Educational (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 81

Dated 11th Feb. 1896

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

INSPECTION OF THE AMINDIVI ISLANDS.

Recording, with remark, Proceedings of the Revenue Department on the review by the Board of report on the -- by the Collector of South Canara.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C. No. 144 of 97 (R. D).							

F/21 1,000 6-12-95.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Educational Dept

Dated

Recd. 20 } 1.96
Apl 21 }

Encl.

Mis. / ~~R.~~ G.O., 10 Jan.y 1896, No. 104

Subject.

Recording with remarks B.P reviewing the report on the inspection of the Amindivi Islands in S. Canara.

CHIEF SECRETARY 20-JAN. 1896 GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

648 : 1 - 8 - 95
59 : 23 - 1 - 95
912 : 28 - 11 - 94
533 : 21 - 7 - 93

Order nos. No 81 d/ 11 Feb 96

Recorded.

2. As regards the question of stipends to the teachers sent from the islands for training, copy of G.O. no 59 Ed. dated the 23rd Jany 95 will now be communicated to the Rev. Dept.

Wf. 7 Feb 96

Note. In the G.O. referred to in the D.P.I.'s letter it will show the Rev. Dept that the teachers can get Rs. 12 in all — Rs. 7 under Educl. Rules, & Rs. 5 from Govt. — so that it is feared that the stipend of Rs. 5 will not be sufficiently attractive to the islanders with this offer.

Wf. 7 Feb 96

TB 29/1

To

The D.P.I. & to
-- Rev Dept - q & o
with copy of G.O. 59 Ed. 23-1-95

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

READ—the following endorsement from W. H. WELSH, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Mangalore, 23rd May 1895, Dis. No. 414-Eng., on the following report from M. E. Couchman, Esq., Assistant Collector of South Canara, dated 2nd April 1895, No. 720-Eng. :—

REPORT.

I have the honour herewith to submit the report of my visit to the Amindivi islands attached to this district. Leaving Mangalore on 4th February in the R.I.M.S. *Dalhousie*, Amini, the monegar's head-quarters, was reached on the following day. I stayed there for eleven days ; one day was sufficient for Kadamut, five days were given to Kiltan, and three days to Chetlat. I also found time to visit the uninhabited island, Betra. I returned to Mangalore on the 2nd of last month.

2. The last inspection of these islands was made in December 1892 by Mr. Slight. In the next year the monegar had visited Mangalore as usual, and on his return journey to the islands he was caught by the bursting of the monsoon and driven by stress of bad weather to Andioth, one of the southern islands attached to the Malabar district, where he was forced to stay till October ; he then returned to Amini.

3. In the month of December 1893, cholera broke out in the islands. It is supposed to have come from the southern islands or from Mangalore As it began in the most northerly islands, and as cholera was rife in Mangalore at that time, most probably it was brought from that place. It spread from one island to another, lasting till about the end of April, and in all no less than 628 deaths resulted from it.

Name of island.	Number of deaths.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	
Amini	106	161	267
Kadamut	33	38	71
Kiltan	94	66	160
Chetlat	65	65	130
Total ..	298	330	628

4. From the marginal statement it will be seen that Kiltan suffered most heavily in proportion to the population, but in all the islands the mortality was heavy. It is said that there were very few cases of recovery after seizure, but by the beginning of May it had died out of itself.

Islands.	Government.		Private.	
	Trees.	Plants.	Trees.	Plants.
Amini	336	314	61,573	18,514
Kadamut	1,381	423	23,184	43,513
Kiltan	172	81	17,255	10,030
Chetlat	57	293	14,514	6,160
Total ..	1,946	1,111	116,526	78,217

5. *New statistics.*—In accordance with the suggestion of the Board of Revenue, in their review of Mr. Slight's report, I had all the cocoanut trees on the islands counted. The marginal list shows the number of mature trees and of young plants, and throws considerable light on the progress of the islands since the last enumeration ; the whole wealth of the islands lying in the produce of these trees, the other exports being comparatively unimportant. The last enumeration was, I believe, made by Mr. Robinson in 1846.

6. I have also appended a list of statistics of the trade carried on between Amini and the other islands.

7. *Survey.*—The islands have all been thoroughly surveyed, and maps are being prepared by Mr. Thompson, a Sub-Assistant Superintendent deputed for the purpose by Mr. Thornhill, the surveyor specially appointed to the work, Mr. Crampton, having missed the steamer at Calicut. The former maps which were found inaccurate were made by a field surveyor. I have no doubt that the new ones will be found thoroughly satisfactory, prepared as they have been by a man of Mr. Thompson's experience. The uninhabited island Betra was also surveyed, but no stones were available for putting down. The enclosed map has been prepared from a peg-survey.

8. *Changes since last inspection.*—The state of the inhabited islands is said to be unaltered. All the lagoons seemed to me to be shallower than I had imagined from reading previous reports. Chetlat was the only island where I saw a kundra being loaded inside the lagoon ; in the others the kundras which were being loaded or unloaded were all stationed outside, in the sea.

9. *Betra.*—The lagoon at Betra is by for the largest of all and makes an excellent fishing ground. The people all say that this island has been completely altered in shape in the last few years; formerly the greatest length was from north to south. It now runs from east to west, being, at a guess, about a third of a mile in length and about 300 yards in the widest part. They also say that the water there in the wells, which are merely shallow pits in the sand, has now become fit to drink, whereas formerly it was undrinkable. It seemed to me to be very brackish, but much the same as that in the inhabited islands, all of which is extremely unpleasant to taste, partly, I suppose, from it being little more than a saturated solution of lime. Many trees have been washed away on the side where the sea has encroached, but on the other hand a fair number of young plants have been put in on the newly formed sand bank. All the trees were counted, and it was found that there were about 700, the majority of these being young plants. Trees, however, do not do well there, and there were hardly any nuts on them. The people complained that the men who come from the Malabar islands to fish here take away all the nuts. It would in any case be a good thing if the monegar was told to send over some peons from Chetlat before the monsoon and plant some more; or next year, when the boats are going there to fish, to tell the men to plant as many more as they can, as the present supply is evidently insufficient. There is a good deal of rough scrub on the island, but no good trees.

10. The tomb of the saint who was buried on this island consists of two apartments, the inner one being the actual shrine, and the outer room being used as a sleeping place by the people who visit the island.

11. Mr. Robinson once collected a few families and placed them on this island, but they soon dispersed to their former homes, saying that they could not drink the water. Even though they say now that the water has improved, it does not seem at all likely that it will be ever permanently inhabited. The other islands even are sparsely populated, and until they are full no one would want to come and live in such a desolate spot.

12. *Present condition of the islands.*—A comparison between the statistics of trees and of population collected in this year and those collected by Mr. Robinson in 1846 brings out one fact very prominently, viz., that although in Chetlat and Kiltan there has been little change, in Kadamut and Amini there has been an enormous increase in the number of cocoanut trees, while the population of Amini is now some 500 less than it was in 1846. This is seen from the following table:—

	1846.		1895.	
	Population.	Trees.	Population.	Trees.
Amini	2,315	64,172	1,817	80,737
Kadamut	133	3,319	294	67,501
Kiltan	639	29,297	631	27,588
Chetlat	522	25,665	548	21,024

There are, therefore, on Amini alone some 16,000 more trees than before, and on Kadamut, while the population has doubled, there are twenty times as many trees. About half of Kadamut is owned by the people of Amini, who, however, have no tenants there as formerly, but go over every month themselves to gather the nuts and look after their trees. How rapidly the planting is going on may be seen from the fact that two-thirds of the trees in Kadamut are young trees not yet in bearing.

13. It follows that both Amini and Kadamut have made great progress in wealth since 1846, there now being fewer people to support and many more trees. The same figures, too, throw some light on that vexed question—the quality of the coir. From Mr. Robinson's report it appears that the average export of all the islands was about 300 or 350 candies. Now 1,000 candies are sometimes received and the average might be put at 700 candies. But there are actually fewer women now to manufacture it, and therefore one might have anticipated *a priori* that the quality would deteriorate as the quantity was increased. And this is in fact what has happened, and partly accounts for the steadily decreasing returns from these islands, as Government has been paying the same price for the carelessly-spun product of the present time as it used to pay for the better quality formerly turned out, and thus putting a bounty on bad work. But this subject will be fully dealt with in its own place.

14. In other respects, too, there are signs of the prosperity of the islands. Neither in Amini nor Kiltan were there any applications for relief from the poor fund. In Kadamut one family of children applied, but they were strangers in the place, their father having come from Androth, and therefore they had no relations in the island to support them. In Chetlat there were six applications, and this is by far the poorest island. The trees here require more attention, and do not yield so well as in the other islands, though the coir is the best of all. There is a good deal of rough jungle and waste land here, and the number of cocoanut plants is small, the total number of trees showing a decrease compared with the census of 1846. But under the new system of payment for coir which is being submitted for your approval, these islanders will get a

better price for their coir, and by this means perhaps they will be encouraged to increase their plantations.

15. But on the whole there can be no doubt that the average standard of comfort is high on the other islands and tolerable even on Chetlat. The men, in particular, do not have the same hard grinding work as the poorer classes on the mainland, as the trees, once planted, require no more attention; the men look healthy and well-nourished, while many of them, especially on Amini, are of a very fine physique. The Government dues are a very light tax indeed, and have always been raised with a view of simply covering the expenses of the administration.

16. *Industries and Professions.*—The accompanying table shows the number of artizans on the islands. The cholera has naturally depressed all the trades, and reduced the number of workmen, and learning seems to have been the first to suffer. They make their own knives which, being made chiefly for cutting open cocoanuts, are of a peculiar shape; they also make their own fish-hooks. The finer kinds of nets and lines are bought in Mangalore.

Islands.	Goldsmith.		Silversmith.		Blacksmith.		Carpenters.		Malims or navigators.		Barbers.		Teachers.	
	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.
Amini	9	6	10	4	2	2	31	15	48	38	20	18	12	7
Kadamut	..	..	1	1	1	1	7	7	7	10	3	6	2	2
Kiltan	1	1	6	4	5	3	10	14	37	24	6	1	6	2
Chetlat	1	1	2	2	2	3	10	17	41	23	7	4	6	5

17. *Boats.*—A slight decrease is noticeable in the number of boats, from the same cause. The way in which I was told in Chetlat the kundras are paid for is perhaps worth mentioning, as an instance of the way in which their isolated position forces them to combine. Several families join together and buy the necessary wood in Mangalore, which costs about Rs. 200. The workmen employed on the building merely get their food given to them on the days on which they work, by the owners. When the boat is finished, various ceremonies follow, the most striking of which is the singing of ballads by certain chosen women for several hours on many consecutive nights; all the inhabitants attend the performance, and each, as he comes, makes a small present of half a rupee or so to the owners of the boat; this is disbursed among the workmen who built the boat, and thus a man whose wages would be a rupee a day in Mangalore may only get a present of Rs. 12 or so for all his work. The excellence of the lines on which they build and their good sailing qualities have often been remarked upon.

Year.	Amini.			Kadamut.			Kiltan.			Chetlat.			Total.		
	Kundras.	Boats.	Building.	Kundras.	Boats.	Building.	Kundras.	Boats.	Building.	Kundras.	Boats.	Building.	Kundras.	Boats.	Building.
1892	35	140	3	6	32	1	25	87	4	30	75	13	96	334	21
1895	34	137	1	7	32	..	27	73	1	33	68	..	101	310	2

18. *Cattle.*—The appended table shows an increase in the number of goats and a decrease in the number of cattle. The cattle are all of the usual miserable Canara kind, and goats are much better suited to such a place. In the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat, however, there is plenty of grass, but as the animals are always kept tied up to prevent them eating young cocoanut trees, they cannot be expected to do well. If the islanders could be got to fence in their young trees as is done here till they grew out of reach of goats, far more and far better animals might be kept. But they are never likely to take so much trouble.

Islands.	December 1892.		February 1895.	
	Cattle.	Goats.	Cattle.	Goats.
Amini	206	341	163	387
Kadamut	57	38	37	43
Kiltan	41	58	30	110
Chetlat	20	39	22	31
Total ..	324	476	252	571

The decrease in the number of cattle is owing to the fact that during the time of the cholera many were slaughtered for the funeral ceremonies of the deceased.

