CONCLUSION

The study makes it clear that Travancore, one among the prominent Princely states of India, maintained law and order by creating a regular police force. Even before the inception of a strong police force, the rulers of Travancore, largely depended on the local chieftains, namely Naduvazhi, Desavazhi and the like in the early period and utilised the services of Kavalcars and the military in the later period to maintain law and order. However with the onset of time, the state witnessed frequent violence, disorder, lawlessness, crime, theft, murder, kidnapping and similar other unlawful activities. The existing authorities failed miserably to cope with the ruckus. Therefore the rulers of the subsequent periods realised the necessacity for creating a regular police force for the state.

The early police system was inadequate to enforce law and order, to protect the people and to preserve the peace and tranquility of the state. Though the King was the supreme head of state, his authority was restricted by five councils and the local administration was entrusted with the nobles and other chiefs. Moreover, for administrative convenience the empire was divided into Desams (Village) and Nadus (districts) which were placed under the control of Desavazhis and Naduvazhis respectively. They looked after law and order situation of their respective regions with utmost care. However, the state witnessed violence in some parts or the other. Hence watch and ward system was introduced in every village namely the Kavalcars. Besides, the rulers too maintained the Chaver army, who not only collected the revenue but performed inferior police duties and watched over the defence of the state too. Subsequently, the Chaver army was renamed as Nair Militia and then as Nair Brigade. Not satisfied with these arrangements, Travancore was divided into
Mukhams, Subordinate Mukhams, Madapathuvathils and Proerties which were placed under the control of Valiyasarvadhikariyakars, Sarvathikariyakars, Kariyakars and Proverthicars respectively for better administrations. These officers enjoyed police judicial and revenue powers under the control of Dalawa, who was later designated as Dewan. But the combination of all these powers in the hands of these officials, made them difficult to look after each department systematically. Further the State witnessed frequent calamities. Therefore for effective maintenance of law and order Dewan Ummini Tampi organized a separate police force called kaval which was also irregular and untrained. Hence Col-Munro the then Dewan and Resident of Travancore effected reorganization in the police force in 1811. Consequently, revenue administration was separated from judiciary and police and abolished all the administrative officers except Kariyakars, who was later designated as Tahsildars. Moreover many of the police duties performed by the army were entrusted to the police force. Similarly, various reorganizations were effected subsequently. In 1835 Cuden Menon’s code was introduced which demarcated the powers and duties of police and judiciary. Subsequently in 1845 the Town Police was established and in 1854, Dewan Krishna Row divided Travancore into two police divisions and appointed Dewan Peishkars, who discharged the duties of the District Superintendent of Police of the modern days. Over and above them, Sheristadar and Deputy Sheristadar were appointed, who served as the Modern Inspector General of Police and Deputy Inspector General Police. Thus the state of Travancore witnessed the dawn of a separate police force.

A study of the records reveals the fact that the police force existed only in name till 1857. During the subsequent periods various changes were effected to make the department all powerful. The appointment of Nanoopillai as Police Sheristadar in
1861 heralded the bifurcation of Travancore into four divisions which made remarkable progress in police administration. Moreover, the appointment of Ameens to help the Tahsilsdars in discharging the police duties, the creation of Ameens cutcherry and Thanass (police station) in different parts of Travancore, the separation of police from Judiciary in 1881 and the introduction of specific qualification for new recruits enabled the police administration more effective. Consequently, a Superintendent of police was appointed in 1881 for the whole state, whose designation was changed as Commissioner of police in 1919 and then as Inspector General of Police in 1938. Thus with the growth of population coupled with the rise of crime, the police force was strengthened by adding more and more superior police officials. All these changes led to the formation of a regular and separate police department in Travancore. Moreover, a committee consisting of the Dewan, the Chief Secretary to Government, and the Inspector General of police was formed in 1938 for making suitable modification in rules pertaining to recruits and salary too was fixed according to the cadre and qualification. To identify them from other officials, separate uniforms were given to them with varying stars, codes and caps. Required training and weapons were also given to them to cope with any situation. Thus an effective police department was created as in the modern days.

With the formation of the separate police department, various rules and regulations were framed not only to equip the police personals but to make the department to stem over the tide of any situation. For this purpose police regulations were passed and suitable amendments were made periodically according to the necessity. The Superannuation Act, Arms regulation, Rules for the police Inspectors Association, Police Beat rules, Fire fighting rules, Police band rules, Leave rules, Emergency power Act were some of the instances meant for the betterment of the
police department. All these enactments specified the powers, duties and responsibilities of the police personnel. So, to encourage them in discharging their duties sincerely rules for awarding medals were also framed.

