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HISTORY OF MADRAS CITY POLICE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE - A STUDY

Dr.P.Thangamuthu

**Ph.D , Assistant Professor of History ,
PTMTM.College , Kamuthi Ramanathapuram District .
(Affiliated to Alagappa University)**

ABSTRACT:

During the modern period, the police agency is a much needed and essential one for maintaining law and order. To enable the people to lead a peaceful life the well maintained and disciplined police force is an imperative need of the hour. Due to terrorism , violence, political trend , communalism , regionalism etc. The fear of problems and troubles arise. So to avoid such calamitous occurrences police force is of essential need. The same trend prevailed even at the dawn of Indian Independence. The police force was also at the stage of reorganization to suit the needs of the independent Indian situations. The police men had to obey rules and regulations and should maintain discipline and morality. As derived by the

common police he had to protect the people by executing the security duties . He had to guard them and their prosperity throughout day. He had to be alert and watchful regarding the movement of anti social elements , wicked and evil minded breakers of law.

KEYWORDS: *modern period, police agency , communalism , regionalism.*

INTRODUCTION

This study is devoted to have a systematic and critical and historical analysis and review of the Madras city police from 1947 to 1967 .It stresses on the origin and development of the police in Madras city. The previous history of police during the British rule is also analysed for having a basis . As it is must to have a detailed study the Madras city police, its categories and administration along with its activities are all discussed. The various branches and other changes put into effect in the Madras city police during the

period taken up for study are also described . These things will satisfy the needs and demands of a historical research.

For maintaining the peaceful living by the people with all welfare activities their security and protection are quite essential. That needs a strong body or organization or agency . After the independence it is the responsibility of every state to keep a vigilant watch over its peaceful functioning. The people and government properties should be protected in a secured way . The State Tamil Nadu too comes under this purview. So the study of the Madras City police is warranted on that line. But to cope up with space and time the area and period are

restricted on Madras City Police from 1947 to 1967- A Historical Review.

HISTORY

Though the period of study lies between 1947 and 1967 it will be apt and appropriate to have the origin and development of the police in Madras. During July August 1639 A.D. Captain Francis day of the East India Company obtained, from damasia venkatappa the grand wazir is of the Vijayanagar Kingdom , a fishing hamlet called Madras Patnam . The native authority offered the right to possess land to construct a fort there. This paved the way as seen earlier for the construction of the Fort St. George and the

establishment of the settlement called Chennai Patnam with two divisions called Black and White Towns, this resulted in the gradual introduction and extension of administration and criminal jurisdiction over the areas possessed by the East India Company. After the lapse of nearly 140 years in 1780 the post of superintendent of Police was created and he was entrusted with the duty to supervise the markets, to protect the market areas with his men and to reduce the prices of different commodities. The city police official post called Kotwal was also merged with the new post. Thus the concept of centralization of authority was instituted in police organization.

In 1856 by the Act No. XIII Commissioner of Police was appointed as the chief city Police Officer, he had 732 men under him. They were divided into two categories 533 of them including 11 Sub Inspectors who served as members of the preventive section of the crimes . 179 were absorbed as members of the Detective Branch and that included 11 Darogahas.

In 1867 many changes were introduced by the Act III of 1867. By that Act the Madras City Police was absorbed into General Police of the Madras Presidency. The Commissioner of Police was subjected to the authority of the Inspector General of Police who his Head quarters at Madras, the capital city. The Act of 1867 increased his duties and responsibilities also . He was made as the Justice of Peace . He was also empowered to execute duties such as regulation of processions of all nature , issuing licenses to the fire arms , supervision of weights and measures and the registration of printing presses and newspapers.

Further change came up in 1888 by the Acts III and IV of that year . The City Police was separated from the Moffusil Police of various districts . The Commissioner of Police also was relieved from the control of the Inspector General of Police Commissioner was placed under the control of the Inspector General of Police on the basis of the recommendations of the police commissioner issued during 1902 . This is a decentralization of authority to suit the needs of the areas in an effective way . Further it was under taken mainly to introduce an uniform pattern throughout the Madras Presidency.

In this regard it becomes a must to have the history of the Madras City further. To maintain peace, law and order the location of punch houses of taverns was to be determined by the location of punch houses of taverns was to be determined by the superintendent of police , specific regulations for the sale of spirit were made by the government and the same was supervised by the superintendent of police. Each and every vendor of spirit on whole sale level should maintain a Book containing a regular accounts separately for sale and purchase. Such books were inspected by the superintendent of police or by the man who is supposed to be fit appointed by the superintendent .

