

(1) Number of pages 44

(2) Date of repair 22-1-1949

(3) Initials of the Referencer 28-65

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial

Miscellaneous

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2506

Press
Mis.

Dated 16-10-

1894

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 2nd June 1894, No. 227 :—

Read—the following letter from G. F. T. POWER, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Udipi, 14th March 1894, No. 1043 :—

I have the honour to submit the report of my Acting Head Assistant Mr. Slight on his visit to the Amindivi Islands.

This is the eighth official report on the islands including that of the late Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Robinson, and has been prepared with evident care and deals with all matters in a concise and perspicuous manner. Being exhaustive in its details it requires remarks from me on a few points only.

2. *Configuration of the islands, paragraphs 12-13.*—Mr. Slight found very little change in the configuration of the islands. The coral that are growing in the channel at Amindivi must certainly be removed by the islanders themselves, and the manager will be directed to see that Mr. Slight's advice in this respect is acted upon. It is a matter for regret that he was not able to check and complete the maps prepared during Mr. Cowie's visit in 1891. The maps as they stand are of little or no practical use, and some future opportunity will therefore have to be taken to revise and improve them. It is obvious at the same time that in order to obtain a correct topographical survey map of the different islands, a competent surveyor will have to be deputed somewhat at the expense of the visiting officer with detailed instructions for his guidance in the work being done in a hurried manner during an officer's visit which is necessarily of short duration.

3. *Population, paragraphs 19-23.*—The figures relating to the census of 1891 are to be somewhat inaccurate, but the special enumeration made under Mr. Slight's orders must be approximately correct. On reviewing the figures of the various censuses taken during the last nearly half a century, no remarkable variations are perceptible. The islands do not seem to be making rapid progress in population, though there is no indication of actual retrogression. The remarkable excess noticed by Mr. Slight in connection with Chetlat must be attributed to some glaring error in the enumeration of 1891, or, as is more probable, to the absentees having been excluded in that year as sea-going population, and counted during the present enumeration. As a matter of fact it appears on enquiry that several boats of Chetlat were lying at the Mangalore harbour on the 26th February 1891, and others may have gone to the Malabar port at the same time as they are known to frequent those ports also to dispose of their nuts, &c., during the trading season.

4. *Cattle and goats, paragraph 28.*—The increase of cattle on the islands is insignificant, but the number of goats (476) found in Amindivi was nearly double that counted in 1891. They are usually supposed to be harmful to young cocoanut plants, but the islanders seem to take good care to prevent them from straying.

5. *Industry, paragraph 32.*—It is too early to expect any novelty in the development of the local industries of the islands, but as regards artisans they appear to be better off than they were some 24 years ago.

It is too early to expect any novelty in the development of the local industries of the islands, but as regards artisans they appear to be better off than they were some 24 years ago.

ago when the islands were visited by the late Assistant Collector Mr. Hall in 1869, as the following comparison of the statistics then taken with those given in Mr. Slight's report will show:—

			Gold-smiths.	Silver-smiths.	Black-smiths.	Car-penters.
1869	Amini	..	2	2	2	12
	Kadmat	..	1	2	3	10
	Kiltan	..	1	4	2	9
	Chotlat	..	3	8	7	10
1892	Amini	..	9	10	2	41
	Kadmat	..	1	1	1	31
	Kiltan	..	1	6	5	7
	Chotlat	..	1	2	2	10
Increase			11	19	10	68
			8	11	3	17

7. *Boats*.—The islanders have made considerable progress in building boats. As compared with the figures of 1869, the existing number shows an increase in the aggregate of 88 boats:—

	Number of boats of all sizes.
In 1869	363
In 1892	451
Increase	88

8. *Registration of documents*, paragraph 34.—The simple form of registering documents introduced in the islands under G.O., dated 21st January 1884, No. 21, Revenue, appears not to be availed of to the extent that was anticipated, notwithstanding that no charge is made for fees. Although Mr. Slight gives no reasons for this, it is to be presumed that among a people living in such a primitive fashion there are very few transactions requiring to be evidenced by written instruments registered in a public office.

9. *Trees and planting*, paragraph 35.—It would have been well if Mr. Slight had been able to give a rough statement showing the total number of bearing trees to be found on the different islands so as to admit of a comparison of the existing number with that found some 30 years ago. Such a statement would have helped to give an approximate idea of the coir-producing capabilities of the islands, so that we might compare the possible maximum yield with the actual outturn delivered on the mainland in each year, as it is not difficult to calculate with some accuracy the amount of coir which can be produced by a given number of trees; but at the same time this would have been a difficult task requiring more time than was at the disposal of Mr. Slight. I think, however, that such a statement ought to be obtained from the monegar periodically in future, say at least once in 10 years.

10. *Locusts*, paragraph 39.—This is possibly a misnomer for a species of beetle found in the islands. The late Mr. Hall in alluding to these insects remarked in 1869: "I regret to say that some specimens of beetles and rats which I brought from the islands have been lost. The former is, I imagine, the species of beetle whose depredations on the young cocoanut palms of Singapore, Penang and on the Coromandel Coast are described in *Bentley's Cyclopædia*, page 409," and Mr. G. Stokes later on observed: "the insect mentioned by Mr. Hall which injures so largely the cocoanut trees is like a white worm, very thick in the body, about 1 or 1½ inches long with the head and tail pointed." The monegar will be directed to report more fully on the appearance of these insects, and to send a few specimens of them preserved in spirit.

11. *Rats and owls*, paragraph 42.—It is not always easy to catch a sufficient number of owls, but such as could be procured on the mainland were sent. Orders will now again be issued to the Tahsildars to procure more owls, and when they are sent to the islands, the monegar will be directed to carry out Mr. Slight's suggestion to place them in Ks lmat where there are more dark secluded spots and better facilities for breeding.

12. *Another pest-boring beetle*, paragraph 43.—The monegar will be instructed to send a specimen of this insect also for identification.

