should contain the name and
rank of each person recommended, the District or other police force of which he was or

\textsuperscript{89} General File No : R.Dis.1629/12-8-1930, Kings Police Medal – grant of allowance to holders of the
medal or a bar to the medal for acts of gallantry done by them.

\textsuperscript{90} Judicial File No : 1977, 1945, Police Medal.

\textsuperscript{91} Letter NO : ROC.No : 7894/39/Judl, 21\textsuperscript{st} March 1940, H.H.The Maharaja’s Police Medal Procedure.
had been a member, and particulars of the action or service for which the grant of medal was recommended. The number of medal awarded for one year was two.\textsuperscript{92}

\textbf{b. Qualification for the grant of Medal}

Qualification for the grant of Medal was based on conspicuous gallantry in saving life and property or in preventing crime or arresting criminals. The risk incurred to be estimated with due regard to the obligations and duties of officers concerned. Persons with a specially distinguished record in administrative or detective service, success in organizing the police force or in maintaining its organization under special difficulties were also recommended for the award. Moreover special services in dealing with serious or widespread outbreaks of crime or public disorder or of fire were also considered for such award. Special political secret service, special service on the occasion of the visit of distinguished visitors, prolonged service but only when distinguished by very exceptional ability and merit were also essential for the award.\textsuperscript{93}

His Highness Maharaja's Police Medal was awarded for the third time to police constable Sri Ommen of the Travancore police. He had served the force meritoriously for 13 ½ years. He lost his life in an encounter with the Communist. Therefore considering his service the award was posthumously awarded to him.\textsuperscript{94} Similarly Mr.P.M. Kashi, the Inspector of Police, who met with a tragic death in the discharge of his official duty, was also awarded this medal after his death.\textsuperscript{95}

\textsuperscript{92} Judicial File No: 8, 1938, \textit{op.cit.}

\textsuperscript{93} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{95} Judicial file No: 1568/45, Proceedings of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore.
Kings Police and Fire Service Medal

This Medal was also established in 1909 as award to members of police force and fire brigades for their meritorious service. On December 12, 1933 the award for Gallantry was separated from other conditions and became known as “The king’s Police and Fire Services Medal for Gallantry”. When the medal was awarded for consideration other than gallantry, it was known as, “The King’s Police and Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service”. The number of awards in each year was limited by the Royal warrant. The award for gallantry carried with it a life time allowance.\(^{96}\)

King’s Police Gold Medal Essay Competition

The Travancore government not only awarded medals and gave rewards but also conducted essay competitions in order to encourage them. The Competition was held annually and it was open to serving members of regular police force within the empire or mandated territories. For the winner of the first prize the award was His Majesty’s gold medal and 30 guineas, the second and third prizes were 20 and 10 guineas respectively. The essay must be the original work of the competitor. It must contain 7000 to 11000 words. Reference was made in any published work, the title must be quoted in a footnote.\(^{97}\) Each essay must be submitted anonymously and accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing on the outside a non de plume or motto and containing the competitor’s name and address. The award of the council was made public in such a manner as the council thought it fit, and any essay submitted for the competition and adjudged of sufficient merit might be published by the council in the police Journal. The subject of the Essay for 1933 was “The Police Service as a Career - A Review of the Past With

\(^{96}\) Ghosh, S.K., Police Administration, Calcutta, 1973, p.58.

Suggestions for the Future”. The essay was sent to the Secretary of the Council of the Police Gold Medal Essay Competition, Home office, White Hall, London.98

**The Travancore Police Medal**

This Medal was granted for distinguished service. The number of Travancore police medals awarded in one year would not exceed five. This medal contained the benefit of half the rate sanctioned for the award of His Highness the Maharaja’s Medal.99 In 1940 the Maharaja’s Police Medal for gallantry was awarded to one Inspector of Police and one retired Temporary Sub-Inspector. The Travancore Police Medal for gallantry was awarded to two police officers of high rank, namely, Deputy Inspector General of Police and District Superintendent of Police and also to three police Constables. The Distinguished service medal was awarded to five Inspectors of Police.100 In 1943 this Medal was granted to Mr. P. Krishna Pillai, Deputy Inspector General of Police and N.S. Sankaran Narayana Aiyar and V. Narayana Pillai, the Inspectors of Police for their distinguished service. In 1943 the Travancore Government spent Rs.943-14-0 for giving rewards.101