19. *Buildings.*—There is no change worth notice in these figures. The houses are well built of slabs of lime-stone, but in the fine weather the people on the smaller islands prefer to sleep on the shore, in tiny huts, for the most part open, made of leaves. They say they like the breeze; and that their houses are so infested with vermin that it is easier to sleep outside. It does not require much imagination to believe this; still the houses, especially in Chetlat, where the stone is good, are far better to look at (being higher and larger) than the ordinary Moplah hovel of the coast, nor is one met by the same bad smells. There seems to be a large number of mosques for such a small population. Each island has one chief mosque, with a well-built tank in front, in the middle of the island. The others are mere hovels.

Islands.	Houses.		Mosques.		Number of persons per house.
	1892.	1895.	1892.	1895.	
Amini	437	393	39	40	4·62
Kadamat	55	44	8	9	6·7
Kiltan	200	170	18	22	3·7
Chetlat	151	141	12	18	3·8

20. *Education.*—(*a*) In accordance with the Government Order passed on Mr. Slight's report, Kadre Haji, the Government Schoolmaster in Amini, has been teaching Malayalam in the proper character to a few boys instead of in the old Arabic character. He says that a few boys can now read fairly well, but the number of those studying Malayalam is now only eight. All his other pupils, 22 in number, and all the boys studying under all the other masters read nothing but Arabic. The difference between Kadre Haji and the other teachers is simply this, that none of his pupils pay him anything, even though most of them read Arabic only, while the other teachers are all paid by their pupils. He says that as the people know it is a Government school, they will pay no fees; Government is therefore now paying him mainly for giving gratuitous religious instruction. The difficulty met with in teaching Moplahs is that they cannot begin to learn any other language till they have read the parts of the Koran which are necessary for the performance of their religious duties, and committed certain portions to memory. By the time they have done this, they have reached the age of 10 or 12, and here their education stops. Indeed, to apply the word "education" at all to this routine seems to be a misnomer. They have no idea of the meaning of the Arabic words they read. Even the teachers, all of whom I questioned about their work, do not understand it. The nature of the system will be seen from the following answers given to my questions by one of the chief Arabic teachers in Amini:—

"I teach Arabic only. I have 32 pupils, 16 boys and 16 girls, aged from 5 to 15. They pay me 3 or 4 rupees for reading one-fourth of the Koran, and after that they pay me in rice and cloth. After the whole Koran has been read they give me a mura of rice and some cloth. One-thirtieth of the Koran is learnt by heart. I do not understand the meaning of the Arabic Koran; I read a commentary, without which I cannot understand it."

(*b*) Mr. Slight was of opinion that Canarese or Hindustani would be most useful to them. Mr. Power, the then Acting Collector of South Canara, thought that what was wanted was not a medium of communication with Canara, but a language in which rudimentary knowledge could be imparted to them, for which, he said, their own language was best suited. But as they never use writing among themselves, and have no notion of the use of books or document for business purposes, it is extremely unlikely that they would use them for the purposes of self-culture; and therefore I submit that there is not the slightest motive for them to learn Malayalam. More than once the moktessors told me so in so many words. They said that they belonged to Canara, not Malabar. They could not understand the court language of their own district, nor write petitions to Government officers themselves, nor make their own representations to officers visiting the islands without the medium of an interpreter. All that they said to me had to be translated by the monegar to me in Canarese—a tedious and very unsatisfactory operation.

(*c*) I think, therefore, that so far as any demand for education can be said to exist in the islands, it is for Canarese, as Mr. Slight suggested. The Hospital Assistant Mr. Solomon, who has been good enough to hold a class of about 20 boys and trying to teach them English, also says that what they want is to learn some language which will be useful to them in their suits in the Mangalore courts. They are, however, very desultory students, and therefore English may be considered as out of the question. But supposing that Canarese were taught, even then some steps should be taken to make sure that it is done properly. I accordingly asked the moktessors of Kiltan whether, in the event of a teacher being sent over for a year, they would undertake to send up a certain number of boys to Mangalore at the end of a year for examination. They said they were quite willing to have a teacher on those conditions. If the result of such an examination showed that no real interest was taken in the subject, the teacher might be withdrawn at once; otherwise he would go the same way as Kadri Haje, the teacher at Amini, who was sent to teach Malayalam, but who, if his Malayalam pupils continue to diminish at the present rate, will soon simply be teaching the Arabic Koran at Government expense.

(*d*) I made frequent enquiries with a view to carrying out the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that some boys should be sent to the Normal Training school at Calicut to learn Malayalam, but could not hear of any boys willing to go. Although the islanders go in large numbers to the mainland in the fine season for trade, no one will live there permanently; and I may be allowed to point out that while there would be no difficulty about getting the boys to come over to Mangalore for examination, say in April, each year, this unwillingness of theirs to live on the mainland is a fatal objection to the former scheme.

(*e*) I regret therefore that I am obliged to report so unfavourably of the present state of education in these islands. But the strength of their conservatism would hardly be realized without a visit to them; and these remarks are submitted to you as the result of the fullest enquiry which I was able to make on the spot, the substance of them being:—

(1) That if they can be said to want to be taught any language, it is a language for use in the Mangalore courts and Government business;

(2) That Canarese is the only court language which it is practicable to teach them;

(3) That whatever Government pays to be taught, it must satisfy itself from time to time by examinations that this is being intelligently learnt, as teaching children to learn the Koran by rote seems to me to fall outside the intentions of Government.

Subjoined is a table of statistics. All other teachers teaching Arabic only.

Island.	1892.				1895.			
	Teachers.	Pupils.			Teachers.	Pupils.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Amini	12	205	141	346	7	102	44	146
Kadamut	2	16	15	31	2	38	34	72
Kiltan	6	60	23	83	2	24	9	33
Chetlat	6	33	27	60	5	38	24	62
Total ..	26	314	206	520	16	202	111	313

21. *Trade.*—Subjoined is the table of exports and imports which are valued as follows:—

Year.	Imports.							
	Rice.	Salt.	Tobacco.	Timber.	Arecanuts.	Grain.	Spices.	Cows.
	Hundreds of murahs.	Maunds.	Candies.	Value.	Thousands.	Murahs.	Candies.	Number.
1893	141	1,556	11	168	664·5	140	15	87
1894	134·9	752	20	407	707·5	98	31	120

Year.	Exports.				
	Cocoanuts.	Limes.	Coir.	Copra.	Jaggery.
	Thousands.	Thousands.	Candies.	Candies.	Maunds.
1893	977	153	1,087	539	3½
1894	1,169·8	3·5	557	590	1

The total value of these imports and exports is—

		Rs.
Imports	1893	59,263
	1894	55,815
Exports	1893	53,541
	1894	47,634

For the two years both exports and imports show an increase of about Rs. 4,000 each on the figures given in Mr. Slight's report, a result which may be considered highly satisfactory, in view of the depression of all trades caused by the cholera. The chief differences in the imports are a slight decrease in rice and timber, and a large decrease in tobacco and arecanuts, and a very large increase in salt. The spices and cattle entered in the list are not mentioned in Mr. Slight's table. The enumeration of cattle showed a decrease for the cause referred to above, although 120 were imported in 1894.

22. Among the exports there is a large increase in the quantity of the coir, in spite of the fact that only about half the usual quantity was exported in 1894 owing to the cholera. The export of limes fell off considerably; they are less cultivated than formerly, as the trees are said to harbour rats. That of copra was about the same as before and cocoanuts show a slight decrease.

23. The table of trade between Amini and the other islands is now submitted for the first time. Fowls and plantains are sent from Amini to the other islands, and luxuries such as arecanuts and tobacco seem to pass through Amini to the other islands. None of the other figures seem to call for any notice.

STATEMENT of trade going on from one island to another.

Year.	Rice.	Cocoanuts.	Arecanuts.	Plantains.	Fish.	Fish-oil.	Salt.	Tobacco.	Grain.	Timber.	Fowls.	Value.
	Murahs.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Murahs.	Value.	Number.	
										RS.		RS. A. P.
1883	384	14,490	1,700	5,800	181	34	57	2	5	80	562	2,035 15 0
1894	67	25,850	4,100	2,800	72	8	½	1¼	1	23	203	703 8 0

24. *Tree-planting—Coir.*—The large increase in the number of trees in Kadamat is the most noticeable thing under this head. Amini is now very fully planted, but both in Kiltan and Chetlat there seems to be room for planting many more trees. The planting of trees by Government peons was stopped by Mr. Cowie in 1891 on the ground that the heirs, &c., of the peons claimed the trees as their own, and much trouble was experienced in deciding these claims. Under the present system, a man who wishes to plant applies to the monegar for a piece of land, which is then registered in his name and stones put at the four corners of the plot, a darkhast register, as ordered by Mr. Slight, being now kept for this purpose. Of course this is only done to prevent disputes, as no assessment is levied.

25. Rats are still the worst pest. In Amini the people asked me for some traps, but on the suggestion of the monegar I told them that I would consult you as to the expediency of sending over a quantity of rat-poison. This was once done by Mr. Sturrock, and the results were very good; for three or four years the rats were almost exterminated. If you approve of the idea, the monegar could take some back with him, say 200 rupees worth, for distribution among the islands. They all said that they understood the use of it, and would be very glad to have it.

26. Samples of the other beetles, &c, have been sent by the monegar in obedience to your instructions. I do not know if any satisfactory remedy has been discovered for dealing with them. Once a year each man lights enormous fires under all his trees; they told me this was done partly to destroy or drive away all these pests, and partly because the heat improved the bearing qualities of the trees themselves.

27. In accordance with the instructions which I received from you, I carefully explained in detail to the inhabitants of each island the change proposed to be made in the system of payment for the coir. They were told that it was impossible for Government to go on paying the same rate for the exceedingly poor quality of coir which they are now turning out; and at the same time informed that very liberal rates would be given for a really good quality. The moktessars of Amini, where the worst coir is now turned out, affected great surprise on hearing that the coir was bad. They said they wanted to go on as before; they wanted no higher rates for good stuff nor lower rates for bad. When they heard that this was impossible, they promised improvement, saying that they had not been told recently that it was bad; once before they had been warned, but had then improved it, and would do so now. In face of the enquiries made by Mr. Slight during his visit into the same subject, this affectation of ignorance was very disingenuous. In the other islands, the people did not raise so many objections to the change, the substance of which is as follows.

28. From 1896 onwards each boat-load of coir will be inspected on arrival by the Assistant Superintendent of Customs, Mangalore, under the supervision of the Port officer. He will compare it with the three samples which I have, subject to your approval, fixed upon as the standards in future (and valued at Rs. 25, 22 and 19, respectively), and will credit the amount to each boat-owner separately; there will thus be more incentive to improve the coir than under the present system, by which it is all paid for at the rate of Rs. 21–8–0, and no distinction made between good and bad. I may mention that the third class, at Rs. 19, is the same quality which they now send, of which many complaints have been received from the dockyard in Calcutta.

29. A part of each sample was cut off and left with the Karani of each island for reference. The samples are the same for Amini, Kiltan, and Kadamat, but slightly different for Chetlat which has always made better coir, as their lagoon is better suited for soaking the nuts in, and the nuts themselves, though smaller, seem to make better coir. There will thus be no possibility for them to say that they did not know what the classes were.

30. This is the same scheme in all essentials as that proposed by Mr. Slight two years ago. I think that there is no doubt that if carefully and justly enforced it will prove of great advantage both to Government and the islanders, but all depends on the way in which it is applied. In doing this it should be borne in mind that the islanders have had long notice of the change given them; the details have been thoroughly explained to them and samples are left in each island for them to see. It will be advantageous to both parties; to the islanders, because they will have it in their power to get Rs. 25 where they only now get Rs. 21–8–0 and to Government, because an improvement in the quality will bring a different class of buyers into the market, *e.g.*, the mat-makers, who can make nothing of the present coarse yarn, but who would be only too glad to get good coir at a much higher price.

31. Nor is there any doubt that the improvement can and will be made if Government insists upon it. At present hardly any families begin to work at the coir-making before December. But all boats have to leave Amini not later than April, if they want to return before the bursting of the monsoon. So that now they crowd a year's work into four months, and simply do nothing the rest of the year. When I was in the islands in February all the women were hard at work from early morning till night; whereas if they would begin in August or September, they would have time to make it at their leisure, and so to make it well. But up to the present time there has been no sufficient inducement offered to them to improve it and no punishment at all for bad work. In the beginning when they find all the present quality of coir classed at Rs. 19 they will see that further resistance is useless, and in a few years' time they will all appreciate the more agreeable side of the scheme, the good prices for good coir.