13. *Education*, paragraphs 45—54.—In these paragraphs Mr. Slight discusses again the best possible mode of importing a purely rudimentary form of education to the islanders, and states (paragraph 50) that on all the islands the maktessors told him that the language the people want is not Malayalam, but either Canarese or Hindustani, preferably the latter, though on the last occasion when the matter was seriously discussed with them, majority seem to have evinced a decided preference for Malayalam. What is really necessary is, I think, not an official language for the islands, nor one to serve as a medium of communication with the islander's co-religionists on the mainland, whether in Canara or Malabar, by whom the island dialect is well understood, but an easy and convenient mode of conveying a certain amount of purely rudimentary knowledge to their children. This, I think, can be done with far greater facility in their own vernacular than in any other language. The Divi dialect is a corrupt form of Malayalam, and to substitute Hindustani or any other foreign language for it seems unnecessary. The best course would, I think, be to maintain this Malayalam dialect, but to endeavour to substitute the real Malayalam character for the Arabic in which it is now written. As Khadri Haji, the Government Schoolmaster, is now teaching Malayalam in the Malayalam character, there can, I presume, be little difficulty in continuing to do this. Once it is known that no other language will be taught, the boys will take what is available, and after mastering the alphabet will find it easier to learn the language than in any foreign language. Although I have at Mr. Slight's suggestion permitted the monegar, on his return to the islands at the close of the last trading season, to take with him some Hindustani books (Readers) along with Malayalam ones, I am averse to a multiplication of languages in such a simple school as the one at Amini is, and moreover if Hindustani or Canarese be taught, there will be no one in the island besides the monegar and his peons to speak to in that language. For official purposes, as is written in Malayalam can be interpreted as easily as those written in Hindustani.

As the experiment already made of sending a young man to the Calicut Normal school and getting him trained there appears to have succeeded so well, I support Mr. Slight's recommendation (paragraph 52) that a few more teachers should be sent from the islands to the Training school at Calicut. If this proposal is sanctioned, the monegar can be instructed to choose an intelligent young man each year for training on the same stipend as was allowed to Khadri Haji, viz., Rs. 5 per mensem (Government Order, dated 10th August 1886, No. 516, Educational).

With regard to the source from which the stipends should be paid, Mr. Slight suggests that they may legitimately be defrayed from the "Laccadive Poor Fund." In view of the Board's remarks on this point in paragraph 10 of its Proceedings, dated 10th December 1891, No. 711, reviewing Mr. Cowie's report, I cannot support this recommendation and would rather allow the accumulation of interest to go on for some years more, so that the capital may amount to a round sum of Rs. 8,000, when a sure annual income of Rs. 320 may be counted upon the shape of interest, and this after allowing for the usual charities which consist of small doles in rice and salt and a few yards of cloth to each person on the list, will leave a sufficient surplus to be devoted to purely educational purposes.

14. *Purchase of a house for hospital assistant*, paragraph 53.—I entirely approve of the recommendation. The rent to be charge may be a certain fixed percentage of the recommendation.

15. *Meteorological work*, paragraph 66.—A copy of this paragraph is being communicated to the Meteorological Department as, for information.

17. *Pay and allowances of the hospital assistant, paragraph 69.*—I entirely agree with Mr. Slight in considering the pay and allowances of the hospital assistant (Rs. 25 + 10 + 10 + 12 = 57) to be quite sufficient. The proposal to bind all local fund hospital assistants of the district by agreement to serve, if necessary, by rotation in Amini for two years is, however, fraught with the difficulty that it cannot be made to apply to the existing men, and at all events, if adopted, it will be necessary to secure in future the services of persons who are acquainted with Malayalam, which I am afraid will be difficult. At present a young man is under training. At present Medical College.

* Government Order, dated 3rd March 1894,
No. 934, Revenue Department (Board's
Proceedings, dated 9th March 1894,
No. 1280, Mis.).

19. *Improvement of coir*, paragraphs 74-80. This subject appears from past correspondence to have been discussed over and over again with no practical results, and all the measures hitherto adopted to induce the islanders to improve the quality of their manufacture have failed. That the bonus system introduced by Mr. Thomas in 1874 has failed is not, I think, surprising. It is obvious that to make this system a success there must be, as Mr. Slight has pointed out, co-operation among all the islands, and this co-operation is entirely absent. "It is of no use for one island to make better coir if the other islands reap three-fourths of the profit for nothing or make so little, or so badly that there is no profit at all."

I agree with Mr. Slight that a better system would be to sort the coir into classes immediately on receipt at Mangalore. It is true that this system was tried long ago and was given up because the peons who did the sorting (with apparently very little supervision) were corrupt and untrustworthy; but this is not a good reason why it should not be successfully

6004-1rag
in 11/1/78

in spirit

Amini.

Kiltan

Chetlat.

Kadınat.

Grand Total	218
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The alternative proposal in paragraph 33, which differs from the one contained in the preceding paragraph (82) so far as to change the place of delivery of the coir to Messrs. Morgan and 14th Mr. the mainland, is also involved in the same difficulty, age price to be paid by them for the coir they would have to deliver to the Meteorological Station to compensate them

for the cost of the improvement of the manufacture; while on the other hand it is very doubtful whether the islanders would find sufficient employment in spinning by machinery to compensate them for a deduction which will have to be made on account of the labour saved by the substitution of machinery for hand labour. Apart from this it appears to be the intention of Messrs. Morgan and Son to endeavour to obtain a bright coloured yarn so neatly twisted as to be adapted for the manufacture of superior coir-matting which fetches a high price in the European markets. For this, the fibre has, it seems, to be obtained from comparatively unripe nuts which means a loss to the islanders of the copra which now affords them a considerable income in addition to what is obtained by the sale of the coir. Under all these circumstances, and considering that the grant of a monopoly to outsiders will result in much friction between these simple and rude island people and the agents of the firm with whom they will have to deal for a succession of years (*vide* paragraph 85), I do not recommend the adoption of these proposals.

21. *Coir monopoly, paragraphs 86 and 87.*—In spite of all the concessions made to the islanders, the transactions of the monopoly for the three years embraced in the statement appended to the report show a net profit to Government, though small, viz., Rs. 1,145-13-9. The profits are mainly dependant on the market prices realized for the coir at the sales. These prices have unfortunately not been very favorable for several years past, and hence the meagre profits.

22. *General administration, paragraphs 90-93.*—In order to avoid the delay which occurs in the disposal of criminal cases arising at the beginning of the monsoon in the minor islands of Kiltan and Chetlat, Mr. Slight proposes that one of the moktessors in each of the islands may be appointed a village magistrate. This proposal, which need not however affect the islands of Kadmat which is so close to Amini, may be given effect to, and if approved and the requisite notification is issued by Government under section 5 of the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874, extending Regulations XI of 1816 and IV of 1831 to the islands, the most popular of the moktessors on each of the above two islands will be selected for appointment as "Head of the village" under the said regulations, the whole island being treated in each case as a village for the purpose of the regulations.

