

CHAPTER XII.

OF PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY BY THE MAGISTRATE IN CASES TRIABLE BY THE COURT OF SESSION.

Magistrate may issue his warrant.

179. When a complaint is made before a Magistrate that any person has committed, or is suspected to have committed, any of the offences specified in Column 7 of the Schedule annexed to this Act as triable exclusively by the Court of Session, or which in the opinion of such Magistrate ought to be tried by the Court of Session, it shall be lawful for such Magistrate to issue his warrant to apprehend such person. Provided that in any such case the Magistrate to whom such complaint is made may, if he shall think fit, instead of issuing in the first instance his warrant to apprehend the person so complained against, issue his summons requiring him to appear to answer to such complaint.

Or a summons in lieu of a warrant.

Postponement of issue of process.

180. If the Magistrate see cause to distrust the truth of the complaint, he may postpone the issuing of process *for causing the attendance of the person complained against.* and direct a previous enquiry to be made into the truth of the complaint, either by means of any Officer subordinate to such Magistrate, or of a local Police Officer, or in such other mode as he shall judge most proper, for the purpose of ascertaining the truth or falsehood of the complaint. If such enquiry is made by means of some person other than an Officer exercising any of the powers of a Magistrate or a Police Officer, such person shall exercise all the powers vested by this Act in an Officer in charge of a Police Station, except that he shall have no power to make an arrest. Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent the Magistrate from at once dismissing the complaint, if in his judgment there be no sufficient ground for proceeding with it.

May dismiss the complaint.

181. It shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate in issuing his warrant for the arrest of any person against whom a complaint has been made, to direct by endorsement on the warrant that, if such person be willing and ready to give bail in a sum to be fixed by the Magistrate for his appearance before the Magistrate to be named in the warrant on a specified day to answer the complaint, the Officer to whom the warrant is directed shall accept such bail, and shall release the person from custody. In the event of bail being given, the Officer shall forward the bail-bond to the Magistrate.

Magistrate
may direct bail
to be taken.

182. The Magistrate may, if he see sufficient cause, dispense with the personal attendance of the accused person, and permit him to appear by an agent duly authorized to act in his behalf. But it shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate, at any stage of the proceedings, to direct the personal attendance of the accused person.

Magistrate
may dispense
with the personal
attendance of
the accused.

183. If any person accused of an offence absconds or conceals himself, so that upon a warrant issued against him he cannot be found, the Magistrate shall, if satisfied that such person absconds or conceals himself for the purpose of avoiding the service of the warrant, issue a written proclamation, requiring such person to appear to answer the complaint within a fixed period not less than thirty days. The proclamation shall be publicly read in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which such person usually resides, and shall be affixed on some conspicuous part of the ordinary place of abode of such person, or on some conspicuous place of such town or village. A copy of the proclamation shall also be affixed on some conspicuous part of the Court-house of the Magistrate.

Proclamation
for an absconding
party.

184. The Magistrate may, at the same time, order the attachment of any moveable or immoveable property belonging to the person absconding or concealing himself. Such order shall not authorize the attachment of any property out of the jurisdiction of the Magistrate by whom it is made, but it

Attachment of
the property of
the absconding
party.

shall authorize the attachment of property in the jurisdiction of any Magistrate by whom such order is endorsed. The attachment under this Section shall, if the property ordered to be attached be land paying revenue to Government, be made through the Collector of the District in which the land is situate, and in all other cases by seizure under the order of the Magistrate or by the appointment of a manager and receiver, or by an order prohibiting the payment of rent to the absent person, as the Magistrate shall deem proper. If the absent person shall not appear within the time specified in the proclamation, the property under attachment shall be declared to be at the disposal of Government, but shall not be sold until the expiration of six calendar months, unless such property is of a perishable nature, or it shall be considered by the Magistrate that the sale would be for the benefit of the owner.

Restoration of property declared to be forfeited.