**The Indian Police Medal for Gallantry**

The Indian Police Medal for Gallantry was instituted on February 23rd 1932 by a Royal warrant.102 The Indian Police Medal when awarded for gallantry was distinguished from the medal awarded for meritorious service. The Medal for gallantry

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100 *T.A.R.,*1940-1941, p.88.


would bear on the reverse the words “for gallantry” and would be suspended by a dark blue crimson stripe in the centre and thin silver line in the middle of each of the blue portions.\textsuperscript{103}

The Medal, when awarded on other grounds, would bear on the reverse the words “for meritorious service” and be suspended by a dark blue ribbon and with a narrow silver stripe on either side and a crimson stripe in the centre as at present. Members and ex-members of the police force and fire brigades, who had in the past been awarded the medal for gallantry would continue to wear the medal with which they were presented, but they should obtain permission in writing to the local authority concerned. All applications should give the date when the medal was awarded and the name of the force for brigade in which the applicant was then serving.\textsuperscript{104}

Recommendations for the award of the Indian Police Medal were submitted confidentially. In the form the full name of the individual recommended, substantive rank with pay, total service in the police force, details of previous good work done by the officer, the particular act or acts for which the grant of medal was recommended must be mentioned. It should be sent to the office of the Dewan as early as possible after the event in the case of gallantry and by 1\textsuperscript{st} of August in each year in other cases.\textsuperscript{105}

\textbf{Regulations relating to the Award of the Indian Police Medal}

The medal was open to all ranks of the police, civil and military and to the members of properly organized fire brigades, both British India and the Indian states. It was awarded by the viceroy, on the recommendation of the Head of the Provincial

\textsuperscript{103} Judicial File No: 3720/1945 Indian Police Medal for gallantry.

\textsuperscript{104} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{105} The Cochin Police Manual, Trichur, 1931, p.30.
Government or Administration of the state. Each recommendation stated the name and rank of the person recommended, the police force or fire brigade of which he was or had been a member, and particulars of the action or service for which the grant of the medal was recommended.  

The medal was awarded for conspicuous gallantry. Awards for gallantry were made as soon as possible after the occurrence of the event. Grant for valuable services characterized by resource and devotion to duty, including prolonged service of ability and merit was in practice. Such awards were given once in a year on 1st of January from the list of recommendations which should reach the private secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy not later than 15th of July in each year.

The gallantry medal carried a monetary allowance at half the rates sanctioned for the award for the King's Police Medal for gallantry. The number of medals to be awarded each year should not exceed 200. The recommendations received from any one source were considered with due regard to the number of recommendations which would likely to be received from other sources. The Medal should be worn next to and immediately after the British Empire Medal. The award of the Medal would not be a bar to the subsequent award of the King’s Police Medal.

Kendall Humanity Medal

After the recruitment of women police, in order to honour their meritorious service a medal was created. In 1938 Her Highness the Maharani announced a police medal to the women police in appreciation of their services during the visit of His


Excellency the crown representative and their Highness Maharaja and Maharani of Bikaner. The medal was named as Kendall Humanity Medal. In 1943 the Kendall Humanity Medal was awarded to a Constable of police for life saving. After Independence the King’s Police and Fire Services Medal and the Indian Police Service Medal were replaced by the President’s Police and Fire Services Medal and The Police Medal on 1st January 1950.

Rules for the movement of European Vagrants

The Travancore Government did not like the entrance of foreign vagrants in Travancore. To prevent this a new rule was made. Accordingly if European vagrant’s entry into Travancore came to the notice, the Superintendent of Police was requested to make prompt arrangement, to stop such men at the frontier and refuse them permission to enter the country. If, however, any European vagrant was known to have entered in the country the fact should at once be reported to government with information, as to the name of the vagrant and any particulars that could be gathered concerning his previous history, and the vagrant’s movements should be watched until the orders of the government were received. If the vagrant was a European British subject he should be taken before a Special Magistrate. In the case of vagrants of East Indians, they should be taken before a District Magistrate or a First Class Magistrate.