23. *Requests of the islanders, paragraph 102.*—The complaint regarding the inferior quality of the rice supplied to the islanders in part payment for coir is one that is repeated at every visit of an officer to the islands. The precautions adopted by Mr. Brodie (*vide* paragraph 30, clause (2) of his letter embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 10th December 1891, No. 711) are ample to check any attempt on the part of the contractor to supply bad rice to the islanders.

24. *Petition from the monegar, paragraph 105.*—The monegar is well paid now considering both the nature and extent of his work and his qualifications, but as his pay was raised to Rs. 70 in order to be equal to that of a Deputy Tahsildar on the mainland, and as Deputy Tahsildars on the mainland have had their pay raised from Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 without any addition to their duties, it is perhaps fair that the monegar's pay should be raised too. He is an exceedingly good officer, and has rendered many years excellent service in a post which has many responsibilities and inconveniences attached to it. When he vacates this post it will certainly be difficult to find, as Mr. Slight says, a fit successor for less than Rs. 100, and I think it is only just that this higher rate of pay should be allowed to the present very efficient incumbent.

25. *Petition from the monegar's clerk, paragraph 106.*—I fully support Mr. Slight's proposal to raise the pay of this clerk from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 15 per mensem for the reasons stated.

I beg that the Board and Government will be so good as to pardon the great delay which has occurred in the submission of this report, which is entirely due to oversight, and which, I very much regret, I have not been able to send Mr. Slight's report on, and as I have very little overlooked the necessity for sending it to the Board, and I am on the subject, but I have not been able to do so. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. S. Slight

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. M. SLIGHT, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of South Canara, to the Collector of South Canara, dated Coondapoor, 29th April 1893, No. 348.

I have the honour to submit the following report of the visit which I paid in December last to the Laccadive Islands attached to this district.

2. Although I left Mangalore on November 29th and returned on January 5th, I was able to spend only ten days on Amini and three days on each of the other inhabited islands—Kadmat, Chetlat and Kiltan. This arrangement was come to after consultation with the officer visiting the islands attached to Malabar district and the Captain of H.M.I.M.S. *Outra* (then the *Hindu*), the steamer which carried us to the islands. It was due to the necessity for economizing coal, as the steamer carried only a small supply and could not replenish it without going to Colombo, which would have entailed considerable expense and delay. The steamer was also obliged to return direct from Minicoy to Calicut, and to go from there to Colombo. I therefore had to go with it from Chetlat to Minicoy, and thence to Calicut, where I disembarked. From there I returned to Mangalore by the ordinary steamer of the B.I.S.N. Co.

3. I was unable to visit the uninhabited island of Bitra, or any of the outlying reefs.

4. As the general condition and characteristics of the islands and their inhabitants have been very fully described in former reports, it is unnecessary for me to do more than show how they have been progressing since they were last visited by Mr. Cowie in January 1891.

5. Up to March 1892, the general condition of things was satisfactory. After that there was a good deal of sickness, and also of scarcity. Small-pox was prevalent in Amini from March to September. An epidemic of influenza broke out in all the islands about September, and lasted about three months.

6. The island boats, having delayed as usual in bringing their cargoes of coir to the mainland, were mostly unable to start on their return journey, with the monsoon supply of rice, before bad weather began, which was in May, earlier than usual. Of seven kundras (or pattamars) bound for Chetlat, the most northerly island, only two were able to reach it. The others were driven back to the mainland. The monegar started with four kundras for Amini; one of these was driven back, the other three reached Kabrati, one of the Malabar islands, and after waiting sometime there were able to go on to Amini. The islands were thus left, cut off from communication with the mainland for four or five months, with a very deficient food supply, especially in Chetlat.

7. The boats that were driven back to the mainland gave information of the state in which the islands were left, and the monegar, before leaving, had also informed the Collector that in all probability the boats would not reach their islands, and there would be great distress for want of rice. The Collector having represented the state of affairs to Government, arrangements were made to send a supply of rice from Bombay. This was taken by the B.I.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Hasara*, which reached Chetlat on July 31st and landed supplies there and on the other islands, to the great relief of the people, but not without considerable difficulty and some damage to the ship's boats.

8. Captain Stebbing, Commander of the *Hasara*, says in his report to the Director of the Indian Marine, dated 10th August 1892, that the people of Chetlat were delighted to see the ship, and told him they had been reduced to eating grass. He adds, however, that none of them were looking at all starved, and no doubt the people greatly exaggerated their distress. I find that the relief arrived at a very opportune moment, but quite in time to prevent the distress from becoming at all acute; and that even without it the people could have held on, in all the islands except Chetlat, until they could obtain supplies for themselves from the mainland.

9. In spite of having received this special relief in August, the people of Kiltan were at the end of their food supply when I reached that island. This I can only regard as due to utter want of foresight on their own part, as they could perfectly well have obtained supplies from the mainland long before that. Some boats had gone to the mainland with cargoes of coconuts and copra to bring back rice, but were not expected to return till about a week later. In the meantime every one was on very short allowances, even after distributing all the rice that remained in the island. The general allowance appeared to have come down to a very small quantity of rice "kanji" once a day, supplemented by tender coconuts. I was able to get four bags of rice from the Captain of the steamer; these I gave to the people, who promised to pay for it when they brought their coir to the mainland and got some money. This they have since done.

10. In the autumn of 1891 a great storm swept over the islands, doing a great deal of damage among the trees. The people of all the islands say that it has caused their crop of coconuts in 1892 to be very small, so that the harvest for this year in coir and nuts and copra is not so bright as usual. The storm in these islands, however, for the coir they were so much dependent on, was not so great as in the mainland, which a large proportion of the trees

the Meteorological Department

11. In spite of these troubles which the people have suffered in the last year, they are still generally in a satisfactory and prosperous condition, and so long as trees continue to bear coconuts in even moderate quantity they will continue to prosper, for with very little work the male portion of the population at least, they are sure of a comfortable living. A very backward. The standard of comfort of the islands, and Kadmat the most distinctly so in Amini. Intercourse with the mainland is increasing, and more of the poorer people go there now to stay and earn money, especially men of Chetlat, who work as carpenters and boat builders and general coolies. Some stay only during the fine weather, some all the year round.