185. When any person whose property shall have been declared to be at the disposal of Government under the last preceding Section shall, within two years after the attachment of the property, surrender himself, and shall upon trial before a competent Court, prove to the satisfaction of such Court that he did not abscond or conceal himself for the purpose of evading Justice, such property, or if the same shall have been sold, the proceeds thereof shall be restored to him.

Summons to a witness to attend and give evidence.

186. The Magistrate shall ascertain from the complainant, or otherwise, the names of any persons who may be acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case, and who are likely to give evidence for the prosecution, and shall issue his summons to such person, requiring them to appear at a time and place mentioned in the summons before such Magistrate to testify what they know concerning the complaint made against the accused person.

Form of the summons and mode of service thereof.

187. Every summons issued by a Magistrate under the last preceding Section, shall be served personally on the witness, or if the witness be not found may be left for him with some adult male member of his family residing with him.

188. If the Magistrate shall see reason to believe that such witness will not attend to give evidence without being compelled to do so, it shall be lawful for such Magistrate, instead of issuing a summons, to issue his warrant in the first instance.

In what cases
warrant in the
first instance.

189. If warrant cannot be served, and the Magistrate is satisfied that the witness absconds or conceals himself for the purpose of avoiding the service thereof, the Magistrate may issue a proclamation, requiring the attendance of such witness to give evidence at a time and place to be named therein, to be affixed on some conspicuous part of his ordinary place of abode, and if such witness shall not attend at the time and place named in such proclamation, the Magistrate may order the attachment of any moveable property belonging to such witness to such amount as he shall deem reasonable, not being in excess of the amount of costs of attachment, and of any fine to which such witness may be liable under the provisions of the following Section. Such order shall not authorize the attachment of any property out of the jurisdiction of the Magistrate by whom it is made, but it shall authorize the attachment of property in the jurisdiction of any Magistrate by whom such order is endorsed.

If the warrant
cannot be served.

190. If the witness shall appear and satisfy the Magistrate that he did not abscond or conceal himself for the purpose of avoiding the service of the warrant, and that he had not notice of the proclamation in time to attend at the time and place named therein, the Magistrate shall direct that the property be released from attachment, and shall make such order in regard to the costs of the attachment as he shall deem fit. If such witness shall not appear, or appearing, shall fail to satisfy the Magistrate that he did not abscond or conceal himself for the purpose of avoiding the service of the warrant, and that he had not such notice of the proclamation as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate to order the property attached, or any part thereof, to be sold for the purpose of satisfying all costs incurred in consequence of such attachment, together

If witness
on attachment
appear and satisfy
Magistrate,
his property to
be released from
attachment.

If he do not
appear or satisfy
Magistrate,
property to be
sold.

with the amount of any fine which the Magistrate may impose upon such witness under the provisions of Section 172 of the Indian Penal Code. If the witness shall pay to the Magistrate the costs and fine as aforesaid, the Magistrate shall order the property to be released from attachment.

If he do not obey the summons, then warrant.

191. If any person summoned to give evidence, shall neglect or refuse to appear at the time and place appointed by the summons, and no just excuse shall be offered for such neglect or refusal, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate, upon proof of the summons having been duly served, to issue a warrant, under his hand and seal, to bring such person before him to testify as aforesaid.

Refusing to answer may be committed to custody.

192. If any person summoned or brought before a Magistrate, shall refuse to answer such question as shall be put to him, without offering any just excuse for such refusal, the Magistrate may, by warrant, under his hand and seal, commit the person refusing, to custody for any term not exceeding seven days, unless he shall, in the meantime, consent to be examined and to answer, after which, in the event of his persisting in his refusal, he may be dealt with according to the provisions of Section 163 of this Act.

Examination of complainant and witnesses for the prosecution.

193. The Magistrate shall take the evidence of the complainant, and of such persons as are stated to have any knowledge of the facts which form the subject-matter of the accusation and the attendant circumstances.

To be in the presence of the accused who may cross-examine.