The city Police also dealt with the registration and control of gold smiths, silver smiths, sheriffs , hawkers , china bazaar men, shop keepers, second hand dealers, shipping dub ashes, head coolly men bandy men, head carpenters, brick layers, tailors and all head men or masteries in every other trade or occupation. All the above people were to get themselves registered in the police office. They had to obtain a certificate from the superintendent of police by making a payment of one pagoda but the shopkeepers and second hand sellers paid only half pagoda for obtaining a certificate.

There were specific regulations regarding markets also. The main purpose was to make the public markets and bazaars to be open to all. It was also for promoting general competition . It was to punish all those who prevent or impede the free and natural supply the markets . Above all it was to regulate and define the qualities of the commodities and to fix up prices from time to time according to the fluctuating trends . It was also for preventing frauds in qualities as well as in weights and measures. By section I of the regulation VI the Superintendent of Police was charged with the duty of regulating the general market . The entire Madras City limit came under his purview in this regard.

In due course reform measures were also under taken. On 3 October 1828 a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Norton the Superintendent of Police and the Master Attendant were its members its main and primary objective was to recommend reforms in the police agency. The Recommendation and suggestions were submitted by Norton on 30 November 1829 is still continued and no charges were enacted according to time and need. It also pinpointed the vague and loose provisions. Some of them were mostly based on the arbitrary principles of judicial administration.

He suggested the division of the Madras City into districts and each one should be vested under the control of a Magistrate and he had to control the police under him. In his jurisdiction he was also directed to be a resident of that area. He also suggested the formation of Courts of petty sessions and quarter sessions to deal with the crimes reported by the Police. Further the court of petty session to deal with the conduct and appointment of District Head Constables. Two Magistrates were required for a decision. He also suggested that the superintendent of police also could serve as a Magistrate of a district but should have the power of superintending the activities of other districts. He was empowered to preside over the Bench of Magistrates. The quarter sessions could pay attention to the depicts arising out of assessment, making of roads, construction of bridges and lighting of streets. To deal with the various aspects the courts seek the assistance of a Barrister or a technically qualified person as an Assessor. He also recommended the appointment of a public prosecutor. He also pointed out that the outmoded rules of the should also be avoided and provision should be given for privileges of good conduct. He suggested various proposals to be included in the regulations.

On 18, February 1832 the Government of Madras appointed another Police Committee under the Chairmanship of Norton to deal with the implementation of his suggestions and to give shape to his ideal. It was also to look after the allocation of staff due to the organization of the police system Norton again pursued through the needs and requirements and submitted of the Madras city into four divisions or districts. Every one of them had a Police Magistrate. They following were the four districts.

1. Black Tour District
2. Triplicane District
3. Vepery District
4. St. Thomas District

The recommendations were passed as a Regulation on 12, October 1832. It had a lengthy heading as "A Rule Ordinance and Regulation for the good order of civil government of the town and limits of Madras in relation to Police within the same. Subsequently on November 1814 the first Indian Police Officer and Magistrate were appointed in the city.

The Advocate General was asked by the Government on 21 April 1835 to revise the police code already prepared by him. It was expected to have the following portions. On 22, March 1856 the Government ordered that the officers of the Madras Police force and the Madras city police should be provided with clothing from the public fund.

The Mounted Branch of the city consisted of five constables five sub constables and 70 troopers. The earlier two sets of people were supplied with silk troopers were provided with one helmet with turban and one water proof cap. The constables had blue cloths tunics with gift buttons and crowns and sky blue cloth trousers.

After the introduction of the City Police Act in 1856 another Act called the District Police act came up in 1859. Section V of that act referred to the administration of the police. The governor general in council was empowered to make appointments. Up to 1867 the act XIII of 1856 was in vague. Then came the act VIII of 1867.

Under section V of the Act VIII of 1867 the immediate administration of the madras city police was vested with the newly appointed officer called the commissioner of police and had to act under the authority of the Inspector General of Police. The act XXIV of 1859 generally known as the district police act of 1959 was applicable to both superintendent of police and also to the commissioner of police

In the year 1876 the government introduced further changes according to the new orders passed during that period a new post of sub inspector was created. The post was a measure which offered priority to the custom of promotion.