12. There is very little change in the configuration of any of the islands. In Amini there is hardly any lagoon, so that no change could be looked for. The four entrances through the reefs are all very shallow, so that the loading and unloading of kurdas has to be done mostly outside the reef. The people complained to Mr. Cowie that the chief entrance was becoming blocked up; and in your endorsement, No. 4963, dated 26th November 1892, forwarding information, a letter from the Collector of Malabar, you suggested that as the Executive Engineer was going to Androth, he might also go to Amini and see if anything could be done there. But as the Executive Engineer did not, after all, accompany our expedition even to Androth, it was of course impossible to take him on to Amini. I agree with Mr. Cowie that it is quite unnecessary for Government to do anything to the reef. It would be useless to make a deep entrance through the reef, for there is no deep water inside. All that can be done is to keep down the lumps of new coral that are constantly growing in the channel, and this can be done perfectly well by the people themselves. The channel was cleared by the monegar holding a koot for the purpose about ten years ago, and it can be done just as well in the same way now. By holding a koot once a year, at the beginning of the trading season, to break up all the newly formed rocks in the channel, it could be kept clear with little difficulty. I advised the people and the monegar to do this, and have no doubt that the result will be satisfactory, for the channel, apart from the rocks in it, is said to be no shallower than in former years.

13. In Kadmat, although the island is the longest and narrowest and the lagoon the largest in the whole group, there is said to be no permanent change going on. There is a little accretion usually at the south end during the fine weather, but it is washed away again during monsoon. There are four entrances through the reef; the one at the north end is much the best, the others being very shallow and difficult to use even for small boats at low tide.

14. In Kiltan I found very little trace of the rapid accretion of the land in the lagoon which is mentioned by Mr. Hall (1869) and subsequent visitors. It is true there is a gradual accretion, but the rate of it at present does not appear to be more than a foot a year. The lagoon is said not to be becoming any narrower. The entrance at the north end is deep enough for kurdas at high tide. There is another one half way down the lagoon, not quite so deep, and a small opening on the east side.

15. In Chetlat there has been an accretion of a few feet on the east side, none on the side of the lagoon. The sea is steadily encroaching on the south, apparently about a yard every year. The entrance at the north end is the chief one, the one further south being much obstructed by lumps of coral rock.

16. Maps.—In all these islands I expected to be able to check any changes in conformation easily by means of the maps prepared by the surveyor who accompanied Mr. Cowie in 1891. I found them, however, quite useless for that purpose. The survey stones put down are all from 20 to 30 yards from high-water mark, with nothing to show exactly how far. The entrances to the lagoons are mostly not marked at all, or else quite wrong. I checked part of the plotting of the outline by the survey stones in Kiltan and Chetlat, and found the maps extremely inaccurate. I was unable to improve them or to add much to them, because I should have had to go over all the ground again to check and correct them, and in fact to have drawn them afresh. I had no time to do this, and no proper surveying instruments.

17. Bitra and the open reefs.—On making inquiries concerning Bitra and the open reefs, I learned from men who had recently been there that the island of Bitra is increasing to the east and west, while the sea is encroaching considerably on the south. This differs very much from the state of things observed in 1869 by Mr. Hall, who reported that the sea was encroaching on the west and receding slightly on the south-east. It is still uninhabited, and likely to remain so. The men who go to fish there stay as long as a month at a time. The water, they say, is not good, but they have no objection to using it if their supply runs out. Mr. Cowie reported that Pir's tomb on this island had been washed away, but it appears that it was not the tomb that was washed away, but the small mosque near it.

18. The open reefs are said not to be perceptibly increasing in size or rising.

19. Population.—The census of the islands from the previous year shows a decrease of births and deaths, which is

decrease of 93 between 1879 and 1886. It was supposed, however, that both sets of figures were wrong, that the census figures were too low because some of the people were absent on the mainland when it was taken, and that the registration of births and deaths was incomplete.

20. The birth and death registers for 1891 and 1892 show a decrease of 35 in the population of Amini, and an increase in all the other islands, as in the following abstract:—

		Births.				Deaths.				Increase or decrease in population.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per annum per 1,000 on census of 1891.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per annum per 1,000 on census of 1891.	
Amini	1891	46	53	99	46	42	56	98	45	+ 1
	1892	18	23	41	21	36	41	77	39	- 35
Kadmat	1891	8	6	14	41	2	6	8	24	+ 6
	1892	3	4	7	23	3	1	4	13	+ 3
Kiltan	1891	23	13	36	50	6	7	13	18	+ 19
	1892	12	8	20	30	14	10	24	36	- 4
Chetlat	1891	8	18	26	41	4	12	16	31	+ 5
	1892	10	15	25	53	7	7	14	30	+ 11
Total	1891	85	85	170	46	64	81	135	36	+ 35
	1892	43	50	93	27	60	59	119	35	- 26
Grand Total		128	135	263		114	140	254		+ 9

To check this as far as possible, I had an enumeration of the population made along with the counting of houses. The monegar got the moktessars and others together, and got from them statements of all the houses in their respective parts of the islands and of the number of people in each house, including any absent with boats. In a small community such as this, these people are able to give a pretty accurate account of everybody. The following table shows the result of the enumeration side by side with the net results of the registered births and deaths:—

	Census of February 1894.			Enumeration of the population.			Difference.		Birth and death registers.	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	+	-	+	-
Amini	1,021	1,130	2,151	986	1,066	2,052	35	89	9	35
Kadmat	175	163	338	173	160	333	5	78	9	78
Kiltan	351	372	723	388	398	786	37	65	19	65
Chetlat	182	222	404	314	360	674	162	25	16	25
Total	1,736	1,987	3,723	1,861	1,974	3,835	112	257	9	257

21. The difference between the results obtained by the two processes shows that there must have been great inaccuracy somewhere, but it may be in the census of 1891, or the enumeration of December 1892, or the birth and death registers, or in all of these. I can only say that the birth and death registers appear to be carefully looked after, and that in such a community as these islands, where everybody knows all about everybody else's affairs, it seems to me less likely that many domestic occurrences in the way of births and deaths should pass unnoticed than that considerable mistakes should be made in taking a census of the whole people. One notable fact in the above figures is that, except in Kadmat, where the figures either way are very small, both methods of computation show a change of population in the same direction.