32. Apart from the expediency of putting pressure on the islanders to induce them to improve the quality, a reference to the figures given below will show the absolute necessity of such a step.

33. From the calculations made by Mr. Slight it appears that the net profit on the three preceding years' transactions was Rs. 1,100. At the present time there is a large deficit, which it will in all probability take some time to clear off. The figures given in Mr. Robinson's report of 1846 show an annual net profit of about Rs. 2,600, while the price realized by the sales of coir averaged only about Rs. 25. Now it may safely be put at about Rs. 40; but there is another factor to be taken into consideration. Under the old contract Government supplies the islanders with rice at the rate of Rs. 2 a murah. In Mr. Robinson's time this meant a gain of As. 8 to Government on every murah of rice. Now it means a loss to Government of no less than Rs. 1–8–0 on the same quantity, the bazaar rate being Rs. 3–8–0 now, as against Rs. 1–8–0 in 1846.

34. Although, therefore, the price of coir is two-thirds better than in 1846, the price of rice is 2½ times higher than formerly, and apparently still on the rise, and to this has to be added the value of the salt duty remitted. Thus although nominally the price paid for the coir is Rs. 21–8–0, in reality it is far more, as the following table will show. Three-fourths of the amount is paid in rice at Rs. 2:—

	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Three-fourths of	21	8	0 =		16	2	0
Do. of	16	2	0 =		*12	1	6
One-fourth of	21	8	0 =		5	6	0
	(in cash)						
			Total	...	33	9	6
Salt duty remitted on 1½ maunds of salt					3	12	0
			Grand Total	...	37	5	6

* Extra cost of rice to Government.

35. In bad years the price realized by the sale of coir has at times fallen below Rs 35, and the average price is rather under Rs 40. The whole expenses of the administration, then, and the large tribute to the Bibi of Cannanore has to be paid from a tax amounting to about 7½ per cent. on the coir exports, which are only a small portion of the total exports of the islands. All the other exports, copra, nuts, &c., are untaxed, and as there is no salt duty, the people pay nothing whatever beyond the coir dues, thus having, in all probability, a far lighter burden than any cultivator or resident on the mainland.

36. This being so, and the present outstanding balance against them amounting to Rs. 5,465 up to the end of last year, it is clearly necessary to make a strenuous effort to compel them to improve their coir, unless, indeed, some other way of raising revenue from them is to be adopted. In the southern islands, I believe, Government has a monopoly of cocoanuts as well, the value of the export of which in the Canara islands seems to be about equal to that of the coir, but rather higher if anything. It would, however, be a very unpopular step with them to impose a new tax. They have got so used to the present monopoly and appreciate its advantages so thoroughly that I think they would prefer to make a great effort to ensure its continuance sooner than have a different tax imposed; from an economical point of view, too, it would be a mistake to impose one, so long as there is any possibility of making the present impost more productive. The appended table shows the present financial position of the islands.

STATEMENT showing transactions of Coir Department.

Fasli.	Coir from islanders.	In cash.	In rice at Rs. 2 per murah.	Actual cost of rice to Government.	Total of columns 3 and 5.	Establishment—Land Revenue.	Contingencies—Land Revenue.	Total expenditure, columns 6 to 8.	Salt duty remitted.	Peishcush remitted to Bibi of Cannanore.	Total cost to Government.	Sale-proceeds of coir.	Result.	
													Profit.	Loss.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	CAND. MS. LB.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1302	1,180 6 0	6,002 4 5	14,754 8 0	32,527 5 1	38,529 9 6	2,392 0 9	(1) 304 0 0							
							(2) 65 2 3							
							(3) 36 3 0							
							(4) 53 4 0							
							(5) 97 7 11							
							(6) 5 9 11							
							(7) 262 14 0							
							(8) 9 0 0							
							(9) 125 0 0							
							958 9 1	41,880 3 4	4,277 8 0	5,250 0 0	51,307 11 4	24,497 4 4		
		Deduct sale-proceeds of coir received in previous fasli (1301) but sold in this fasli										14,015 9 7		
											Net for fasli 1302 ..	10,481 10 9		
		Add value of coir received in this fasli but sold in fasli 1303										32,115 8 0		
											Total ..	42,597 2 9		8,810 8
1303	522 8 3	2,656 1 7	7,943 8 0	13,404 10 6	16,060 12 1	2,176 2 10	(1) 283 8 0							
							(2) 60 12 0							
							(3) 11 4 0							
							(4) 11 11 4							
							(5) 119 12 0							
							(7) 334 9 11							
							(8) 4 0 0							
							(10) 32 9 4							
							(11) 76 8 0							
							(12) 63 15 4							
							998 9 11	19,235 8 10	1,925 0 0	5,250 0 0	26,410 8 10	36,963 14 6		
		Deduct sale-proceeds of coir received in fasli (1302) but sold in this fasli										32,115 8 0		
											Net for fasli 1303 ..	4,848 6 6		
		Add value of coir received in this fasli but sold in fasli 1304										13,339 13 0		
												18,188 3 6		
		Add amount of 80 candies of coir sent to Kidnapoor dockyard as per invoice, dated 18th September 1894, but remained unadjusted in the accounts for want of receipt from Deputy Director, Indian Marine										2,757 5 4		
											Total ..	20,945 8 10		5,465 0 0

N.B.—Details of contingencies—
(1) Salary of Karanis.
(2) Do. of Schoolmaster.
(3) Do. of Kavalgar.
(4) Boat-hire for Monegar's tour.
(5) Contingencies, advertisement fees, &c.
(6) Price of special fine coir.
(7) Travelling allowances of Port officer.
(8) Travelling allowances of establishment.
(9) Value of oil mills.
(10) Boat-hire for conveying rice, &c.
(11) Value of house purchased for Hospital Assistant.
(12) Amount ordered to be written off.

37. *Medical.*—Mr. Solomon Pillay, now in charge of the Amini dispensary, is a First-class hospital assistant, and with his vaccination allowance, a allowance of meteorological work, gets Rs. 85 a month. I inspected the dispensary and instruments and found the former clean and in good order. The stock of drugs is said to be sufficient. The registers also were written up to date. The list of cases treated in the last two years is as follows :—

Diseases.			1893.	1894, omitting for March and April.
General diseases.		Small-pox	..	..
		Cholera	..	..
		Dysentery ..	11	8
	Group A.	Malarial fevers ..	..	7
		Primary syphilis ..	1	..
		Secondary do. ..	4	..
		Gonorrhœa ..	..	..
	Group B.	Scurvy ..	..	181
		Worms ..	123	73
	Group C.	Debility ..	5	131
		Rheumatic affections ..	69	8
	Group D.	Tubercular ..	5	..
		Leprosy ..	3	..

Venereal diseases other than those in Group A	...	...	...
All other general diseases	...	...	29
Diseases of the nervous system	...	...	35
Do. of the eye	...	...	98
Do. of the ear	...	...	91
Do. of the nose	...	...	360
Do. of the circulatory system	...	...	823
Lungs (diseases of)	...	...	10
Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	23
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	2
Dyspepsia ...	...	...	...
Diseases of liver ...	...	...	4
Other diseases of digestive system	...	...	4
Goitre ...	...	...	1
Spleen (diseases of) ...	...	...	4
Diseases of the lymphatic system	...	...	18
Do. of the urinary system	...	...	108
Do. of the generative system	...	...	38
Do. of the organs of locomotion	...	...	43
Do. of the connective tissue	...	...	48
Do. of the skin	...	...	79
Ulcers ...	...	...	1
Poisons ...	...	...	...
General injuries	...	...	151
Local injuries	...	...	199
			...
			1
			...
			3
			1
			46
			17
			8
			82
			74
			...
			...
			10
		Total ..	1,224
			2,137
Major operations ...	...	...	*Nil.*
Minor operations ...	...	...	47

38. It was unfortunate that the previous hospital assistant left the islands in January 1894, as the cholera had then already broken out. I do not know what business he had to leave just at the time when his services were most required. As it was the dispensary was closed until the present incumbent arrived in the following May.

39. *Tours of Hospital Assistant.*—He has only made two tours, twice to Kadamut and once to Chetlat. When he accompanied me he found that there was a great deal of work to do in the other islands, and I think that he should be told to make a point of visiting them regularly once or twice a year, as suggested by Mr. Slight, drawing, if necessary, full travelling allowance as the expenses and the discomforts of journeys in open boats must always be considerable. He informs me that he has drawn no allowance for the tours which he has made.

40. *Births and Deaths.*—It will be seen from the appended table that in 1893 the birth and death rates exactly corresponded and that both were low. The cholera was most severe in Kiltan, where the death-rate reached 239 per thousand for 1894. Amini suffered least of all the islands from the cholera. The result of the census tallies fairly well with these registers, and show that they have been carefully kept. The discrepancy is chiefly owing to the fact that many people died on these islands who are not natives and who therefore do not appear in the birth registers.

—		Births.				Deaths.				Increase or decrease in population.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per annum per 1,000 on census of 1892.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per annum per 1,000 on census of 1892.	
Amini	1893 ..	36	19	55	26	30	24	54	26	+ 1
	1894 ..	27	17	44	21	131	180	311	151	— 267 — 266
Kadamut	1893 ..	3	6	9	35	2	2	4	12	+ 5
	1894 ..	2	2	4	12	33	40	73	219	— 69 — 64
Kiltan	1893 ..	7	9	16	20	10	9	19	24	— 3
	1894 ..	26	9	35	45	117	69	186	239	— 151 — 154
Chetlat	1893 ..	9	11	20	29	9	14	23	31	— 3
	1894 ..	20	19	39	57	72	69	141	209	— 102 — 105
Total ..	1893 ..	55	45	100	26	51	49	100	26	..
	1894 ..	75	47	122	32	353	358	711	185	— 589 — 589
Total ..		130	92	222	..	404	407	811	..	— 589

41. *Cases treated.*—Excluding the cases treated by the hospital assistant when on tour with me, a table of which is appended, the total number for 1894 was over 2,000—a noticeable increase. Eye-diseases, as usual, are by far the heaviest item, skin-diseases coming next. The hospital assistant says that they are unsatisfactory patients, not coming till the disease is far advanced, expecting instant cure or relief, and not attending regularly in cases which cannot be cured except by a systematic course of treatment. But they are not singular in this respect. The women are anæmic and weak compared with the men, who are, as has been mentioned before, for the most part healthy-looking and strongly-made. There is no venereal disease on any of the islands. Out-patients treated for the various diseases in the various islands while on tour in February 1895 (16th to 26th) :—

Kadamut	20
Kiltan	124
Chetlat	51
Total ...	195

Diseases.	Admitted.	Attended personally.	Represented by friends.	Total.
Dysentery	1	..	1	1
Worms	27	27	..	27
Debility	6	6	..	6
Rheumatic affections	25	23	2	25
All other general diseases	7	5	2	7
Diseases of the nervous system	17	17	..	17
Do. of the eye	18	16	2	18
Do. of the ear	1	1	..	1
Do. of the circulatory system	1	1	..	1
Lung diseases	1	1	..	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	13	13	..	13
Diarrhœa	12	12	..	12
Dyspepsia	5	5	..	5
Other diseases of digestive system ..	8	7	1	8
Diseases of the generative system ..	12	10	2	12
Diseases of the skin	30	28	2	30
Ulcers	5	4	1	5
Local injuries	6	6	..	6
Total ..	195	182	13	195

Surgical operations.

Major	*Nil*
Minor	2

Classes and sexes of patients with the daily average—

—	Europeans.			Eurasians.			Muhammadans.			Hindus.			Other classes.			Total.			Daily average.		
	Males.	Females.	Children.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Males.	Females.	Children.
Out-door ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	83	75	34	..	..	..	..	..	2	84	75	36	7·64	6·82	3·27
Total ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	83	75	34	..	..	..	..	..	2	84	75	36	7·64	6·82	3·27
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17·73		

42. *Meteorological instruments.*—These were in good order, with the exception of the barometer. The Commander of the R. T. M. S. *Dalhousie* was good enough to make a proper inspection of the instruments and their management, and said that the barometer was out of order, and that it should be condemned. He pointed out a slight error in its reading to the hospital assistant. He expressed himself satisfied with the way in which the observations were being recorded. The wind gauge has been put up on a pole and a ladder built up to it. It is a very shaky arrangement, however, and a small flight of stone steps would be far safer and more economical in the end than the wooden ladder, which will want renewing every second or third year, and which it would be barely safe to climb in the monsoon gales.