194. The complainant and the witnesses for the prosecution shall be examined in the presence of the accused person, or of his Agent when his personal attendance is dispensed with, and he appears by Agent. The accused or his Agent shall be permitted to cross-examine the complainant and his witnesses.

Mode and language in which the evidence is to be recorded.

195. The evidence of each witness shall be taken down in writing in the language in ordinary use in the District in which the Court is held, by or in the presence and hearing and under the personal direction and superintendence of the Magistrate, and shall be signed by the

Magistrate. When the evidence of a witness is given in English, the Magistrate may take it down in that language with his own hand, and an authenticated translation of the same in the language in ordinary use in the District in which the Court is held, shall form part of the record. In cases in which the evidence is not taken down in writing by the Magistrate, he shall be bound, as the examination of each witness proceeds to make a memorandum of the substance of what such witness deposes, and such memorandum shall be written and signed by the Magistrate with his own hand, and shall be annexed to the record. If the Magistrate shall be prevented from making a memorandum as above required, he shall record the reason of his inability to do so.

196. It shall be competent to the local Government to direct that in any District or part of a District to which this Act shall extend, or shall hereafter be extended under the provisions of Section 445 of this Act, the evidence of witnesses shall be taken down by the Magistrate with his own hand in the vernacular language of the Magistrate, unless the Magistrate be prevented by any sufficient reason from taking down the evidence of any witness, in which case he shall record the reason of his inability to do so, and shall cause the evidence to be taken down in writing from his dictation in open Court. The evidence so taken down shall be signed by the Magistrate, and form part of the record. Provided that, if the vernacular language of the Magistrate be not English or the language in ordinary use in the District in which the Court is held, the Magistrate may be directed by the local Government to take down the evidence in the English language or in the language in ordinary use in the District in which the Court is held, instead of his own vernacular.

197. If any question shall arise as to what is the language in ordinary use in any District in which a Court is held, that question shall, for the purposes of this Act, be determined by the local Government.

198. The evidence shall not ordinarily be taken down in the form of question and answer, but in the form of a

Government may direct the evidence to be recorded in the vernacular of the Magistrate.

Proviso.

Government to decide what is the language in ordinary use in any District.

Evidence how to be recorded.

narrative. It shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate to take down, or cause to be taken down, any particular question and answer, if there shall appear any special reason for so doing, or any person who is a prosecutor, or a person accused, or his Counsel or Agent, shall require it. When the evidence is completed, it shall be read over to the witness in the presence of the accused person if in attendance, or of his Agent when his personal attendance is dispensed with and he appears by Agent, and shall, if necessary, be corrected. If the witness shall deny the correctness of any part of the evidence when the same is read over to him, the Magistrate may, instead of correcting the evidence, make a memorandum thereon of the objection made to it by the witness, and shall add such remarks as he may think necessary. If the evidence be taken down in a different language from that in which it has been given, and the witness does not understand the language in which it is taken down, the witness may require his evidence as taken down to be interpreted to him in the language in which it was given, or in a language which he understands.

Memorandum
to be attached
to the evidence.

199. A memorandum to be signed by the Magistrate shall be attached to the evidence of each witness, and shall state that the evidence was read over to the witness in a language which he understood (naming the language), and if the fact is so, that the witness acknowledged such evidence to be correct. When the evidence is not taken down by the Magistrate with his own hand, the memorandum shall further state that the evidence was taken down in the presence and hearing of the Magistrate, and under his personal direction and superintendence.

In what cases
evidence to be
interpreted to
the accused or
his Agent.

200. If the evidence is given in a language not understood by the accused person, it shall be interpreted to him in open Court, in a language understood by him, in all cases where the accused is present in person. If the accused person appears by Agent, and the evidence is given in a language other than the language in ordinary use in the District in which the Court is held, it shall be interpreted to such Agent in that language.

201. It shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate at any stage of the proceedings to summon and examine any person, whose evidence he may consider essential to the enquiry.

Power of Magistrate at any stage to summon and examine.