22. On the whole, therefore, I am of opinion that the population of Amini is tending to decrease, while that of the other islands is increasing. I think also that the slight decrease in the population of Amini can be fairly explained. As will be seen hereafter, it appears that a large proportion of the women suffer from uterine diseases. This would naturally tend to keep down the number of births, and those recorded in 1892, as shown above, amount to only 27 per mille. The death register, on the other hand, shows 37 per cent. of the deaths in Amini in the last two years to be those of infants under one year. In 1891 there are recorded 99 births and 47 deaths of infants under one year; in 1892, 41 births and 18 deaths of infants under one year. This, again, is fairly accounted for by the manner in which infants are brought up. It appears that it is customary to begin feeding them on rice when 20 days old. It is forced down their throats, and if they seem inclined to choke a little, water is thrown on them, or they are thumped on the back, as is usual. The hospital assistant tells me that he has seen many infants die in this way. The women are not very healthy, and they are brought up in such a manner, but the women say these things are necessary. In the other islands (except Kadmat) the Meteorological Department does not increase. In the not nearly so heavy.

23. The increase in the population of Chetlat (viz., 163) is very abnormal, according to the enumeration, but it points, I think, rather to inaccuracy in the census of 1891 than anything else. The birth and death registers show an increase of 16, i.e., 3.1 per cent. in 23 months on the population according to the census of 1891; this is probably much nearer to the truth of the facts.

24. *Buildings*.—There is no great change in the number of buildings, which is now as follows:—

Island.	Houses.		Mosques.		Number of persons per house, 1892.
	1891.	1892.	1891.	1892.	
Amini					
Kadmat	..	..			
Kiltan	..	..	39	39	4-4
Chetlat	..	..	8	8	6-
	..	..	17	18	8-4
	..	..	12	12	4-6
	145	137			
	50	55			
	196	200			
	149	151			

The decrease in the number of houses in Amini is mostly temporary, about six having been pulled down in order to be rebuilt in better style. Amini is considerably ahead of the other islands in the style of its buildings. The "Jamna Masjid" or chief mosque is a large and lofty two-storey building, with rows of pillars very well built. The buildings of Kiltan, I think, come next in quality. Kadamat is last both in the quality of its houses and in their number as compared with the population.

25. *Social conditions.*—The social conditions of the people could hardly be expected to show much change in less than two years, and in Kiltan and Chetlat I did not observe any very marked signs of change. In Amini there has been a great improvement in the last few years in the general style of house-building, and the general appearance of the island is very satisfactory. It is intersected by numerous foot-paths about six feet wide, which are regularly kept clean, and were not merely prepared for my benefit. The houses are scattered all over the island and look generally clean and comfortable. The old houses have low walls, the thatched roof coming down almost to the ground, and no windows, or at best only an apology for windows, with actual apertures of a few square inches altogether. There are now, however, a considerable number of houses, newly built or recently repaired and improved, with high walls and good large windows, comfortable verandahs in front, and better thatched roofs. These are well finished with plaster and chunam inside and in front, which gives them a very clean and bright appearance. In the cleanliness of their immediate surroundings also they contrast favorably with the house of the ordinary villager on the mainland. The people generally look comfortable, and that there is practically no extreme poverty is fairly proved by the fact that no applications are made for relief from the Poor Fund. It is certainly not from any false pride that they refrain from seeking relief, for they are all only too ready to take anything that they can get from the Sirkar for nothing and without work.

26. As was observed by Mr. Cowie, the people of Kadmat have advanced considerably of late years in prosperity and independence. Formerly they were all tenants of Amini people, and had to ship their coir in their landlords' boats. It appears that now the people of nine houses only, out of the total of 53, are tenants of Amini people. The island owns now six kundras (and another nearly completed) in which most of their coir is sent to the mainland.

27. The tendency to become more independent and less amenable to control is still very distinct in Amini. The men, having very little work to do, spend much of their time in disputes and litigation, and from disputes among themselves unsuccessful litigation brings them to enmity and opposition to the monegar. Increasing intercourse with the mainland brings them more and more into contact with the common private vakil, a contact which is certain to lead to an increase in false claims and petitions, urged with all the persistency and complexity of falsehood of which that class is so well known to be capable. Some persons have already been giving the monegar a good deal of trouble; chief among them being one or two who have been constantly engaged in civil disputes for many years, and have come off worst. One of them is an old offender who has been sentenced several times, both on the islands and on the mainland, and cherishes an inveterate grudge against the monegar. With them, however, some of the moktessars and other chief people have sided, and the monegar's authority is by no means universally respected. Some petitions presented to me in connection with this tendency to opposition to constituted authority will be noticed below.

28. *Cattle*.—One man

28. *Cattle*.—One mark of the general prosperity of the islands is the number of goats, which has been steadily increasing since the first settlement. The people found that for no other reason than simply to keep them tethered about their dwellings, they were liable to visit compared with those in the interior.

Island.	January 1891.		December 1892.	
	Cattle.	Goats.	Cattle.	Goats.
Amini	200	167	206	341
Kadmat	42	31	57	38
Kiltan	40	34	41	58
Chetlat	8	28	20	39
Total ..	290	258	324	476

The increase is chiefly in the number of goats, which might be expected as they can live on almost any kind of green leaves, whereas there is really very little pasture fit for cattle. The people of Kiltan do not appear to have realized yet the necessity for tethering their animals, and requested that general orders might be issued for their destruction so as to save their trees. This of course is quite unnecessary. People whose plants are injured by goats untied have only to take the offending animal to the peon or karani, who will levy the usual fine for its release. They say no one likes to do this because they have all goats and cattle of their own, and might be retaliated on.