The formation of a regular police force, led to the framing of rules and regulations empowering the different police officials in discharging their duties. The Inspector General of Police acted as the Supreme head of the police department in the state, who was assisted by Deputy Inspector General of Police and Assistant Inspector General of Police. Similarly in each district, District Superintendent of Police was appointed, who too was ably assisted by Assistant Superintendent of police. Moreover, each police station was placed under the control of a Sub Inspector assisted by Head Constables and Constables depending on the population. Sub Inspectors were brought under the control of Inspectors popularly known as Circle Inspectors. The duties and responsibilities of these officials were clearly specified and encouraged them with proper awards and medals. This measure motivated the private agencies too, to institute awards to able police personnel. Despite these arrangements, rapine and violence had frequently occurred in different parts of the state due to negligence of duty, corrupt practices and amoral behaviour. Though punishments were meted out to the corrupt and dishonest officials, such tendencies continued to exist in the department.

In order to make the police department more effective, various auxiliary departments were created under it. Among them the General Police, Reserve force (or) Armed Reserve, Railway Police, Criminal Intelligence Bureau Special Branch, Special Branch Record, Fingerprint Bureau, Political Records and Special Branch, Traffic Section, Hackney Carriage, Fire service unit, Police Training and Women Police were prominent. Each department was vested with different powers and
privileges who helped not only in maintaining law and order but to find out the actual culprit and to punish the real guilty and to leave the innocent. In addition Srichitra guard and Village Vigilance Committees were also formed in different parts. It enabled to arrest the deserters from the military, to nab the criminals, to watch the villages from theft and to prevent the erruption of crime.

In spite of the creation of various police departments, Travancore witnessed crime in one form or the other such as murder, theft, robbery, kidnapping, adultery and forgery which were severely dealt with. To detect crimes different methods like ordeals such as fire ordeal, ghee ordeal, ordeal by keeping the red hot iron in the hands in the early periods and torture, whipping, flogging in the later period. The introduction of these inhuman methods helped to detect most of the crime. Moreover to accomplish this oridious task the Criminal Investigation Department, Fingerprint Bureau, Village Vigilance Committee were formed which rendered their whole hearted support. We come to know from records that different punishments were given to the culprits according to the severity of the crime. It is believed that the accused was never punished till the guilt was proven or the confessed his guilt. Therefore utmost care was taken to punish the guilty and under any circumstances innocents were not to be punished and not to leave the culprit scot-free was the dictum.

In maintaining law and order and in discharging the police functions strictly, various law courts and prisons were established in different centres of the state. The police personnel produced the culprits at the courts for trial and brought them back to the jail till the end of the trial. Moreover they were deputed to guarded the Jail and the culprits confined in the jail. In case of disease of the jail inmates, the police guarded the prisoners while taking them to hospital for treatment and at times they even
guarded the inpatients. Besides, they watched the culprits kept in the police lock-up. Welfare measures were also adopted to uplift the life and condition of the prisoners. The confined prisoners and the lifelong convicts were not only given advice but provided them with adequate training to eke out a honest living after release.

Thus, the police force so evolved through the ages flowered under various branches in different parts of the state rendered yeoman service to protect the people from turmoil and chaos. Studded with a number of police stations throughout the state, the creation of a separate police force completely wiped out the police duties vested with the local chieftains and other revenue and judicial departments. Eventually it automatically abolished the rights and privileges enjoyed by a section of high caste people which led to the ushering in of the introduction of uniform law and order and pronouncement of equal punishment without any discrimination on the basis of caste or creed. Moreover, it created an awareness among the people to cooperate with the police in maintaining law and order and in detecting crime. In discharging their duties so effectively, they were not only provided with proper training but equipped with arms and ammunitions besides giving inservice training, salary, medals, awards and promotions and thus the police job became lucrative. Despite this, one could notice certain short comings too like negligence of duty, favouritism, bribery and other misbehaviour. Such tendencies prevailed among a group of police personnels that spoiled the prestige of the department as a whole. Sometimes, most of the honest officials too became dishonest under the political pressure. Hence, with the study that has been made here, it is envisaged that a proper police force would always be a great boon not only to the public but to the government. This study also states categorically that the police administration in Travancore was a system to be emulated by posterity.