202. It shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate, from time to time, at any stage of the enquiry, to examine the accused person, and to put such questions to him as he may consider necessary. It shall be in the option of the accused person to answer such questions.

Examination of defendant.

203. No influence, by means of any promise or threat or otherwise, shall be used to the accused person to induce him to disclose or withhold any matter within his knowledge; but if the accused person shall, of his own accord, propose to confess the commission by him of the offence of which he is accused, the Magistrate shall require him to give an account of the facts and circumstances in detail, and shall examine him thereupon in the same manner as if he were a witness.

No influence to be used to induce disclosures.

204. No oath or affirmation shall be administered to the accused person.

Magistrate how to proceed in case of confession.

205. The examination of the accused person, including every question put to him and every answer given by him, shall be recorded in full, and shall be shown or read to him, and he shall be at liberty to explain or add to his answers; and when the whole is made conformable to what he declares is the truth, the examination shall be attested by the signature of the Magistrate, who shall certify under his own hand that it was taken in his presence and in his hearing, and contains accurately the whole of the statement made by the accused person.

Accused persons not to be sworn.

Examination of the accused how to be recorded.

206. Any person attending the Court of the Magistrate, although not upon an arrest or summons on a charge made, may be detained by the Magistrate for the purpose of examination, for any offence which from the evidence he may appear to have committed, and may be proceeded against as though he had been arrested or summoned on a charge made.

Any person in attendance may be detained for any offence committed by him.

Discretion to the Magistrate to take evidence for the defence.

207. It shall be at the discretion of the Magistrate to summon any witness who may be offered in behalf of the accused person to answer or disprove the evidence against him.

Witnesses for the defence.

208. The provisions of Sections 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, and 192 of this Act, shall be applicable to witnesses named in support of the defence.

Magistrate may tender a pardon in certain cases.

209. It shall be lawful for the Magistrate of the District or other Officer exercising the powers of a Magistrate, recording his reason for so doing, to tender a pardon to any one or more of the persons supposed to have been directly or indirectly concerned in or privy to any offence specified in Column 7 of the Schedule annexed to this Act as triable by the Court of Session, on condition of his or their making a full, true, and fair disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within his or their knowledge relative to the crime committed, and every other person concerned in the perpetration thereof. If any person shall accept a tender of pardon under this Section, he shall be examined as a witness in the case under the rules applicable to the examination of witnesses. Such person, if not on bail, may, if the Magistrate or other Officer as aforesaid shall think proper, be detained in custody pending the termination of the trial.

When Sudder Court or Court of Session may direct a tender of pardon.

210. It shall be competent to a Court of Session at the time of trial, and also to the Sudder Court as a Court of reference in cases tried with the aid of Assessors, to instruct the Magistrate in like manner to tender a pardon to one or more persons supposed to have been directly or indirectly concerned in or privy to any such offence, with the view of obtaining his or their evidence on the trial.

When Sudder Court or Court of Session may direct the commitment of a person to whom a pardon may have been tendered.

211. If it shall appear to a Court of Session at the time of trial, or to the Sudder Court as a Court of reference, that any person who shall have accepted an offer of pardon, has not conformed to the conditions under which the pardon was tendered, either by wilfully concealing any thing essential, or by giving false evidence or information, it shall be competent to such Court to direct the commitment of such

person for trial for the offence in respect of which the pardon was tendered.

212. When any person shall appear or be brought before a Magistrate accused of any offence entered as not bailable in Column 5 of the Schedule annexed to this Act, such person shall not be admitted to bail, if there appear reasonable grounds for believing that he has been guilty of the crime imputed to him; but if the evidence given in support of the accusation shall, in the opinion of the Magistrate, not be such as to raise a strong presumption of the guilt of the accused person and to require his committal, or such evidence shall be adduced on behalf of the accused person as shall, in the opinion of the Magistrate, weaken the presumption of his guilt, but there shall appear to the Magistrate in either of such cases to be sufficient ground for further enquiry into his guilt, the accused person shall be admitted to bail pending such enquiry.