29. *Pounds*.—There are no regular pounds in the islands, but there is the established custom of taking trespassing animals to the monegar's cutcherry, where they are tied up and a fine levied for their release. The following statement shows the account of fines so levied for the last three years in Amini; for all the other islands the account is blank:—

Year.	Cattle seized.	Goats seized.	Amount levied.	Rewards to seizers.	Feeding charges.	Net collection.
1890	2	3	Rs. A. P. 1 8 0	Rs. A. P. 2 12 0	..	Rs. A. P. 1 8 0
1891	4	4	5 8 0	2 12 0	..	2 12 0
1892	9	17	22 4 0	14 1 4	..	8 3 8

The money-lender uses his discretion in fixing the amount of the fine, taking into consideration the amount of damage done and other circumstances of the case. He does not always observe the order given by Mr. Robinson in 1847, by which he is supposed still to be guided. In two cases he has levied fines of Rs. 2, the maximum allowed by that order being Rs. 1-8-0. The amount given as compensation to the persons who seize the cattle also should, according to that order, be three-fourths of the fine, but only one-fourth or one-half is usually allowed. This however is, I think, quite enough; too much compensation might prove an incentive to vexatious seizures of cattle when not really trespassing, while the circumstances of the place render it necessary that the fines should be heavy, low fines having been found quite inadequate for the protection of the common interests. The same custom is supposed to be in force in the other islands also, where the fines would be collected by the peon or the karani, subject to the approval of the money-lender; but it is never put in force except in Amini.

30. *Boats*.—The following statement shows the number of kundras and small boats belonging to each island:—

Year.	Amini.			Kadmat.			Kiltan.			Chetlat.		
	Large.	Small.	Build- ing.	Large.	Small.	Build- ing.	Large.	Small.	Build- ing.	Large.	Small.	Build- ing.
1891	35	153	4	5	23	..	24	87	8	30	83	4
1892	35	140	+ 3	6	32	+ 1	25	87	+ 4	30	75	13

* One was sold to a man in Chetlat.

- * One was sold to a man in Chetlat.
- † One kundra and two...

† One kundra and two...

† A kundra.

Three kundras and 1 small boat.

Two kundras and 11 small boats. Three

As all the islands are now amply supplied with boats, no great change could be expected. Old ones get broken up and new ones are built, so that there may always be temporary variations in the total number, but no permanent change. The decrease of 13 small boats in Amini is due to a loss of about 70% of the fleet. The new boats built in 1906-7 were mostly stone and others decaying from old age. The big mothers brought by the ship "Meteorological" are now for three or four years. use them together, it is like Meteorological. He does come to want it for ag, as in everything else, these

only one on whom it has been tried as yet, and in his place to appoint an inspecting schoolmaster on Rs. 12 a month to supervise the local teachers; and to start result grants on examinations by a local committee consisting of the said inspecting schoolmaster, the monegar and the hospital assistant. I cannot say that I would recommend such a system at all. It would involve a considerable cost to Government, and would not make the teachers in any way more competent than they are now, when, as a rule, they teach nothing but a smattering of Arabic. It would of course be the interest of the inspecting schoolmaster to show good results, as he would get a share in the grants; and he would be the only one of the local committee knowing anything about education. I think that to give result grants on an examination conducted practically by such a man alone, without any control beyond a possible inquiry long afterwards by the officer visiting the islands, would be a mere waste of money. I do not think that any system of result grants can be introduced at present; and I do not think that an inspecting schoolmaster supervising the local teachers would be of any use. As I have shown above, the school of Khadri Haji is already popular, although he has no transliterated manuals and very few books of any sort, and teaches Malayalam in Malayalam and not Arabic character. The people of all the other islands ask for similar teachers. In Kadamat, with its present population of about 333, and only 31 children at school, the Mupamars offered to guarantee 30 pupils if such a teacher was sent, and to pay his salary if there were not so many.

50. In my own opinion the sending of a few local teachers for a little training and bringing them back, like Khadri Haji, as paid Government teachers is a far more useful and commendable part of Mr. Sujaat Ali's scheme than the transliterated manuals. The Moktessors in all the islands told me that the language the people want is not Malayalam but either Canarese or Hindustani, preferably the latter. Their intercourse with the mainland is increasing, and it is entirely with Canara, where Malayalam is of very little use. Considering the class of people with whom they want to deal on the mainland, Hindustani would certainly be the most useful language for them. The Moktessors usually added that they would like English schools, but this, with a diffident smile, as if they merely thought or intended to please me.

51. Khadri Haji also told me that a good many of his pupils would readily be got to learn Hindustani in preference even to Malayalam. He knows Hindustani well enough to take an elementary class, and said he would willingly start it if he got some elementary readers. I have therefore already recommended that these should be taken over by the monegar together with the Malayalam readers, and directed Khadri Haji to start a class for Hindustani, so that in a year or so it may be seen whether the desire to learn it in preference to Malayalam is real. I should certainly say that it would be much better for the people that such a tendency should be fostered and encouraged than that their present unique and cumbersome combination of Malayalam and Arabic should be fixed among them. One has only to visit the islands to appreciate the inconvenience of their present system. When petitions were brought to me, the monegar's clerk had to read them, because of the Arabic writing, the hospital assistant translated the Malayalam into Canarese, and my clerk translated that into English, as I could not usually follow the hospital assistant's Canarese. The Moktessors and people all admitted that they did not think much of their system, and that either pure Malayalam or Canarese or Hindustani would be better, and the best of these would be Hindustani.

52. I would therefore recommend that an effort should be made to get a few more teachers to go from the islands to the training school at Calicut, and that those who know some Hindustani should be preferred. It will be some time before this can be done, and if Khadri Haji has started his Hindustani class as directed, and the monegar has taken over a supply of books, it will, by that time, be possible to have a good idea, what teaching will be most acceptable and most useful. These teachers will not cost much. Khadri Haji's salary is only 18 muraahs of rice a year. He says he would prefer to be paid in money, provided it was over Rs. 5 a month; but I told him that such an increase could not be granted unless he showed great improvement in his school. He is really quite satisfied with his 18 muraahs of rice.

53. One thing appears to be certain, that for the present, whatever system is tried for advancing education, it will be impossible to levy any fees. The mere suggestion of fees was enough to damp everybody's eagerness for new schools, and Khadri Haji said that if he tried to levy fees, however small, all his pupils would leave him and go back to the Mukria.

54. Another thing required to put Khadri Haji on a similar footing to a decent primary school on the mainland is a little school furniture. Anything of that nature, or at least the timber for it, has to be imported. I think he should be provided with half a dozen good benches, a blackboard, and a table and a chair. This would all help, in the eyes of the people, to mark his school as in every way superior to anything else in the island.