Rainfall.

Island.	1892.	1893.	1894.
	INCHES.	INCHES.	INCHES.
Amini	58	66·63	44·97

43. *Compounder.*—A compounder was sent over to Amini with me, but as soon as he arrived he fell sick with dysentery, and further announced that he could not keep the instruments and dispensary clean, as that was a ward-cooly's work. The former ward cooly had given notice to leave, and as the hospital assistant told me that he had not asked for a compounder, and did not want one (there not being sufficient compounding work to occupy two people), I thought it best to bring him back with me to Mangalore, and to inform the District Surgeon of my action. This I have now done; and he is of opinion that as an intelligent man is wanted, who, besides not being too big a man to keep the dispensary swept clean, will be capable of looking after the meteorological instruments by himself when the hospital assistant goes on tour, it will be best to give the Rs. 12 sanctioned for a compounder to a ward cooly capable of doing this work. The instruments formerly were managed on an emergency by an ordinary ward cooly, and for Rs. 12 there would be no difficulty in getting a competent man.

44. *Vaccination.*—Although the hospital assistant receives an allowance of Rs. 10 for vaccination, he is seldom able to do any work for want of lymph. When he first came to the islands the monegar was absent, and as he was a new man he could hardly persuade any one to let their children be treated. A second supply of lymph sent from Mangalore was three weeks old when it reached him and went bad almost at once. Even the vaccinator sent over with me, by some extraordinary oversight, had only brought a small supply, which was all used up in Amini; however, just as we were leaving Kiltan a supply of good Bangalore lymph reached us from the District Surgeon, Mangalore, and of this the best use possible was made. There was not time to ascertain how many cases were successful or not. In view of the difficulties which attend the sending of lymph to the islands by native craft, it would perhaps be sufficient if a vaccinator was sent with the officer visiting the islands every two years, as that would ensure the lymph being of good quality; and the fact that the monegar himself accompanies the expedition to each island does away with any difficulty about procuring subjects for operation. A statement of cases treated during my tour is enclosed.

Vaccination statement.

Islands.	Number of persons vaccinated.			Result.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
Amini Divi	38	27	65	17	..	48
Kadamut	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kiltan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chetlat	13	15	28	..	..	28
Total ..	51	42	93	17	..	76

45. *Hospital Assistant's house.*—The house built by the former hospital assistant had been purchased by Government for Rs. 80, and the monegar has fixed one rupee a month as rent. The hospital assistant, however, says that he is entitled to a free house; whether this is so or not I cannot say. He has at all events paid nothing up to date. The house is a very poor one with only two rooms and no kitchen or out-buildings. The want of these must cause him great discomforts during the monsoon, and they might well be added at a small cost, together with proper windows.

46. Mr. Slight mentions in his report that a native of the islands is undergoing a training in Madras for the post of hospital assistant for these islands. He is not, however, a native of the islands but of Mangalore.

47. *Midwife.*—In spite of frequent enquiries, no woman could be found who was willing to come over to Mangalore for training as a midwife. There is no hope of getting any woman to leave the island; and the hospital assistant says that though there are 12 native practitioners in Amini, besides some native midwives, the women frequently use no assistance in child-birth, and therefore he evidently thinks that there would not be much scope for the labours of a midwife even if one was sent over. But there is no question that uterine disease is very common, and were it possible to get a woman to go over from the mainland it would be a great boon in many cases.

48. *Position of Hospital Assistant, &c.*—I am glad to say that there has been no outbreak of the traditional feud (as it used to be thought) between the monegar and the hospital assistant. Both are on good terms with each other. The hospital assistant says that as there is no gosha among these Moplahs, the people make no objection to admitting him into their houses, nor do the women mind being treated by him, though he is a Tamil Christian by race. One of the more fractions of the moktessors of Amini complained at his brother being charged for private attendance at his own house. The hospital assistant said that he did not press the matter, but wished to lay it before the District Surgeon before taking the usual steps to recover the amount. The District Surgeon informs me that there is no reason why the people of Amini should be excused from paying the sanctioned amount; and the hospital assistant has been informed accordingly.

49. *Moktessors.*—There are seventeen moktessors, as they are called in Amini, eight in Kadamut, twelve in Kiltan; four of these latter had died in the cholera, and I therefore appointed four new men to take their places, two of whom were nephews of two of the deceased men. The two other deceased mufamars had left no heirs, and so two respectable men recommended by the monegar, and approved of by the other mufamars, were appointed. It is almost an honorary post. The registers of cases show that they and the punchayatdars hardly ever sit with the monegar to try cases, nor did they seem to have any wish to do so, when I asked them about it. The monegar says that in important matters he consults them, but all ordinary cases he disposes of himself. There is no doubt that if they were dissatisfied with the orders of the monegar, they would be more inclined to exercise their rights, and probably their non-interference may be taken as a sign of their acquiescence.

In Kiltan, they said that in the absence of the monegar they wished to be consulted about the calling of koots, which is sometimes done by the peons alone; orders were passed to that effect. But they added that when the monegar was in the island himself they had no wish to be referred to in the matter.

Administration of the Islands.

50. *Monegar's office.*—This was thoroughly inspected, and the records were found in fairly good order. Before the present clerk went to the islands about five years ago, everything was in the greatest confusion. The result is that many records are missing; such as had not been properly indexed the clerk was instructed to index at once. I found a mass of old papers, some going back fifty years or more, and ordered all magisterial records of more than twenty years standing to be destroyed, keeping only the usual register of cases so destroyed, and he was told to continue to do this in future, as is the custom in the Huzur.

51. The moneger is in need of an almirah to keep them in; at present they are merely tied up in cloth bundles and are being destroyed by white-ants and rats. I told him that I would submit his request for your consideration.

52. *Poor fund.*—The amount to the credit of the poor fund continues to increase. No applications were received in Amini or Kiltan. The following are the particulars as to the present recipients of relief:—

In Amini there were three paupers on the list in 1892. One of these, Androth Kungi Kadiya, died in the cholera; another, Aashi Kutti, has been discharged as no longer requiring assistance.

The third, Calicut Biasha, is still on the list.

In Kadamut the only man on the list, one Halukahade Ibrahim, is now dead. I received applications for relief from several persons, and on enquiry found that the following were deserving of charity:—

Patamay Chetti Halid.
Amed.
Onsala.
Srinambu.

They are all young children, whose mother is alive, but whose father, a man from Androth, is dead. They are recommended for eight mooras of rice to be divided amongst them annually.

Kiltan.—There are no recipients in this island, nor were any applications made for relief.

Chetlat.—There are three persons now on the list, viz.:—

(1) Pokarachapore Pokaracha,
(2) Patamachipore Patanachi,
(3) Kannipore Saltharoma,

and I recommend the following cases for the amount of relief specified against each name:—

	MOORAS.
Aishamma	4
Berova	2
Halima	2
Aisha	4
Puvu	2
Amini (a leper)	4

All these are old women almost blind, and all in very poor circumstances. The flourishing condition of the Poor Fund fully warrants the relief being given. The particulars of their condition will be appended to this report. A table is enclosed showing the present position of the fund.

Amindivi Poor Fund.

The following statement shows the present financial position of the fund:—

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Balance at the beginning of fasli 1302 (including interest on post office savings bank deposit)				7,092	0	0
Add—Interest on Government promissory-notes (4 per cent. loan of 1865) for Rs. 5,900 received in fasli 1302	235	6	6			
Interest on deposit in post office savings bank ...	48	10	0			
				284	0	6
				7,376	0	6
Deduct—Value of rice, &c., distributed in fasli 1302				...		
Balance at the end of fasli 1302				7,376	0	6
Balance at the beginning of fasli 1303				7,376	0	6
Add—Interest on Government promissory-notes (4 per cent. loan of 1865) for Rs. 5,900 in fasli 1303	235	6	6			
Interest on deposit of post office savings bank ...	50	7	6			
				285	14	0
Total ...				7,661	14	6
Deduct—Value of rice, &c., distributed in fasli 1303				318	5	9
Balance at the end of fasli 1303				7,343	8	9

	RS.	A.	P.
Government promissory-notes deposited with the Accountant-General, Madras	5,900	0	0
In post office savings bank	1,443	8	9
Total ...	7,343	8	9

53. *Registers—Court-fee registers.*—Fees are levied on revenue and civil petitions at 8 annas each, and 4 annas batta for each witness. No fees are levied in criminal cases. The amount levied in 1893 was Rs. 33–12–0, which was remitted to the treasury on 19th April 1894. In 1894 Rs. 70–8–0 was levied; this has not yet been sent into the treasury.

54. *Rent of trees.*—The amount collected in 1893 was Rs. 131–6–0, being rent due for 1892. Only Rs. 14 were collected in 1894, being rent due for the previous year. The amount has not yet been remitted. This should be done, and the outstanding balance collected without delay. The monegar has not been showing the particulars of individual demand and collection as ordered by Mr. Slight. He was told to do so in future.

55. *Register of wrecks*—shows a balance of Rs. 40–0–8 being the sale-proceeds of a boat and some logs. This is still in the monegar's possession, and should be remitted at once.

56. *Searching fees.*—Rupees 12 on this account and Rs. 1–7–0 on account of court-fees on petitions have been collected in 1894. It has not yet been remitted. He was found to be collecting fees for documents under one year old. He was ordered to follow the practice on the mainland and collect no fees unless the document was more than one year old.

57. *Permanent advance.*—The monegar has a permanent advance of Rs. 20. The contingent register is now kept in the prescribed form, and the charges incurred in 1893 were Rs. 38–3–6, and in 1894 Rs. 62–5–8, the disbursements being chiefly on account of carriage of records and dieting charges of prisoners. The small expenditure in 1893 is due to the absence of the monegar from February to October in that year referred to above.

58. *Government trees.*—The produce of these in 1893 was 435 nuts, which were sold for Rs. 5–1–0 remitted in February 1894. The produce in 1894 was 472 sold for Rs. 6–2–0. This amount is still with the monegar.

58 (*a*) *Darkhast* register as ordered by Mr. Slight is now kept. There are three entries in 1893 and nine in 1894. Two cases are pending.

59. *The criminal registers* were found in good order. Fines are remitted to the treasury when opportunity offers. Three fines only were unpaid—one because it had just been imposed and the usual time of grace had not expired and two because the persons were still in prison. On enquiry it transpired that it has been the custom in cases where a term of substantive imprisonment has been imposed in addition to fine not to levy fines until the term of imprisonment has expired. The monegar was informed that this was irregular and that in future in the event of non-payment distraint must be made immediately after sentence.

60. *Pendency of cases.*—In 1893 the pendency from date of filing to date of disposal was 7·8 days. In 1894 it was 7·1 days. The average was raised by some few cases which were pending for eight or nine months during the monegar's absence from Amini in Kiltan. The heaviest punishment in 1893 was Rs. 12 fine and one month's imprisonment, that in 1894 was a Rs. 10 fine and one month's imprisonment.

61. *The Civil* registers were examined and the amount shown as in deposit pending appeals, amounting to Rs. 642–5–0, were counted and found correct. The payments ordered by Mr. Slight on his inspection have been made. I found that the entries in the registers did not show whether or on what date the monies had actually been paid in. A proper form was drawn up in which these particulars were shown, and given to the monegar for his use in future. Separate registers of civil deposits have been kept up to the present time for each island. There seemed to be no reason why all civil deposits should not be kept in one register like the criminal deposits. In practice the omission to do this causes much confusion. The total amount in deposit cannot readily be seen, and the money in deposit shown and counted in one island might very well, if any irregularities had been practised, be taken from one island to another and recounted again by the visiting officer as a separate balance. For these reasons I thought it best to tell the monegar in future to keep one register of all civil deposits, so that the total cash balance may be readily seen and verified all at once.