Bail not to be taken for certain offences.

When may be taken.

213. When any person shall appear or be brought before a Magistrate accused of any of the offences specified in Column 5 of the Schedule annexed to this Act, as bailable, he shall be admitted to bail.

When bail shall be taken.

214. When a Magistrate shall admit to bail any person accused or suspected of any offence, a recognizance in such sum of money as the Magistrate may think sufficient, shall be entered into by the person so accused and one or more sureties, conditioned that such person shall attend during the preliminary enquiry, and if required, shall appear when called upon by the Court of Session to answer the charge.

Recognizance of accused and his sureties.

215. If through mistake or fraud insufficient bail has been taken, or if the sureties become afterwards insufficient, the accused person may be ordered by the Magistrate to find sufficient sureties, and in default, may be committed to prison.

Insufficient bail.

216. If the accused person cannot find sureties when called upon, he shall be admitted to bail upon finding the same at any time afterwards before conviction.

Bail may be taken at any time before conviction.

Discharge on bail.

217. After the recognizances shall have been duly entered into, the Magistrate, in case the accused person shall have appeared voluntarily, or shall be in the custody of some Officer, shall thereupon discharge him ; and in case he shall be in some prison or other place of confinement, shall issue a warrant of discharge to the jailor or other person having him in his custody, and such jailor or other person shall thereupon liberate him.

Discharge of sureties.

218. The sureties for an accused person may, at any time, apply to the Magistrate to be discharged from their engagements. On such an application being made, the Magistrate shall issue his warrant, directing that such person be brought before him. On the appearance of such person pursuant to the warrant, or on his voluntary surrender, the Magistrate shall direct the recognizances of the sureties to be discharged, and shall call upon such person to find other sureties, and in default, may order him to be committed to prison.

Proceedings to compel payment of penalty by the accused.

219. Whenever by reason of default of appearance of the person executing the personal recognizance, the Magistrate shall be of opinion that proceedings should be had to compel payment of the penalty mentioned in the recognizance, he shall proceed to enforce the penalty by the attachment and sale of the moveable property belonging to such person, which may be found within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate of the District.

Proceedings to compel payment of penalty by the sureties.

220. Whenever by reason of default of appearance by the person bailed, the Magistrate shall be of opinion that proceedings should be had to compel payment of the penalty mentioned in the recognizance of the surety or sureties, he shall give notice to the surety or sureties to pay the same, or to show cause why it should not be paid ; and, if no sufficient cause be shown, the Magistrate shall proceed to recover the penalty from such surety or sureties by the attachments and sale of any moveable property belonging to such surety or sureties which may be found within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate of the District, and if the penalty be not paid and

cannot be recovered by such attachment and sale, such surety or sureties shall be liable to confinement, by order of the Magistrate, in the Civil jail, during a period not exceeding six months.

221. The powers given by the last two preceding Sections may be exercised by every Criminal Court in every case in which a personal recognizance or bail has been given for the appearance of a party or witness, if default is made by the non-appearance of such party or witness before such Court according to the conditions of such recognizance or bail.

In what cases the powers given by the last two Sections may be exercised.

222. Every warrant for the commitment of a person to custody shall be directed to some jailor, or other Officer or person having authority to receive and keep prisoners, and shall be in the form (C) given in the Appendix, or to the like effect.

The warrant of commitment how to be directed, &c.

223. The warrant of commitment shall be lodged with the jailor, if he be in the jail; and if he be not in the jail, with his deputy. If the jailor has no deputy, the warrant may be lodged with any Officer of the jail then being in the jail.

With whom to be lodged.

224. If from the absence of a witness or from any other reasonable cause, it shall become necessary or advisable to defer the examination, or further examination, of witnesses, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate by a written order, from time to time, to adjourn the enquiry, and to remand the accused person for such time as shall be deemed reasonable, not exceeding fifteen days; provided that, instead of detaining the accused person in custody during the period for which he shall be so remanded, the Magistrate may discharge him, upon his entering into a recognizance, with or without a surety or sureties, at the discretion of such Magistrate, conditioned for his appearance before the Magistrate at the time and place appointed for the continuance of such examination.

