

## 19 OF 1920.

## TO REGULATE THE REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS.

MALCOLM STEVENSON.]

[May 5, 1920.]

1. This Law may be cited as the Firearms Law, 1920. Short title.
  
  2. "Firearms" includes a firearm of every description and an air gun or any other kind of gun from which any shot bullet or other missile can be discharged, and every part thereof, but does not include any toy gun or toy pistol from which any shot bullet or missile is discharged by force of a spring alone nor a firearm which is preserved for antiquarian interest and not for use. Definition.
  
  3. The importation of rifles into Cyprus is hereby prohibited. Provided that this section shall not apply to rifles imported with the sanction of the High Commissioner. Importation of rifles prohibited.
  
  4. From and after six months after the coming into operation of this Law, any person having in his custody or possession any firearm without having a licence for such firearm under the provisions of this Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month or to both such punishments. Licence.
- Provided that the said penalties shall not be incurred:—
- (1.) By any person carrying a firearm belonging to a person having a licence in force under this Law and by order of such licensed person and for the use of such licensed person only;
  - (2.) By any licensed manufacturer or dealer in firearms or by any person while actually employed by such manufacturer or dealer in firearms to carry or convey firearms for the purposes of his trade;
  - (3.) By the personal representative of a deceased person, who had at the time of his death a licence to keep a firearm, until the expiration of six months from the death of such licensed person;
  - (4.) By any person carrying a firearm in the ordinary course of his trade or business as a common carrier;
  - (5.) By any person to whom the Commissioner may grant a special temporary licence for a period not exceeding one month to use a firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued to some

other person. There shall be payable in respect of such temporary licence a fee of one shilling.

(6.) By any person having a licence in respect of a gun who shall use for temporary purposes a gun in respect of which a licence has been issued to some other person.

Licences,  
how  
obtained.

5. Any person who desires to obtain a licence to have a firearm in his custody or possession shall make an application in writing to the Commissioner specifying the name and residence of such person, the description of the firearm for which licence is required, and, when a licence is applied for in respect of any firearm for which a licence shall have been obtained by the previous owner thereof, the registered number of each such firearm, and the Commissioner shall unless the applicant is disqualified in virtue of the provisions of this or any other Law from possessing or using a firearm issue to the applicant a licence for each firearm specified. Each such licence shall specify the name and residence of the licensee, the description and the registered number of the firearm in respect of which it is given, and may be in the Form A. in the Schedule hereto.

Licence fee.

6. There shall be payable in respect of a licence for each firearm a registration fee of two shillings.

Firearms  
not previ-  
ously  
registered  
to be pro-  
duced and  
marked.

7. Whenever any firearms in respect of which a licence is required have not been previously registered under the provisions of this Law, the Commissioner shall, before granting the licence applied for, require the applicant to produce such firearm; and thereupon shall cause the same to be marked either on the stock or barrel with a number whereby the same may be known and identified (in this Law called the registered number) in such a manner as not to injure or disfigure the same. And such firearms when duly marked shall, with the licence relating thereto, be delivered to the applicant.

Provided always that where any firearm produced to the Commissioner under the provisions of this section shall be found to bear any number or mark which in the opinion of the Commissioner is sufficient for purposes of identification and convenient for registration, the Commissioner may in his discretion register such number or mark as the registered number of such firearm.

Firearms  
previously  
registered.  
Former  
licence to be  
produced.

8. Whenever any firearm in respect of which a licence is required has been previously registered under the provisions of this Law, the Commissioner shall before granting the licence applied for require the applicant to produce the former licence; and on its production shall retain the same.

9. Every Commissioner shall register all such licences granted by him in a book to be kept for the purpose, and in such register shall be notified the particulars of each licence, as specified in section 5 hereof.

Register of licences.

10. Any person who shall wilfully obliterate or deface, or shall alter, counterfeit, or forge any number or mark put upon any firearm under the provisions of this Law, or shall mark any firearm with any number or mark resembling or intending to resemble any number or mark used by any Commissioner under the provisions of this Law, with intent to deceive or defraud, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months or to both such punishments.

Penalties for forging number, etc., on firearms.

11. If any licence granted under the provisions of this Law shall be accidentally destroyed, defaced, or lost, the Commissioner may if he shall be satisfied as to the destruction, defacement, or loss of such licence, grant to such licensee a certificate setting out the purport and effect of the licence, and reciting such destruction, defacement, or loss, and such certificate shall have the same force and effect as the original licence. Such certificate may be in the Form B. in the Schedule hereto.