62. *Limit of appeals.*—While inspecting these registers I was struck by the long pendency of many deposits. On enquiry it was ascertained that the cause of this is that up to the present time there has been no recognized limit of appeals. If the Head-quarters Deputy Collector takes up cases on appeal a year or two years after the monegar's order has been passed, it is not safe for the latter to order the distribution of property held in deposit till all chance of such appeal is gone; under the present system any man may go to Mangalore and put in a claim to property at all events any time within a year after the monegar's decision. The calling for a report by, and the submission of it to, the court of appeal, and the summoning of the witnesses to Mangalore, all take many months before an appeal is disposed of, and all this offers

unparalleled opportunities for a man to evade the execution of a sentence or postpone the discharge of his liabilities. By this means some cases have been ingeniously dragged out for years. Again, a man dies without leaving direct heirs; his property is sold, and kept in deposit pending claims. The rightful claimants may be kept out of the enjoyment of their property for months and even years for fear that some false claim may be put in in Mangalore a year afterwards, and the whole question re-opened. In Kiltan about five or six hundred rupees worth of property has been now six months in deposit for this reason alone. Of course, the three months' limit cannot be applied here, as for three months, June, July and August, no boats can go to Mangalore. But there is no reason why a six months' limit should not be observed; this would give ample time for appeal against an order passed in June (the extremest case) as navigation is easy in September. The monegar himself, on being consulted on this point, said that it would be a great relief to him if a six months' limit were to be established; and there is no doubt for the reasons abovementioned, that it would diminish the opportunities for fraudulent evasion of claims, and remove what is now a cause of much hardship to the people at large. I therefore beg to submit this point for your consideration and to strongly recommend the adoption of a six months' limit for all appeals.

63 *Criminal Statistics.*—It will be seen from the appended list that nearly all the offences are cases of assault of theft for which the third-class powers of the monegar are quite sufficient. In recent years there has only been one case with which he was unable to deal, namely, one of rioting armed with a deadly weapon brought by the late hospital assistant. The proportion of persons convicted is very high, 32 having been acquitted or discharged and 25 convicted, the total number of persons concerned being only 57. The fines inflicted were of a reasonable nature, and there were none of the one-anna fines to which some Sub-Magistrates have such a leaning.

STATEMENT of Criminal cases instituted and disposed of during the years 1892, 1893 and 1894.

Nature of offences.	Amini.					Kadamut.					Kiltan.	
	Number of complaints preferred.	Number of persons concerned.	Number of complaints dismissed.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of complaints preferred.	Number of persons concerned.	Number of complaints dismissed.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of complaints preferred.	Number of persons concerned.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892.												
Assault or use of criminal force, section 352, Indian Penal Code	4	6	..	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Theft, sections 379 or 380, Indian Penal Code ..	5	7	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mischief, section 426, Indian Penal Code	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Criminal trespass, section 447, Indian Penal Code..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	11	15	1	8	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1893.												
Assault or use of criminal force, section 352, Indian Penal Code	..	10	..	8	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Theft, sections 379 or 380, Indian Penal Code ..	21	21	..	6	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mischief, section 426, Indian Penal Code	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trespass, section 447, Indian Penal Code	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ttalo ..	23	33	..	14	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1894.												
Assault or use of criminal force, section 352, Indian Penal Code	7	15	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Theft, section 379, Indian Penal Code	12	12	..	2	10	..	..	..	..	..	12	17
Trespass, section 447, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
Criminal misappropriation, section 403, Indian Penal Code	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	20	28	..	17	11	..	..	..	..	..	14	25

Statement of Criminal cases instituted and disposed of during the years 1892, &c.—*cont.*

Nature of offences.	Kiltan—*cont.*			Chetlat.					Total.				
	Number of complaints dismissed.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of complaints preferred.	Number of persons concerned.	Number of complaints dismissed.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of complaints preferred.	Number of persons concerned.	Number of complaints dismissed.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1892.													
Assault or use of criminal force, section 352, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	..	5	1
Theft, sections 379 or 380, Indian Penal Code ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	6	8	..	2	6
Mischief, section 426, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
Criminal trespass, section 447, Indian Penal Code ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..
Total ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	12	16	1	8	7
1893.													
Assault or use of criminal force, section 352, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	2	2	..	1	1	8	12	..	9	3
Theft, sections 379 or 380, Indian Penal Code ..	..	..	..	7	7	..	2	5	28	28	..	8	20
Mischief, section 426, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Trespass, section 447, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Total ..	..	..	..	9	9	..	3	6	38	42	..	17	25
1894.													
Assault or use of criminal force, section 352, Indian Penal Code	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	8	17	..	15	2
Theft, section 379, Indian Penal Code	..	8	9	4	4	..	1	3	28	33	..	11	22
Trespass, section 447, Indian Penal Code	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	6	..
Criminal misappropriation, section 403, Indian Penal Code	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Total ..	..	14	11	4	4	..	1	3	38	57	..	32	25

(*a*) The fines for offences against custom seem to come properly under this head. The great majority are small fines for not attending koots when summoned to help in rat-catching, pulling up boats, &c. They, however, include a fine of Rs. 15 for non-payment of dowry, and one of Rs. 5 inflicted on a man of Amini who was given some papers at Mangalore for the monegar, and who instead of doing so kept them in his own house for eight months after reaching Amini. This peculiar power seems to be used with discretion and in the hands of a reliable man is of great use in summarily dealing with trivial offences. It is true that one petitioner complained that because he had once left off killing rats to go to prayers in an adjacent mosque, he was threatened by the monegar with Rs. 600 fine and 6 months' imprisonment; and that fearing for his life (as he might well do if all offences were to be punished on the same generous scale), he fled to Mangalore in a boat by night. But on enquiry it was found that he had, indeed, stolen another man's boat and gone off in it, but the motive for doing so was not that which he had alleged.

	RS.	A.	P.	
1892	14	0	0	
1893	...			(monegar absent till November).
1894	51	14	0	(from 44 persons).

64. *Civil suits.*—Ninety-seven civil suits have been disposed of by the monegar in the last two years, two-thirds of them arising in Amini. It will be seen that no civil or criminal suits are entered as arising in Kadamat, the truth being, I believe, that all cases are brought from that island to Amini for disposal and probably entered in the statistics of Amini also.

About half the cases were decided by oath on the Koran—an unusual method in Civil Court, and not over-reliable in the hands of a stranger to the islands. For instance, one man brought a claim on the estate of a dead man, and I asked him (there being no proof) if he was willing to take oath. He said, willingly, if I would order him to do so. He was told that he would not be ordered to take oath but was given the chance of doing so in order to prove his claim. He at once refused to take it on those terms, and the claim was dismissed. It was evidently his intention to transfer the onus of false swearing to another's shoulders.

It is noticeable that no cases were decided by panchayat.

STATEMENT of Civil suits instituted and disposed of during the years.

		Kadamat.										Kiltan.										Total.									
		Number of suits.	Number tried by the monegar.					Tried by monegar and panchayat.	Dismissed or withdrawn.	Pending.	Total.	Number of suits.	Number tried by the monegar.					Tried by monegar and panchayat.	Dismissed or withdrawn.	Pending.	Total.	Number of suits.	Number tried by the monegar.					Tried by monegar and panchayat.	Dismissed or withdrawn.	Pending.	Total.
			Decided on evidence.	Decided on oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.							Decided on evidence.	Decided on oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.							Decided on evidence.	Decided on oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Aminie.	1893	56	18	13	12	43	..	..	13	..	56	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	57	18	13	12	44	..	..	13	..	57
	1894	51	10	7	4	21	..	..	7	..	51	10	..	..	1	1	..	..	4	..	5	61	10	7	5	22	..	..	11	..	56
	Total ..	107	28	20	16	64	..	..	20	23	107	11	..	1	1	2	..	..	4	..	5	118	28	21	17	66	..	..	24	23	112
Kiltan—*cont.*	1893	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	8	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
	1894	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	14	8	1	..	9	..	..	1	..	1	20	8	1	..	9	..	..	1	..	13
	Total ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	16	9	1	..	10	..	..	1	..	1	28	9	1	..	10	..	..	1	..	20
Cheiat.	1893	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1894	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

65. *Revenue cases*, which in these islands include suits about divorce and maintenance, show a total of 267 for the two years. They naturally relate for the most part to trees and land, though the name "revenue cases" seems to be a misnomer, there being no land revenue of any kind. There is nothing in them which seems to call for any notice.

66. *Tours of the Monegar.*—The following table shows the tours made by the monegar. He spent six months in Kiltan last year adjusting and enquiring into claims to the property of persons who died in the cholera at the beginning of the year. He also spent 42 days in Chetlat. He has had small cutcherries built on each island for the transaction of business neatly made and properly kept clean :—

Tours of Monegar.

Years.	Kadamat.			Kiltan.			Chetlat.		
	Visits.	Months.	Days.	Visits.	Months.	Days.	Visits.	Months.	Days.
1893	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
1894	3	..	6	2	5	21	2	1	11

67. *Proposal to create Village Magistrates.*—The monegar was questioned about this proposal of Mr. Slight's and evidently does not think it necessary. He said that in any case the powers should not be given to moktessars, but if to any one, then to the Karani of each island. The moktessars would in all probability not undertake the work if asked to do so. The present system causes no inconvenience, as if offences are committed security is taken from the offender to prevent his running away, but even that is hardly necessary. As soon as practicable he is sent over to Amini for trial, unless the monegar happens to be going on circuit at the time. It really does not seem as if any change is necessary.

68. *Copying-fees.*—As there are no stamped papers in the islands the fees are paid in cash. The clerk has hitherto been charging As. 4 a page for copies and collecting the whole amount in advance. He was told to charge As. 2 only in future for copying and comparing fees and to follow the custom which prevailed on the mainland before stamped papers were introduced, namely, to collect the search-fees, &c., in full and one-third only of the actual copying-fees in advance ; and further to keep a proper account showing date of delivery of copies and receipt of fees to be initialled by the monegar, as hitherto there has been nothing to prevent him collecting excess fees or concealing the receipt of the advance.

69. *Magisterial fines and contingencies.*—The following statement shows the figures of the last three years. The expenditure was higher this year on account of there having been more prisoners. The number of persons fined also shows an increase :—

Magisterial fines and magisterial contingencies.

Year.	Persons fined.	Amount.	Persons imprisoned.	Expenditure.
		RS.		RS. A. P.
1892	6	35	2	4 12 0
1893	18	118	9	34 0 0
1894	23	159	13	43 8 0
Add amount of fines of 1893 collected in 1894	..	30		
Total ..	47	342	24	82 4 0

70. *Documents* are registered free of charge in the monegar's office, but the people are very slow to see the advantage of having this done. For the last three years only two documents a year have been registered. When asked why such and such an alleged transaction has not been registered, they simply say that it is not the custom to do so in these islands.

71. *Pounds.*—The decrease in the amount for 1893 is due to the monegar's absence in Androth, which has been explained above; the majority of the fines levied in 1894 were in Kiltan, where the monegar spent most of the year.

Pounds.

Year.	Cattle seized.	Goats seized.	Amount levied.	Rewards to seizers.	Feeding charges.	Net collection.
			RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.
1892	9	17	22 4 0	14 1 4	..	8 2 8
1893	1	9	10 0 0	6 10 8	..	3 5 4
1894	10	17	17 2 0	6 10 8	..	10 7 4

Remarks.—The statement of 1893 shows the amount of fines levied in Amini, and that of 1894 shows the amount of fines levied in Kiltan as the monegar was in that island. The decrease of 1893 is due to the monegar's absence in the Androth island.

72. *Establishment.*—The pay of the monegar has been raised to Rs. 85, and that of his clerk to Rs. 15.

The total establishment now is—

	RS.
One monegar	85
One clerk	15
Eight peons	8
One karani in Amini	36 mooras of rice.
One „ in Kadamat	14 „
One „ in Kiltan	17 „
One „ in Chetlat	17 „
Five ugranies in Amini	4 „
One nadapal	80 cocoanut trees.
One ugrani in each of other islands	20 „
One schoolmaster on	18 mooras of rice.
One hospital assistant	1 ward cooly.

In Mangalore there are also in the Sea Customs office—

	RS.
One clerk	15
One toladar	7
Three peons	6

The ugrani on Amini used to have 20 trees like those on the other islands, but now have 4 mooras of rice instead. They petitioned that trees might be given again, but more than before. I think that they might have 25 or 30 trees given to them, as their present pay is very much less than that of ugranies on the mainland.

The head peon in Amini also presented a petition that he might be made a duffadar with an increase of pay. He has 28 years' service, and in the absence of the monegar he represents the executive and has some responsible work to do. I would recommend that his pay be raised from Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 to improve his position. At present there is no duffadar on the establishment.

The ugrani on Kadamat also petitioned for more pay. He has little work to do, and I think his 20 trees are quite sufficient.