Magistrate may adjourn the enquiry, when.

225. When a Magistrate finds that there are not sufficient grounds for committing the accused person to take his trial before the Court of Session or for remanding him, he shall discharge him, unless it shall appear to the Magistrate

Accused, when to be discharged.

that such person should be put on his trial before himself, in which case he shall proceed under Chapter XIV of this Act.

When defendant to be committed for trial.

226. When evidence has been given before a Magistrate which appears to be sufficient for the conviction of the accused person of an offence which is triable exclusively by the Court of Session, or which, in the opinion of the Magistrate, is one that ought to be tried by the Court of Session, the accused person shall be sent for trial by the Magistrate before the Court of Session. If the Magistrate is a Justice of the Peace and the accused person is a European British Subject he shall be sent for trial before the Supreme Court of Judicature.

Copy of charge to be furnished to accused person.

227. As soon as the charge on which the accused person is to be tried, has been prepared as hereinafter directed, it shall be read to him, and a copy or translation of it shall be furnished to him, if he require it. The accused person shall be required at once to give in orally or in writing, a list of witnesses whom he may wish to be summoned to give evidence on his trial before the Court of Session or Supreme Court. It shall be in the discretion of the Magistrate to allow the accused person to give in any further list of witnesses at a subsequent time. The Magistrate shall receive the list, and summon the witnesses to appear before the Court before which the accused person is to be tried. The provisions of Sections 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, and 192, so far as they relate to the attendance of witnesses, shall be applicable to witnesses named by the accused person in the list above mentioned.

Witnesses for the defence on the trial.

Magistrate may refuse to summon any unnecessary witness, unless deposit be made to defray his expenses.

228. If the Magistrate shall be of opinion that any witness is included in the list for the purpose of vexation or delay or of defeating the ends of justice, he may require the accused person to satisfy him that there are reasonable grounds for believing that such witness is material, and if the Magistrate be not so satisfied, he shall not be bound to summon the witness, unless such a sum shall be deposited with the Magistrate as he shall consider necessary to defray the expense of obtaining the attendance of the witness.

229. When a commitment is made to the Court of Session, the record to the Magistrate shall be forwarded to such Court, together with any weapon or other article of property connected with the case. When a commitment is made to the Supreme Court of Judicature, such record and such weapon or other article shall be forwarded to the Clerk of the Crown, and if any part of such record shall not be in the English language, a translation thereof in the English language shall be forwarded therewith.

The record to be forwarded to the Superior Court.

230. When the preliminary enquiry is concluded, the accused person shall, if he demands them at a reasonable time before the trial, be furnished with copies of the depositions, which shall be made at his expense.

Copies of depositions to be given to accused.

231. When the accused person is committed to take his trial before the Court of Session, the Magistrate shall issue an order to the Government Pleader or other Officer appointed by the Government to conduct prosecutions before the Court of Session, notifying such commitment, and stating the offence in the same form as the charge. Nothing in this Section shall preclude the Magistrate, if he shall think fit, from appointing a person other than such Government Pleader or Officer to conduct the prosecution.

When commitment is made, the Magistrate to give notice to the Government Pleader, &c.

232. Prosecutors and witnesses for the prosecution, whose attendance may be necessary before the Court of Session, shall execute before the Magistrate recognizances in the Form (E) given in the appendix, or to the like effect, to be in attendance when called upon at the Court of Session, to prosecute or to give evidence as the case may be. If any prosecutor or witness shall refuse to attend before the Court of Session or to execute the recognizance above directed, it shall be competent to the Magistrate to detain such prosecutor or witness in custody, until he shall execute such recognizance, or until the time when his attendance at the Court of Session is required, when the Magistrate shall forward such prosecutor or witness under custody to the Court of Session.

Recognizances of prosecutors and witnesses.