55. *Laccadive Poor Fund.*—In Amini there are now three persons receiving charity from this fund—two old women and one boy. One of the women was admitted twenty years ago, the other half rates, being about 15 years old. His two brothers were admitted at the same time; but they have got married, and so forfeited all their claims. One was married two years ago, the other a year ago. The remainder of the fund has not yet shown any matrimonial

In Kadmat there is only one man on the charity list—a blind man about 35 years of age, who has been on it for twenty-five years. He has also an allowance of five coconut trees under the orders of Mr. Sujaat Ali. He complained that one of these had died, so I directed the monegar to give him another in its stead. He says he has relations in Akkati and Kavrati, but they do not look after him. He had an uncle in Amini who died recently. He complained that that uncle had property which has been taken by Government instead of being given to him; but on inquiry it appears that the only property he had was the use of some Government trees on charity, which have naturally reverted to Government on his death. This man seemed inclined to be discontented and think himself hardly used, but he has lived almost all his life on public charity, and looks as if he lived very comfortably on it.

In Kiltan there is no one on the charity list. In Chetlat there are three old women admitted two years ago as mentioned by Mr. Cowie.

I received no applications for admission to the list, but the Mupamars of Chetlat said there were one or two more women in that island requiring assistance, so I directed the monegar to find them out and inquire into their circumstances. I had not time to do it myself or to wait until sufficient inquiry was made.

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

	RS.	A.	P.
Balance at the beginning of fasli 1300 (including interest on Post office Savings Bank deposit) ...	6,828	8	10
Add—interest on Government promissory-notes (4 per cent. loan of 1865) for Rs. 5,900 received in fasli 1300 ...	235	6	6
	7,063	15	4
Deduct—value of rice, &c., distributed in fasli 1300 ...	112	1	0
Balance at the end of fasli 1300 ...	6,951	14	4
	RS.	A.	P.
Add—interest on Government promissory-notes received in fasli 1301. ...	235	6	6
Interest on deposit in Post office Savings Bank ...	40	10	3
	276	0	9
Total ...	72,27	15	1
Deduct—value of rice, &c., distributed in fasli 1301 ...	135	15	1
Balance at the end of fasli 1301 ...	7,092	0	0
	RS.	A.	P.
* In Government promissory-notes deposited with the Accountant-General, Madras ...	5,900	0	0
In Post office Savings Bank ...	1,192	0	0
Total ..	7,092	0	0

From this it is clear that the income of the fund considerably exceeds the expenditure on charity, and there is no reason to expect increased demands on it in this direction. Mr. Cowie suggested that the large accumulation of interest (over Rs. 900 at the time of his report) should be used for education; but the Board disapproved of this, and were of opinion that education should stand on its own ground. The fund, however, was distinctly established for educational as well as charitable purposes, and I venture again to suggest that the surplus might be devoted to the encouragement of education. The surplus income would not of course go very far towards paying for the training and subsequent salary of a staff of teachers; but it might be devoted to the sending of one teacher a year for training on the mainland, or else to the establishment of one or two scholarships, such as were suggested by Mr. Sujaat Ali. For this it would be sufficient; and I venture to think that such a use would be perfectly within the original purpose of the fund.

57. Scholarships would of course necessitate examination somewhere, and I have not recommended the institution of any local examination on the islands. I would suggest however that, as the ordinary primary school examinations on the mainland are held at the time of year when many of the islanders come over, any boys who wished to try for the scholarships might come over then and be admitted to these examinations. They would not be made to compete with mainland boys; the competition would be among themselves. There

would probably not be much competition for some time, but if only one boy came to be examined, his fitness might be estimated by a minimum standard of marks. This would have to be very low at first, but I think the system might be worth a trial. In any case the ordinary salaries of teachers would remain a charge on the general revenue.

58. *Government buildings.*—The buildings belonging to Government are the cutcherry and sub-jail and the dispensary in Amini, and the cutcherries in the other islands. They are all in good condition. The hospital assistant has built himself a house, not yet quite finished, which he suggested to me that the Government should take over. I told him to put in a written request, showing the dimensions and the cost of the house, but he has not submitted such a request through me. If he does make the request, I would recommend that the house should be taken over on a fair valuation, for which the monegar's opinion might be fairly relied on, and kept for the use of the hospital assistant, either free or subject to a small rent. It is built close to the dispensary, and appeared to me to be a good house, well built of limestone slabs after the manner of the place, consisting of two rooms of fair dimensions with good sized windows and a little verandah. If the hospital assistant is not a man of the islands, and especially if he is not a Muhammadan, it is very difficult for him to get a decent place to live in, and I think it would be only fair to provide him a proper house.

59. *Health and the Hospital Assistant's work.*—The general health of the people is fairly good. The men look strong and healthy and live to a good old age. The dispensary, which had been closed for about two years for want of a hospital assistant, was re-opened in March 1892 when the present hospital assistant, M. Anandan, went over. It is in good order and largely resorted to, not only by the people of Amini, but by patients coming from the other islands. The stock of medicines was very low when I arrived, but I had brought a small supply from the District Surgeon. The following statement shows the amount of work done by the hospital assistant from 20th March to 21st December 1892, including cases treated in all the islands during my tour:—

Name of disease.	Number of cases treated.
Small-pox	3
Dysentery	17
Malarial fever	2
Secondary syphilis	1
Gonorrhoea	2
Worms	232
Debility	13
Rheumatic affection	134
Tubercular	7
Leprosy	6
Other general diseases	57
Disease of the nervous system	102
Do. of the eye	570
Do. of the ear	23
Do. of the nose	3
Do. of the circulatory system	6
Do. of the lungs	11
Other disease of the respiratory system	77
Diarrhoea	45
Dyspepsia	116
Disease of the liver	2
Other disease of the digestive system	191
Disease of the spleen	2
Do. of the lymphatic system	2
Do. of the urinary system	4
Do. of the generative system	46
Do. of the organs of locomotion	55
Do. of the connective tissue	12
Do. of the skin	140
Ulcer	189
Local injuries	11
Total	2,081
Major operations	5
Minor	71

60. As mentioned above, there was during the year 1892 a good deal of influenza and small-pox. The small-pox was prevalent in March, when the hospital assistant came to the islands and continued all through the monsoon. It was almost entirely confined to Amini. The number of deaths recorded from it is 20, all in Amini. The patients did not resort to the dispensary for treatment. The hospital assistant says that he went to them and gave them advice as much as he could, but it is hardly satisfactory that with so much of the disease about only three cases should appear on his register as treated by him, especially as the people do not appear to have been wanting in confidence in his treatment in general.

