

ACT No. VII. OF 1852.

*Passed by the Governor General of India in Council, on the
6th February 1852.*

*An Act for amending Act XVII. of 1840 as to penalties for breaches
of the Salt Laws in the Madras Presidency.*

WHEREAS inconvenience has been experienced in consequence of the Head Officers of District Police in the Madras Presidency being prohibited from taking cognizance of petty offences against the Salt Laws, It is enacted as follows:

I. Heads of District Police may hear and determine cases of offences against the Salt Laws, when the value of the Salt in question shall not exceed five Rupees, and may inflict punishment not exceeding ten days' imprisonment with labour, or a fine not exceeding three Rupees, commutable, if not paid, to imprisonment with labour for a period not exceeding ten days.

II. Whenever a Head Officer of District Police shall be of opinion that the punishment which he is empowered to inflict is not adequate to the offence committed, he shall report the case to the Magistrate for his final orders, stating precisely the nature and extent of the punishment he recommends to be inflicted; and the Magistrate shall, at his discretion, issue his orders in writing to the Head Officer of Police, to inflict such punishment

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punishment as the Magistrate may deem sufficient, not exceeding that declared in Act XVII. of 1840, recording his reasons, if his opinion is at variance with the opinion of the Head Officer of Police; or the said Magistrate shall order the Head Officer of Police to forward the parties and witnesses to him for further investigation.

III. If at the expiration of thirty days from the date and day of despatch of any reference from a Head Officer of District Police to a Magistrate, no answer or order of the Magistrate shall have been received by the Head Officer of Police, then the said Head Officer shall release the offenders, and the confinement which they have so had shall be considered a sufficient punishment for the said offence, and they shall not be liable to be again tried for the same.

IV. Heads of District Police shall report to the Magistrates, in the manner prescribed by Clause 2, Section XXXIII., Regulation XI. of 1816, of the Madras Code, all punishments which they inflict by the authority vested in them by this Act.