Kadri Hagi, the Schoolmaster, also said his pay was not sufficient. The monegar, however, thinks otherwise, and I agree with him.

73. *Lavancheri Estate.*—Among the petitions referred by you to me for disposal were several relating to this estate. The monegar had previously submitted two reports on this property held in deposit pending claims to your predecessor. The petitions are herewith returned with certain recommendations. If you approve of them, the bulk of the immoveable property will escheat to Government, as by the custom of the islands all alyasantana property does in the absence of heirs. It will be seen from the various reports already sent in that none of the claimants have any right to this part of the estate; and in the event of the escheat taking place, I venture to suggest that the property should be sold outright to save the trouble and expense of management. It is said to be worth about Rs. 3,000, and this amount might, with the consent of Government, be invested in Government paper and either placed to the credit of the Poor Fund or be kept as a separate deposit and the interest applied to education, or some other public object of utility.

74. *General.*—The peculiar blending of systems of law in these islands has been often remarked upon. But not only do the alyasantana and makkalasantana systems both exist side by side, but there is a further admixture of Muhammadan law. As far as I could make out, landed property and trees generally follow the alyasantana, and moveable property follows the makkalasantana. All this Hindu law comes down from old times, as it is now some 200 or 300 years since the inhabitants were converted from Hinduism to their present religion, and it is now modified by the application of certain of the leading principles of Muhammadan law. For instance, no property can be inherited till the burial expenses and all debts have been satisfied; and when it has been decided by Hindu law to what branch of the family a property is to come, the Muhammadan law is brought in to settle the respective shares of the different members.

75. *Position of Monegar.*—It is here that the necessity of having a Muhammadan monegar is most clearly seen. As Mr. Slight pointed out the monegar has no power to enforce his civil orders, except by fining for breach of custom. His position is therefore more that of an arbitrator or pundit than a judge; and if the parties had no confidence in his knowledge of Muhammadan law and tradition, they would not submit willingly to his orders or apply to him, at all. As there is no legal obligation on the parties to carry out his decrees, it seems rather an anomaly that an appeal should lie from them to the Mangalore Division officer; the explanation probably being that the islanders do not understand the distinction between criminal and

civil matters and look upon the monegar as having equal authority in both branches; this being so, it is only fair that there should be a court of appeal. It is, however, a position which needs a good deal of tact and common sense in the holder, and these are qualities which the present man, by the consensus of all the officers who have visited the islands, possesses in an unusual degree. The trouble in Amini between him and some of the moktessars mentioned by Mr. Slight is now completely at an end. His name which had been erased from the gate of the mosque has been replaced; and it was only in Kiltan that any petitions of the personal nature mentioned by Mr. Slight as being so common were received. In fact, being surprised at so few petitions being presented in Amini, by far the most litigious island, I enquired why this was so, and I was told that the monegar had recently been in mourning for his brother, the late Huzur duffadar, and that on this account the people were unwilling to cause him unnecessary trouble and annoyance. This is a very satisfactory proof of the friendly relations now existing between the people and the monegar, and of the respect which they have for him as a man. He has now held this office for 22 years and it will be difficult to replace him when he retires.

76. *Petitions and Requests.*—As mentioned above, there were fewer petitions presented than formerly and none of them of any special significance. In Amini they complained as usual of the quality of the rice. They were told that they should lodge that complaint before the Port officer, Mangalore, as soon as they received rice which they considered below sample. I believe it is quite groundless, as in the same breath they asked to have rice of the first sort given them in future instead of the present quality. They admitted that they never bought rice of the first quality themselves, and evidently did not think it in the least likely that they would get it, but had merely thought there was no harm in asking.

They now get 1½ maunds of salt and this seems sufficient, though in Kadamat they asked for a further increase to 1¾. If this was granted to Kadamat, it would of course be demanded by all the other islands, and in their present financial position it is out of the question to raise the expenses any further. There is one request, however, which I have already referred to and would venture to again bring to your notice. The people of the islands belonging to this district are forbidden to go to the fishing grounds of the southern islands to catch tortoises; but the men from the southern islands continue to come and catch such few tortoises as there are here; they use all the fishing stations by rights belonging to the northern islands and, not content with that, they carry off from the few cocoanut trees on Bitra all the nuts which may be remaining after they have used as many as they require during their stay on the island. It seems only fair that either all the fishing grounds in all the islands should be open to all, or, if the islanders of one district are confined to their own grounds, those of the other district should be so too. The present state of things seems very one-sided and unfair, and I think something should be done to remedy it at once.

As mentioned above, most petitions were received from Kiltan accusing the monegar of all kinds of crimes. When the petitioners, however, were summoned and examined, they professed to know nothing about the most serious accusations. For instance, in one petition it was said that the monegar had kept all the people of the island out in the sun rat-hunting every day and all day long for months, so that about 150 people had been killed by falling from the trees from exhaustion. This, they said, must have been a mistake of the Mangalore petition-writers; they had not told him to put that in; they did not understand the petition as it was written in Canarese; no one had been injured, to their knowledge, from that cause; and so on all through. It afterwards transpired that the petitioners were mostly men who had a more serious cause of complaint against the monegar. They had put in false claims to property which had been rejected by him on enquiry. As was noticed by Mr. Slight, intercourse with the mainland brings them into contact with the petition-writers and petty vakils of Mangalore, whose imaginations run riot in describing the tyranny under which the islanders groan.

77. *Social Conditions.*—In Amini there are still the remains of four old Hindu castes, called Tarwaad, Tanaka, Kadgarr and Melacherry, and said to be derived from and to correspond with the Malabar Numburries, Nairs, Fishermen and Tiens. The upper two castes do not intermarry with the lower two, but all the castes eat together, and there do not seem to be any other caste distinctions. In Amini there is certainly a finer breed of men than in the other lands where the constant intermarriage may have caused deterioration. The inhabitants of the other three islands are all of the two lower castes, but though they are called toddy-drawers, no fermented toddy is drunk on any of the islands, the sweet juice only being used; from this jaggery is made, though not in large quantities, as it evidently pays best to grow nuts. The mixture of Hindu and Muhammadan customs is very evident in the matter of marriage and divorce. Husband and wife do not live together, nor does either pass into the other's family. The children, too, belong to the wife's family. But divorces are very common (some women being said to have had as many as twelve different husbands) and are effected in the Muhammadan way; on the formula being pronounced thrice by the husband, the marriage is dissolved. Both boys and girls are married at a very early age.

Among the conditions on which tenants hold their trees, it is provided that the tenant must go as a sailor in his land-lord's boat to Mangalore once or twice a year, according to arrangement, receiving only his food, but no pay for his services. The usual rent is two-thirds of the

produce. All the very complicated arrangements made between the owner of the boat (who sells the produce on the coast) and the exporter, being verbal, and no documents passing between them, when a man brings a suit to recover money embezzled by the other party, it is extremely difficult to discover the truth. Such a system implies a high degree of confidence on both sides, and it is a wonder that there are not more disputes than there are.

Many of the people of Amini must be very well off, seeing that they have so little to spend their money on, and that their crop of nuts is almost a certainty. In fact, there seems to be hardly any real poverty anywhere, except in Chetlat. Taking this into consideration and the general good health of the people, it is surprising that the population does not increase. In Amini a household consists on the average of four people and little more on the other islands. Perhaps continuous breeding-in for many centuries has diminished their fertility, for there is, practically speaking, no intermarriage with the mainland. When the census was being taken, a man (there were two or three cases) who had married a wife from the mainland seemed to think that she should not be counted among the inhabitants and *vice versâ*; they wished to know if one or two islanders who had married and settled on the coast were not still to be included in the census of the islands! But whatever be the reason for the non-increase of the population, there is no doubt that it is the chief cause of the high standard of well-being which prevails, and of existence of which the statistics quoted in this report give such satisfactory evidence.

78. Attached to this report are the following papers:—

(1) Petition of monegar asking for a travelling allowance.
(2) Do. do. asking for almyrahs and office sundries.
(3) Particulars of the condition of certain indigent persons applying for relief.
(4) List of revenue papers filed and disposed of from 1892—95 exclusive.

Petition registers with petitions disposed of will be forwarded at an early date.

MANGALORE,
2nd April 1895.

(Signed) M. E. COUCHMAN,
Assistant Collector.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Monegar of the Amindivi Islands, to the Assistant Collector of South Canara on special duty of visiting the Laccadive Islands, attached to South Canara district, dated 26th February 1895.

I beg to bring to your honour's notice that, although I have to visit the islands of Kadamat, Kiltan and Chetlat on duty on several occasions, I am not allowed travelling allowance. I presume that the rule that Deputy Tahsildars are not entitled to travelling allowance for moving within their jurisdiction is applied to me also; but I beg to state that their jurisdiction is compact consisting of good roads and other convenience, while my jurisdiction extends over four detached islands lying at a great distance from each other; moreover, the sea being rough the voyage is to be made in a small boat which requires to be rowed and steered by twelve persons. This difficulty is already known to your honour. Sometimes, when a storm breaks out in the sea, the boats are driven to the Malabar Islands and also to mainland.

2. Under these circumstances, I beg your honour may be kindly pleased to recommend the grant of travelling allowance to me at the higher rates allowed to the Revenue establishment accompanying the Inspecting officers to the islands.

For which act of benevolence I shall as in duty bound ever pray.

Endorsement by M. E. COUCHMAN, Esq., Assistant Collector of South Canara, dated 19th March 1895.

Recommended. It is certainly a very different case to that of a Deputy Tahsildar. The monegar has to perform journeys of ten or twelve hours in an open boat, for which, as he says, a large crew are required, and during which he is exposed to a certain amount of danger to himself and damage to his goods. But I do not think a double rate is required. That is given to the establishment of visiting officers, I presume, because they are strangers in the place, and this does not apply to the monegar.

Arzi from MUHAMMAD SULEIMAN, Monegar of Amindivi, &c., Islands, to the Assistant Collector of South Canara, dated 7th February 1895, No. 20.

As there is no almyrah to keep the records of this cutcherry in safety, it is kept unprotected with the result that rats get in every now and then and destroy it. I therefore pray that two almyrahs may be supplied for keeping the said records in safety.

Besides this two camp tables and two chairs are required for this office for the use of officers going out in camp. A clock is also necessary to know the exact time. I therefore pray that orders may be passed for the supply of the articles shown in the appended list.

Number.	Particulars.	Quantity.	Value.
1	Almyrah	1	..
2	Camp-tables	2	..
3	Camp-chairs	2	..
4	Clock	1	..

Petition from MARIAM, KAHAD, JAMAL, AMED, ABBOOSALE and SAILAM, inhabitants of Androth Island, now living at Kadamat, to the Assistant Collector of South Canara, dated 17th February 1895.

Our mother came over to this island about seven years back from Androth and she fed us out of the fruits of her labours. When Mr. Slight came over to this island she verbally represented her poor circumstances to him and prayed that some of the Government cocoanut trees may be made over for our maintenance. Our mother died from sickness leaving us destitute of any means wherewith to earn our livelihood. If your honour be kindly pleased to allot some Government trees to us, we shall ever remain grateful.

STATEMENT of Revenue cases filed and disposed of during the year.

—	Amindivi.									Kadamat.									Kiltan.			
	Number of cases decided.			Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.	Number of cases referring to land.	Number of cases referring to trees only.	Number of cases referring to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases referring to moveable properties, &c.	Number of cases pending.	Number of cases decided.			Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.	Number of cases referring to land.	Number of cases referring to trees only.	Number of cases referring to divorce maintenance, &c.	Number of cases referring to moveable properties &c.	Number of cases pending.	Number of cases decided.			Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.
	Total number of cases.	By monegar.	By panchayat.							Number of cases.	By monegar.	By panchayat.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1893	96	74	..	22	25	28	6	15	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	5	..	3
1894	44	16	..	8	7	6	..	3	20	9	6	..	3	5	..	..	1	..	78	62	..	12
Total ..	140	90	..	30	32	34	6	18	20	10	7	..	3	5	..	..	2	..	86	67	..	15

—	Kiltan—*cont.*					Chetlat.								Total.								
	Number of cases referring to land.	Number of cases referring to trees only.	Number of cases referring to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases referring to moveable properties, &c.	Number of cases pending.	Number of cases decided.			Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.	Number of cases referring to land.	Number of cases referring to trees only.	Number of cases referring to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases referring to moveable properties, &c.	Number of cases pending.	Number of cases decided.			Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.	Number of cases referring to land.	Number of cases referring to trees only.	Number of cases referring to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases referring to moveable properties, &c.	Number of cases pending.
						Total number of cases.	By monegar.	By panchayat.							Number of cases.	By monegar.	By panchayat.						
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
1893	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	80	..	25	28	29	6	17	..
1894	21	24	5	12	4	32	23	..	9	8	13	1	1	..	163	107	..	32	41	43	6	17	24
Total ..	24	25	5	13	4	32	23	..	9	8	13	1	1	..	268	187	..	57	69	72	12	34	24

STATEMENT showing the particulars of Coir received *ex Kundra* No. of Island at Mangalore in 189 .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				9								10			
											Deduction on account of											
											Assessment.				Fine.				Total deduction.			
Serial number.	Statement number.	Kundra number.	Names of the owner and of the tindal of the Kundra.	Date of import.	Date on which coir was exposed to dry.	Date of weighment.	Total quantity of coir landed.															
				Month and date.	Month and date.	Month and date.	Bundles.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.	Bundles.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.	Bundles.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.	Bundles.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.