Procedure on loss, etc., of licence.

12. No person shall make or possess or expose for sale any firearm or any part of any firearm without a licence from the Commissioner authorizing such person to exercise the trade or calling of a manufacturer of or dealer in firearms. Such licence may be in the Form C. in the Schedule hereto. Provided that this section shall not apply to minor repairs to firearms. The Commissioner may refuse to issue a licence to an applicant and may cancel a licence issued. Any person to whom a licence shall have been refused or whose licence shall have been cancelled may appeal to the High Commissioner, whose decision shall be final. There shall be payable in respect of a licence to make or deal in firearms a licence fee of five shillings.

Licences to make or deal in firearms.

13. Any person who shall have in his possession for the purpose of his trade as a manufacturer of or dealer in firearms any firearm or any part of any firearm without being duly licensed in that behalf, shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months or to both such punishments.

Penalty on making or selling firearms without a licence.

Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any person licensed to possess firearms under this Law from selling any firearms for which he has a licence.

Register to be kept by vendors of firearms.

14. Every person licensed to manufacture or deal in firearms shall register all sales by him of firearms in a book to be kept for that purpose. Such registration shall show the date of the sale, the name and residence of the purchaser, and the description of firearms sold.

Every licensed manufacturer of or dealer in firearms who shall fail to register any sale of firearms in accordance with this section shall be guilty of an offence, and liable for each such offence to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

Production of Register to Commissioner.

15. Every such licensed manufacturer of or dealer in firearms shall once in every six months, on a day to be named by the Commissioner, produce to the Commissioner for inspection his register of sales for the preceding six months, and the Commissioner shall affix his signature to the same.

Neglect to produce, penalty.

Every such licensed manufacturer of or dealer in firearms who shall neglect or refuse to produce his register in accordance with this section, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

Police officers may inspect register.

16. Any commissioned officer of Police may at all reasonable times demand inspection of any register kept under the provisions of section fourteen, and take any copy or extract therefrom, and any person refusing to permit or obstructing any such inspection shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

Proof of ownership.

17. The occupier of any house or premises in which any firearm shall be found shall for the purposes of this Law be deemed and taken to be the possessor of such firearm, in the absence of proof to the contrary.

Compensation.

18. Any person having in his custody or possession any firearm may, within three months of the date of the coming into operation of this Law, deliver up such firearm to the Commissioner, and the Commissioner shall pay to the owner of such firearm the value thereof at a rate to be assessed by the Principal Officer of Customs within the District. Such value shall be defrayed by the Island Treasury.

Court may prohibit convicted person from possessing firearm.

19. Any District Court or Assize Court may on the conviction of any person for an offence declare that such convicted person shall be prohibited from possessing or using a firearm for such period as the Court may determine.

Exemption of arms used in His Majesty's Service, etc.

20. Nothing in this Law shall apply to or affect any person serving in His Majesty's forces or in the police force in respect of any firearms entrusted to or used by such person in such capacity.

Saving.

21. Save in so far as other provision shall be expressly made in this Law nothing in this Law contained shall be deemed to affect any other law relating to firearms.

## SCHEDULE.

## FORM A.

*Form of Licence to possess or use a Firearm.*

No.

A.B. of \_\_\_\_\_ was this day licensed to possess and use  
 [a double-barrelled gun, or as the case may be]. Registered number  
 [100, or as the case may be].

Issued on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed.)

Commissioner.

## FORM B.

*Certificate in lieu of Lost Licence.*

Whereas on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ a licence to keep the  
 firearm herein mentioned was granted by \_\_\_\_\_ to A.B. of \_\_\_\_\_

and whereas it has been proved to my satisfaction that the said licence  
 has been [*destroyed, defaced, or lost, as the case may be*]: Now I do  
 hereby grant to the said A.B. this certificate, in lieu of the said licence,  
 to be of the like force and effect.

Given under my hand at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed.)

Commissioner.

[Here insert description of Firearm licensed.]

## FORM C.

No.

Licence is hereby granted to A.B. of \_\_\_\_\_ to use and exercise  
 the trade or calling of a manufacturer of or dealer in firearms, at  
 in the District of \_\_\_\_\_

Given under my hand at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed.)

Commissioner.

## FORM D.

*Form of application for a Licence.*

I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby apply  
 to the Commissioner of \_\_\_\_\_ for a licence to possess and use  
 [a double-barrelled gun, or as the case may be].

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed.)

Applicant for a licence.