109


113 A Circular Order of the Government No : 5051/Judicial, 18th July 1901.

Motor Vehicle Regulation VI of 1094/1918

The Act said about the entry of vehicle owned by a person residing outside the state. Such vehicles were permitted into Travancore only by getting a current motor driving licence from a competent authority. But it was valid only for ten days. If they wanted to drive more than ten days they must get the permit issued by the Commissioner of Police. The owner must apply to the Commissioner of Police with a description of the motor vehicle and other particulars required by that office. The Commissioner would grant permission for a fixed period after that he might from time to time extend the period or cancel the same.\textsuperscript{115}

Police Act II of 1096/1920 A.D

In order to prevent the use of tobacco by Juveniles this Act was passed through a Government Notification. Accordingly, the duty of the police officer in uniform to seize any tobacco in the possession of any boy apparently under the age of eighteen whom he found smoking or chewing or taking in as snuff in any street or public place together with the person who should be taken to the nearest police station. The officer in charge of the police station should take down the name and address of the person, parent or guardian and ascertain, and set him free if he was a school pupil of any public school.\textsuperscript{116} The officer in charge of the police station should send a notice of such seizure to the parent or guardian and to the Headmaster of the School. If a person set free as above was again apprehended after a lapse of three months from the date of issue of any notice under the last preceding section, he might be sent in custody before the nearest Magistrate. Then the parents or guardian or other respectable person must produce an

\textsuperscript{115} \textit{The Travancore Directory for 1939}, Part I, Trivandrum, 1939, p.361.

\textsuperscript{116} Notification No: R.O.C 1554/24/Judl. dated 5\textsuperscript{th} August 1924.
undertaking in writing to produce him whenever required and then only he would be released.\textsuperscript{117}

**Rules regulating traffic**

In order to avoid accidents, rules were also framed for the regulation of traffic. Section 41 of the Regulation II of 1069M-E/1893 says “every driver of a carriage or cart or cycle when driving shall at all times keep to his own left side of the road. In overtaking or passing another vehicle he should keep to the right hand side of that vehicle”.\textsuperscript{118} Every driver should light the lamp of his vehicle as soon as it got dark. All drivers should attend to any directions given to them by a police officer on duty. Every driver should stand in line with his vehicle and keep proper order at a carriage stand. He must not be permitted to be the cause of obstruction in the public roads.\textsuperscript{119}

**The Royal Proclamation of 1947**

This proclamation was issued on 4\textsuperscript{th} July 1947. It directed the summoning of a representative body elected on the basis of adult franchise. It announced the introduction of responsible government. It was a landmark in the political history of Travancore. This was followed by the release of all political prisoners. All political parties were given full liberty to do propaganda work in connection with the election. Effective police arrangements were made, with the result polling went off smoothly. The representative body met for the first time on 20\textsuperscript{th} March 1948. The State Congress Party secured 95 seats out of 120.\textsuperscript{120}

\textsuperscript{117} Notification No : R.O.C. 1646/25/Devpt, dated 14\textsuperscript{th} December 1926.

\textsuperscript{118} Letter No : 556, 21\textsuperscript{st} July 1896, Letter from the President, Town Improvement Committee to the Dewan of Travancore.

\textsuperscript{119} Cover Files No. 14895, 1896, Rule regulating vehicular traffic.

\textsuperscript{120} Confidential Section File No. 1550, 1947 Report of the Police department for 123 M.E/1947 A.D.
The police with the help of various rules and regulation got power to investigate complaints, seek to discover who committed crimes and then found out and arrested the suspected person. The policeman on the beat or in the moving squad also endeavoured to control any incipient investigation of suspected crimes. The police were not legally empowered to judge whether a person was guilty, to administer punishment, nor to retain custody of a prisoner for more than a minimum period unless directed to do so by a judge. The limitation of their duties regarding crime should be clearly understood.\textsuperscript{121} Thus the police promised a sense of security among the community who performed different functions and duties.