—	—	—	—	11					12												13						
				Balance.					Superior or special quality.																		
									Quantity.				At Rs. 21–14–0 per candy.			25 per cent. extra on sale-proceeds if sold.			Total.			Ordinary quality, 1st sort, at per cent.				At Rs. 21–14–0 per candy.		
Serial number.	Statement number.	Kundra number.	Names of the owner and of the tindal of the Kundra.	Bundles.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.	Total pounds.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.	Total pounds.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Candies.	Mds.	lb.	Total pounds.	Rs.	A.	P.

7

Statement showing the particulars of Coir received *ex Kundra* No. of Island at Mangalore in 189 —*cont.*

Serial number.	Statement number.	Kundra number.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Ordinary quality, 2nd sort, at per cent.	Ordinary quality, 3rd sort, at per cent.	Total.	Three-fourth portion of the value in rice.	Value.	One-fourth portion of the value in cash.	Quantity of salt to be allowed at reduced price at 1g I. Mds. per candy.	Remarks.
			Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.					
			Candies. Mds. lb. Total pounds.	Candies. Mds. lb. Total pounds.	Candies. Mds. lb.	Muras. Seers. Rate per mura.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	I. Mds. lb.	
			At Rs. 17-8-0 per candy. Rs. A. P.	At Rs. 13-2-0 per candy. Rs. A. P.	Value. Rs. A. P.					
			Names of the owner and of the tindal of the Kundra.							

Port and Customs Officer.

SEA-CUSTOMS OFFICE, MANGALORE,
August 1895.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue. The report is most interesting and was very promptly submitted.

2. *Paragraph* 7—*Survey.*—The survey maps will be submitted to the Board as soon as they come to hand from the Survey Department.

3. *Paragraph* 9—*The uninhabited Island of Bitra.*—Orders have been issued to the Monegar to see that more trees are planted.

4. *Paragraph* 20 (*a*) *to* (*e*)—*Education.*—The hospital assistant had abandoned his class for the teaching of English. I have asked him to re-establish it and teach English and Arithmetic, the only subjects he can teach. Malik Khan of Kalpeni, an expert in navigation, has come to Mangalore. Last year he visited Amini and instructed twelve boys. It is said that he will settle in Amini altogether bringing his wife and children from Androth (where there are other teachers) if he is given 100 trees. I have, in anticipation of sanction, ordered the Monegar to secure his services in order to teach navigation to the boys on the islands and to allot 100 Government trees in Amini for his use on his bringing over his family and settling there permanently.

5. No one is willing to send his boys to Calicut to be taught Malayalam on stipends of Rs. 5 as desired by Messrs. Bradley and Power—*vide* paragraphs 10 and 13 of their reports embodied in Government Orders Nos. 1728 and 576, Revenue Department, dated 16th November 1881 and 7th August 1894, respectively. Kadri Haji is willing to send his two nephews to Mangalore to learn Canarese. I would recommend that stipends of Rs. 5 a month be sanctioned for boys from the islands learning Canarese in Mangalore in schools approved by the Collector. The islanders prefer Canarese as they think it more useful in litigation.

6. *Paragraph* 21—*Trade.*—The following tables compare the trade of the year under report with the average of the previous five years. 1893 was a good year for coir. Trade is certainly most fluctuating.

Imports.

Year.	Rice. Hundreds of muras.	Salt. Maunds.	Tobacco. Candies.	Timber. Value.	Areca nuts. Thousands.	Gram. Muras.	Spices. Candies.	Cows. Number.
				Rs.				
1889	145	815	19·9	619	1,400	138	..	..
1890	138	988	10·2	388	1,330	350	..	..
1891	168·8	818	55	456	1,551·5	348	..	..
1892	124·8	597	63	312	1,201	138	..	..
1893	141	1,556	11	168	664·5	140	15	87
Average ..	143·5	954·8	31·8	388	1,229·4	222·8	3	17
1894 ..	134·9	752	20	407	707·5	98	31	120

Exports.

Year.	Cocoanuts. Thousands.	Limes. Thousands.	Coir. Candies.	Copra. Candies.	Jaggery. Maunds.
1889	943	165	834	898	..
1890	956	139	900	467	..
1891	1,678	274	853	507	14
1892	844·7	37	314½	883	..
1893	977	153	1,087	539	3½
Average ..	1,079·74	153·6	797·75	658·8	3·50
1894 ..	1,169·8	3·5	557	590	1

7. *Paragraph* 25—*Rats.*—Mr. Couchman says that the islanders have a pleasant re-collection of the success of rat-poison sent over by Mr. Sturrock. I cannot find any official record of poison having been sent. Mr. Couchman's proposal to send over a further supply of arsenic is a good one.

8. *Paragraph* 26—*Beetles and Locusts.*—The District Surgeon is sending specimens to Dr. Thurston of the Central Museum, Madras, for identification and with a view to eventually finding out some effective remedy to rid the islands of these pests. In the meantime, I have instructed the Monegar to induce the islanders to adopt the remedical measures which obtain on the Mainland with very beneficial results. I have provided him with two samples of instruments for pulling beetles out of palm trees as recommended by the late Dr. Shortt at a cost of Rs. 1-8-0.

9. *Paragarph* 27—*Coir.*—The system of paying for coir by an actual sorting or classification into third class, second class, first class and special class, ordered in paragraph 6 of Government Order, dated 7th August 1894, No. 576, Revenue, is to come into force from 1st October 1896. Notice was given to the islanders at the end of September last and the form enclosed was prescribed for use from that date.

10. The scale of money prizes sanctioned was also ordered to be brought into force at once but it was not understood by those concerned. An impression prevailed that all houses were required to ship ten maunds of coir each, and apparently it was not understood that the prizes were to be in addition to the value of the coir. A house in which there is only one woman cannot, it is represented, spin 10 maunds of coir. So no attempt was made to compete for the prizes. The system has been again explained to the Monegar, but as it is doubtful whether it will be appreciated as yet or whether there will be any competition next year, I have sent four women's cloths of the value of four rupees each to be awarded by the Monegar himself at the beginning of next fair season—one to the woman in each island who spins the best coir. The cost, Rs. 16, has been met from Amindivi contingencies to be recouped from the prize fund. This, it is hoped, will make a beginning of familiarizing the people with the system.

11. *Paragraphs* 28 to 33—*Prices for Coir.*—The prices now paid are the same as those paid at the time of Sir William Robinson's visit in 1845 and are as follows. The consignment is weighed and if the boat is from Amini, 70 per cent. is arbitrarily considered first class, 20 per cent. second and 10 per cent. third. If from the other islands it is classified 80 per cent. first class, 15 per cent. second and 5 per cent. third. The price is—

	PER CANDY. RS.	A.	P.
First class	21	14	0
Second „	17	8	0
Third „	13	2	0

To calculate the average price it is necessary to take the percentage of each price.

		RS.	A.	P.	
Amini	70 per cent.	21	14	0	Average, Rs. 20 2 0
	20 „	17	8	0	
	10 „	13	2	0	
Chetlat	80 „	21	14	0	Average, Rs. 20 12 6
Kiltan	15 „	17	8	0	
Kadamut	5 „	13	2	0	

The bonus system is the only difference since 1845 (except that Kadamut coir is now classed with Chetlat instead of with Amini owing to an improvement in the coir). The Assistant Collector is therefore not quite correct in saying that the rate of Rupees 21-8-0 is at present paid for all coir. Somewhat less is paid on an average except perhaps in years when a bonus is earned. His proposal is that in future there should be only three classes, viz., the first or exceptional class for exceptionally good coir (fit for matting) to be paid for at Rs. 25 per candy, the second class into which all coir of an approved good quality, *i.e.*, finely twisted coir, may be thrown to be paid for at Rs. 22

per candy, and a third class for all coir that would not go either into the first or second class to be paid for at Rs. 19 per candy. The result of such an arrangement would be as follows.

12. The average quantity of coir annually imported by the Islanders is about 875 candies. Assuming that in future the Islanders exert themselves and produce a really improved quality, a small portion of it, say one-tenth, may be expected to come under the first class, about four-tenths under the second class, and five-tenths under the third class. The cost of this quantity calculated at the above rates would amount to—

	RS.	A.	P.
One-tenth or 87½ candies of the 1st class at Rs. 25 per candy.	2,187	8	0
Four-tenths or 350 „ of the 2nd „ at „ 22 „	7,700	0	0
Five-tenths or 437½ „ of the 3rd „ at „ 19 „	8,312	8	0
Total ...	18,200	0	0

13. According to Mr. Couchman, the average price per candy now realised at public auction is Rs. 40. When the quality is improved it may be expected that the price will rise, and taking it at Rs. 50 per candy the price of 875 candies may be put down at Rs. 43,750.

The expense to Government upon the above would be—

	RS.	A.	P.
1. Purchase price at Rs. 25, 22 and 19 per candy	18,200	0	0
2. Loss to Government by dearness of rice in which three-fourths of the value is paid, or difference between Rs. 2 per mura (the conventional rate) and the actual market price, say	6,825	0	0
3. Salt duty remitted, *i.e.*, at 1½ maund per candy on 875 candies at Rs. 2-8-0 per maund	3,281	4	0
	3,960	0	0
4. Establishment charges	950	0	0
5. Contingencies	5,520	0	0
6. Peishcush to the Sultan Bibi of Cannanore			
Total ...	38,736	4	0

Deducting the above sum of Rs. 38,736-4-0 from Rs. 43,750, the net profit would be Rs. 5,013-12-0.

14. There is, however, in these proposals a risk that a great quantity of very inferior fibre might be thrown on our hands after it had been paid for at Rs. 19 per candy. The Assistant Collector's proposed rates are not in accordance with Government Order, No. 576, dated 7th August 1894, which has made no change in price except to abolish the bonus system from 1st October 1896 and to allow the shippers of exceptionally good coir, in addition to Rs. 21-14-0, 25 per cent. of the sale-proceeds of such special coir. Such was the order sent to the monegar last September.

15. In the special class, if a break fetches Rs. 50 per candy the shippers would receive Rs. 12-8-0 *plus* Rs. 21-14-0, or Rs. 34-6-0 per candy in addition to a possible prize of Rs. 20.

16. I have told the monegar that the spinners should be instructed to improve upon Mr. Couchman's best sample (which they can well do as it is not the best made) and thus to get into the special class of exceptionally good coir.

17. I have told him that all coir equal or superior to the second sample which Mr. Couchman priced at Rs. 22 should be treated as the first class to be paid for at Rs. 21-14-0, that all coir equal or superior to the third sample should be treated as second class on Rs. 17-8-0 and that all below it should be thrown into the third class paid for at Rs. 13-2-0. Thus very inferior stuff will be paid for at its present rate, and finely spun fibre, fit for good cordage, will go into the first or second class. These

instructions do not of course come into force till October 1896, but I thought it better to give them now to avoid misunderstanding, and if they are not approved of by the Board, there is time to alter them next fair season.

18. It has been suggested that the fineness might be improved if coir were paid for by length instead of by weight.

19. *Medical—Paragraphs* 37 *to* 48.—These paragraphs have been communicated to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer.

20. *Cholera—Paragraph* 38.—The hospital assistant who left the islands when cholera had already broken out is M. Anandan, whose conduct will be duly enquired into. The epidemic was most disastrous in its effects.