After a lapse of two decades in 1887 A.M.Giles submitted his report and that clearly offered a vivid picture of the ranks and duties of police officials of different categorie. It exposed the draw backs and wants and needs of the police department. This also indicated the condition of the city police upto

the third quarter of the 19th century which was a period of storm and stress in the political as well as social history of the Indian sub continent under alien rule.

It is worth to note that with regard to the immediate administration of the Madras city police the inspector general of police was the highest authority. The Commissioner of police was the direct authority to deal with the police administration of the Madras city. Next in rank were superintendent of Police and deputy superintendent of police.

From the above discussions it is evident that the police force throughout the Madras presidency including the Madras city was an efficient instrument at the disposal of a Magistrate for detection and prevention of crimes and also to maintain law and order. The Inspector General of Police, the top ranking police administrator was capable of handling every situation with the assistance of his local subordinate officials as per the rules and regulation should be acknowledged and approved by expedient and relating to government norms. The ranks, appointments, promotions, salaries, benefits, privileges, duties etc were all demarcated. The accessories such as weapons and dresses were also specified in detail. The collecting and communicating intelligence and information were also made available steps were also taken to prevent abuses and negligence of duties. So the functioning of the police force and then discharge of duties by them were all in a matured stage. When India won freedom on 15th August 1947 a well knitted system of police administration was obtained from the British such facts were of immense benefit to independent India to have a sound and efficient police administration for maintaining internal security, law and order.

CONCLUSION

As it was essential and necessary the Madras City Police was executing an excellent job even prior to Independence and after 1947 in independent India they started turning out a tremendous task in maintaining law and order and also protecting the public as well as private properties. Their dedicated services assisted them to maintain an appreciable stature about the police forces in the minds of the public and the Madras City Police was not all an exception.

The Madras City Police is having its own unit of staff which is also specific when compared with the police forces of other districts. They maintain a cordial relationship with the city public and that assists them to execute their services effectively. Their activities services are not at all pertaining to a specific area they, due to their multifarious functions, are maintaining their status and they deal with civil and criminal cases. The Criminal Investigation Branch of the Madras city police is executing a tremendous task of multifaceted nature. They even deal with cases of forgery, counterfeiting of coins use of dangerous weapons, murders, international criminals cases of fraud, theft, cheating conspiracies etc. They by such activities serve as confidential security forces.

The Police station the basic unit of police administration comprised of personnel such as Inspector, Sub Inspector, Assistant sub inspector. Head constable and constable. Further unarmed police armed police railway police rural police and volunteer police were the categories of police forces. There were varied differences also as it still survive. Inspector General, Deputy inspector superintendents deputy superintendents commissioners and deputy commissioners of police, Inspector were the police staff. They were directly recruited and few posts were filled with promotions. In Madras the marine police and mounted police were functioning during the period of taken up for study. Even now the same practice continues. All of them were duty conscious and never aspired for power. They were known for their dedicated services at times of critical situations and maintained law and order in tact. Proper records were maintained in a methodical and scientific way by the station official, district offices and state department. With the co-operation of the public they executed their duties as they do now. They were fair and impartial. Various welfare schemes were introduced for the families of police officials. They executed laudable service for the good of the people even by dedicating their own comforts and needs of life.

The Police administration was an unique feature. It played its role in accelerating the process of development after independence in their own way by maintaining law and order peace and security. During the period between 1947 and 1967 the police system introduced by the British was altered to

cater to the needs and requirements of the public and area. Modernization and scientific techniques were gradually introduced at all levels. The difficulties and hurdles faced were all removed by implementing appropriate solutions. The concept of division of power is implemented in this department.

The statistical dates of crimes and the method of their treatments suggest the value of the police beyond criticisms of varied nature. If functioned independently like judiciary. The increased also paved the way for the increase in police forces. Sufficient were taken to maintain law and order at all situations during times of processions festivals political meetings, strikes etc. The manpower of the police to solve this issue . The Madras City police stood for its duty consciousness. They were encouraged by offering medals, rewards, cash awards, promotion etc. Such facts are maintained even by the introduction of scientific techniques . They responded successfully to the problems of varied nature with the support of the state government and that has placed the present day Tamil Nadu Police at the highest pedestal. Much importance was also given to individual and group behaviours.

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