21. *Tours of Hospital Assistant—Paragraph* 39.—The hospital assistant has been instructed to make a tour of the other islands with the portable medicine chest during the early part of the fair season. He is allowed travelling allowance for such tours under Government Order, dated 28th November 1894, No. 903, Public Department, at the rate mentioned in paragraph 68 of Mr. Slight's report, namely, two rupees a day. He will have to pay the boat hire himself, but he is exceedingly well off with free quarters, Rs. 55 pay, Rs. 10 meteorological allowance, Rs. 10 charge allowance and Rs. 10 vaccination allowance. A junior hospital assistant would have a smaller rate of pay and travelling allowance.

22. *Meteorological Observatory—Paragraph* 42.—An order has been issued to the monegar to construct a flight of coral steps to the wind-gauge with proper fencing as suggested by Mr. Couchman and according to the instructions of the Meteorological Reporter contained in her letter, No. 544, dated 25th April 1895. Observations on these islands, if accurate, should be of great interest.

23. *Compounder—Paragraph* 43.—A compounder on Rs. 15 per mensem has lately been entertained under sanction of Government for the hospital. His duties include that of assisting in meteorological work generally and being in charge of it during the absence of the hospital assistant from Amini.

24. *Hospital Assistant's House—Paragraph* 45.—In 1893 Government sanctioned the purchase for Rs. 76-8-0 of a small house which had been built by a former hospital assistant at his own cost for a residence, and under Board's Order, dated 2nd June 1894, No. 227, a monthly rent of one rupee was ordered to be levied on it. The Government of India have since ruled (*vide* Government Order, dated 14th November 1894, No. 865, Public), that Civil hospital assistants are entitled to free quarters or house rent in lieu. Mr. Couchman recommends that a bathroom and privy be added and windows opened. I have directed the monegar to submit an estimate and to complete the work within a month in anticipation of sanction, as such an arrangement will save the house-rent to which the hospital assistant would otherwise have been entitled under the Government Order in lieu of free quarters.

25. *Midwife—Paragraph* 47.—Paracooty, a diplomaed nurse, deputed by the Surgeon-General, has gone to Amini. Instructions have been issued to the monegar to engage suitable quarters for her and I think the same should be free of rent. I got the District-Surgeon to have her taught vaccination at the Municipal hospital and vaccine depôt, and I am arranging to have calves inoculated on the islands.

26. *Monegar's Office Records—Paragraph* 51.—An almirah will be supplied to the monegar to keep his records in.

27. *Poor Fund—Paragraph* 52.—All the subjects recommended for admission to the poor fund will be brought on the list from the current year.

28. *Remittances to Treasury—Paragraphs* 53, 54, 55, 56 *and* 58.—The monegar has been directed to explain why he allowed several sums of money to remain in his possession unremitted to the treasury. All have now been duly credited.

29. *Limit of Appeals—Paragraph* 62.—Five months would, in my opinion, be an ample period of limitation to be fixed for appeals subject to the proviso in clause 2, section 5, of the Limitation Act. To secure evidence whether a decision of the monegar has been communicated to the party affected by it, I would make it a rule that copies of decrees (not judgments) should be sent for registration in the Collector's office as soon as they are passed, accompanied by a certificate that the decision has or has not been duly communicated to all the parties concerned.

30. *Tours of Monegar—Paragraph* 66.—It will be seen from the statement given by Mr. Couchman that the monegar visited each island during the year. He ought to spend at least three weeks on each island every year.

31. *Village Magistrates—Paragraph* 67.—This question has been set at rest by Government Order, dated 4th March 1895, No. 464, Judicial Department.

32. *Establishment—Paragraph* 72.—With reference to the Inspecting officer's recommendation that the pay of the head peon of Amini be raised from Rs. 8 to Rs. 9, I observe that the pay of the peons on the islands was raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 under sanction accorded in Government Order, dated 16th November 1881, No. 1728, Revenue Department. I would not therefore recommend any increase were it not that in the monegar's absence it is advantageous to have a recognised chief. For this reason I support it. The monegar asked for leave of absence from the islands for this monsoon, but I refused to recommend it. The proposal to allow travelling allowance to the monegar does not commend itself to me. He has already been allowed boatman's batta under Government Order, dated 16th November 1881, No. 1728, Revenue Department, and only last year he had a substantial increase of Rs. 15 to his pay. Deputy Tahsildars on the mainland do not get travelling allowance (The proposal is made by endorsement on the monegar's petition).

33. The substitution of rice for trees for the Ugranis of Amini was decided upon after mature consideration of the *pros* and *cons* of the two systems, and Government in their order of the 19th December 1891, No. 711, Revenue Department, approved of the substitution.

34. *Lavanchere Estate—Paragraph* 73.—A separate report will be submitted to the Board.

35. *Petitions—Paragraph* 76.—The complaint that the southern islanders resort to the fishing grounds of Bitra and further that they help themselves to nuts planted by our islanders seems a reasonable one, especially as the latter are not allowed access to the southern fishing grounds. I would suggest that the Collector of Malabar's good offices should be enlisted to secure a more equitable arrangement.

MANGALORE,
23rd May 1895.

(Signed) W. H. WELSH,
Collector.

RESOLUTION—dated 7th August 1895, No. 276.

With the letter read above, the Collector of South Canara submits a full and interesting report by his Assistant Collector Mr. Couchman of a visit paid to the Amindivi Islands in February last. The last previous inspection of the islands was in December 1892, and it was not possible to depute a suitable officer to carry out the inspection in either of the two following years.

2. Cholera of a virulent type swept the islands for over four months (December 1893—April 1894); 628 persons out of a total population of 3,290 or fully 19 per cent. succumbed to the epidemic. The hospital assistant who was doing duty in the islands having left the station in January 1894, that is, immediately after the epidemic had commenced, the dispensary had to be kept closed till the following May, when a new hospital assistant took charge. The Collector states that the late hospital assistant's conduct will be duly enquired into. He will be requested to report further on the subject and will also be furnished with a copy of Government Order, dated 17th May 1895, No. 326, regarding the supply to the Laccadive Islanders of a set of simple rules for the prevention and treatment of cholera. A few copies of the rules should be obtained from the Collector of Malabar for distribution among the islanders,

3. A comparison of the statistics of trees and of population collected by Mr. Couchman with those obtained by Mr. Robinson in 1846 shows that both population and wealth, the latter consisting primarily of cocoanut trees, have increased in Kadamat, and both have slightly declined in Kiltan; while in *Amini* a decline in population is accompanied by an increase in the number of trees and exactly the reverse is noticeable in Chetlat. On the whole the population has declined in the half century by 319, while the number of trees has increased in the same period by 75,347. It cannot be considered that the population is progressive, even after making allowance for the sudden check caused by the outbreak of cholera in 1893-94.

Names of the islands.	1846.		1895.	
	Population.	Trees.	Population.	Trees.
Amini	2,315	64,172	1,817	80,737
Kadamat	133	3,319	294	68,501
Kiltan	639	29,297	631	27,538
Chetlat	522	25,665	548	21,024
Total ..	3,609	122,453	3,290	197,800

4. *Education—Paragraphs* 4 *and* 5 *of the Collector's Report.*—The arrangements made by the Collector for teaching navigation to the islanders' boys have the Board's approval. The islanders are said to prefer Canarese to Malayalam, the former being the language of the courts. The spoken language of the islands being, however, a corrupt dialect of Malayalam, the Board recorded the opinion when reviewing the last inspection report that the children should receive instruction in the latter language and in the Malayalam character. This system has not had a sufficiently long trial, and the Board considers that an impetus may be given to the study of Malayalam on the islands, if it is notified that petitions in that language from the islanders will be received and attended to in the Collectorate just like Canarese petitions. The Collector states that the islanders are unwilling to send their boys to Calicut to learn Malayalam, for the stipend of Rs. 5 a month sanctioned by Government Order, dated 7th August 1894, No. 576, Revenue. As the stipends were intended for the training of local teachers at Calicut and not for encouraging boys to learn Malayalam, the Collector is requested to ascertain and report whether any of the local teachers are willing to undergo training on the terms offered by Government.

5. *Destruction of rats, beetles and locusts—Paragraphs* 7 *and* 8 *of the Collector's Report.*—A supply of arsenic for the destruction of rats may be sent as suggested with instructions carefully and clearly drawn up as regards its use. It is observed that the Collector has taken the necessary action in respect of beetles and locusts.

6. *Improvement of Coir—Paragraphs* 9 to 18 *of the Collector's Report.*—The Collector's action in ordering the award of women's cloths as prizes for the best coir of the next season instead of the money prizes sanctioned by Government, is approved. The Collector's interpretation of the orders on the subject of the improvement of coir is correct and the instructions issued by him to the monegar on the subject are approved.

7. *Tours of the Monegar and the Hospital Assistant—Paragraphs* 21 *and* 30 *of the Collector's Report.*—The monegar should spend at least three weeks a year in each island as suggested by the Collector. The hospital assistant should also visit every island once or twice in the year: he may draw travelling allowance on such occasions.

8. *Meteorological Observatory and Hospital Assistant's House—Paragraphs* 22 *and* 24 *of the Collector's Report.*—The proposed improvements are approved.

9. *Vaccination—Paragraph* 25 *of the Collector's Report and paragraph* 44 *of the Assistant Collector's Report.*—There has not been much progress in vaccination owing in part to the difficulty of transmitting lymph in good condition from the mainland. It is observed that the Collector intends to have calves inoculated on the islands themselves.

10. *Limit of appeal to the authorities on the mainland against the Monegar's orders in civil cases—Paragraph* 29 *of the Collector's Report.*—The Board is in favour of the

Collector's suggestion that a limit of time should be prescribed for the presentation of such appeals. The period of limitation may be fixed at six months instead of at five as proposed by the Collector.

11. *Establishment—Paragraphs* 32 *and* 33 *of the Collector's Report.*—The Board supports the Collector's proposal to increase the pay of the head peon of the islands from Rs. 8 to Rs. 9. No adequate ground has bean adduced either for the grant of travelling allowance to the monegar, who is already allowed boatman's batta, or for the substitution of trees for rice as the remuneration of the *Ugranis* of Amini.

12. *Lavanchere Estate—Paragraph* 34 *of the Collector's Report.*—The further report promised on the subject will be awaited.

13. *Bitra, the uninhabited island—Paragraph* 35 *of the Collector's Report.*—The complaint regarding the encroachment of the southern islanders on the fishing grounds of Bitra will be referred to the Collector of Malabar for remarks.

14. The financial transactions of faslis 1302 and 1303 show a net loss of Rupees 8,810-8-7 and Rs. 5,405, respectively. This is due to an increase in the price of rice and to a fall in the prices obtained for coir, as well as to the smaller import of coir in fasli 1303, the result of cholera. The Board trusts that, with the new regulations for the purchase of coir, a better quality and a fairer outturn in money will be secured.

15. The Board notes with satisfaction the friendly relations subsisting between the people and the monegar. There appears to be an increasing tendency on the part of the latter to dispense with the assistance of the panchayat in the disposal of civil suits. This should not be encouraged.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of South Canara.
" " of Malabar.

Exd. Saik Karim.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1895.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed September 17th.

Proceedings, 7th August 1895, No. 276.

Reviewing and submitting to Government report on the inspection of the Amindivi Islands in South Canara.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Copy attached. Read Proceedings of the Board of Rev., Land Rev., No 276, dy 7th August 1895.

Order thereon, 10th January 1896, No 104 Mis.

Recorded.

2. The reports regarding the conduct of the Hospital Assistant M. Anandan should be submitted to Government for information.

3. Government agrees with the Board in the opinions expressed in para 4 of its Proceedings.

4. It is observed that there has been a deficit in fasles 1302 and 1303. This is chiefly ascribed to the high price of rice and the decrease in the import of coir in the latter fasli. The new method of valuing coir, is however, expected to bring about better financial results.

5. The proposal to increase the pay of the head peon to Rs. 9 is approved.

6. It is presumed that orders have been passed upon the petition from certain inhabitants of Androth Island referred to in para 78 of the report.

7. Paras. 9 and 10 of the Board's Proceedings will be considered in the Public and Judicial Departments respectively.

(True Extract) -

Lionel Davidson

Ag. Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Bd. 1. R
" Pub. Deptt
" Judl Deptt
" Finl "
" Educl "
" Accts-Genl.

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