The influenza began in September and was very prevalent in all the islands during October and November. The people did not come to the dispensary for treatment at first. They took the disease for an attack of fever, and lay down to wait till it passed off. When they felt the secondary effects of it, a good many came to the dispensary, suffering from coughs. One person died of pneumonia, the result of influenza.

61. The most common diseases continue to be rheumatism and ophthalmia. Rheumatism in the men may be explained by their constant exposure when fishing or looking after the soaking of the coir. It is almost equally common, however, among the women. These suffer a great deal also from want of proper treatment in confinement. Head-ache, too, is very common among them, caused probably by indigestion and general poor health. Ophthalmia is chiefly caused by exposure to the intense glare of the white sand on the shore.

62. The hospital assistant has had a great many cases of eye disease to treat. His treatment of these seems to have been so successful when he first came to the island that he has gained a wide reputation, and patients come to him from all the islands of this group and also from the Malabar islands. He has performed a number of minor operations on the eye, chiefly for ulcers on the eyelid, and also a few which were hitherto classed as minor operations, but, according to recent rules, are classed as major. Cataract appears to be very common, but the hospital assistant cannot do much for those who suffer from it as he is not competent to perform major operations. He is trying to persuade some of them to come over to Mangalore and be treated by the District Surgeon, and it is likely they may do so this year as his successful treatment of the minor affections has given them confidence.

63. This hospital assistant appears to have made himself popular in the islands and to be admitted freely to people's houses although a Tien by caste. He says he finds that the caste of the hospital assistant does not much matter, provided he is patient and good tempered and does not mind being disturbed at all hours of the day or night. If he will not attend to the people whenever they choose to come, they will not come at all. In this, as in all other matters, they are not going to put themselves about even for their own advantage. Sometimes several women who do not like to come to him during the day will come together late at night to ask for medicine.

64. *Vaccination.*—In spite of the prevalence of small-pox, the hospital assistant did not do a great deal in the way of vaccination. His return is as follows:—

Successful	51
Unsuccessful	11
Unknown	22
Total	84

He says he had no more lymph, and that besides most of the children had been suffering from illness of one sort or another and could not be vaccinated.

65. The vaccinator who accompanied me developed chicken-pox the day he landed at Amini, and was unable to do anything for the first week. After that he began work; the number of persons vaccinated by him is as follows:—

Island.	Number.			Results.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
Amini	6	5	11	11	..	..
Kadmat	16	9	25	13	..	12
Kiltan	16	12	28	16	..	12
Chetlat	27	24	51	..	..	51
Total	65	50	115	40	3	72

66. *Meteorological work.*—The record of meteorological observations appears to have been well attended to. The instruments to be observed daily are five thermometers (wet, dry, maximum, minimum wet, and minimum dry), a barometer and a rain gauge. Two observations of these were recorded daily hitherto, but only one is required now. The instruments are in good order, but while the dispensary was closed and the ward cooly in charge of them, they were allowed to get terribly dirty and have not recovered. The rain gauge is almost destroyed by rust, but I am told a new one is being supplied. The barometer is particularly dirty, but the hospital assistant does not like to remove it from its fixings, and it cannot be properly cleaned without. There is also an anemometer, but it has not been in use for a long time as the post on which it used to stand was too old and decayed to be safe, and the ladder was gone. I saw a new post put up for it, and the ladder will be also renewed. The instrument itself is in good order. The rain registered in 1892 was only about 54 inches, a remarkable contrast with the 170 to 200 on the coast of the mainland. The very small amount is very likely due in part to the fact that the rain gauge is in an open place on the west of the island, exposed to the full force of the south-west monsoon, which sweeps over it with such violence that the heaviest of the rain is swept across the top of the gauge at a sharp angle and very little caught in it. The coconut trees near it are all parched and withered on the south-west side, showing what the force of wind must be.

67. *Tours by Hospital Assistant.*—The question has to be considered whether the hospital assistant should visit all the islands every year. The present man had not been to the other islands before my visit, but accompanied me. The only difficulty in the way of his doing it regularly is the gap in meteorological statistics that might be caused. But if it be always insisted on that the ward cooly must be capable of recording the observations for a time, that difficulty may be avoided. I think the ward cooly might not be allowed to draw full pay until the hospital assistant certified that he was so competent, and a portion of the meteorological allowance might be given to him while he was left in charge of the instruments, the hospital assistant not losing thereby as he would be getting travelling allowance.

68. The hospital assistant's tour would have to be made during the last quarter of the year. He would have to be absent from Amini for two months if he was to be of any real use in the other islands. That would give him 20 days to each of them. He would not need to spend much time in Kadmat, however, as the population is only 333, and it is so near Amini that people can very easily come across for medicine or treatment. Still he could hardly spend much over three weeks each in Kiltan and Chetlat. During these six weeks the number of persons likely to require his services (out of an average population of 720), and unable to come to Amini for them, would probably not be large, while the 2,052 inhabitants of Amini would be left without him. If he found, however, that there was little need for his services in either island, he could curtail his visit. The people of these islands, though a small minority, have certainly a fair claim to a portion of the hospital assistant's time; but he, if not a Mussalman, would find probably a good deal more inconvenience in residence in the smaller islands than in Amini itself. In such a case, he should be allowed to occupy the cutcherries on these islands when not required by the monegar. If the monegar was there at the same time, it would be his duty to see that the hospital assistant was properly housed. The expense of such tours would be pretty heavy for the amount of advantage given. The hospital assistant, if a mainland man, should be allowed double travelling allowance, as is allowed by the Civil Service Regulations to clerks, &c., when visiting the islands. If he were a man of the islands, I do not see why any such special allowance should be made, for he would be among his own people with no unusual difficulties or expenses.

69. *Pay and Allowances of the Hospital Assistant.*—As desired in your letter of 12th January, No. 63, I submit the following remarks with regard to the District Surgeon's proposal to raise the pay of the hospital assistant. He wishes to put him on a level with the monegar, or even higher pay. The only reason apparently is that the hospital assistant cannot always obtain fowls and fish without the monegar's good will; the District Surgeon would therefore "make him in a measure independent of him, as this matter of obtaining supplies has always been a fruitful source of quarrels." Now if the monegar and the hospital assistant live on good terms with each other the latter need have no difficulty in getting such supplies and things will go quite smoothly. If they do not agree, it is certainly not desirable that the hospital assistant's position should be specially raised so that he may have as much or more influence than the monegar. It would not doubt be very gratifying to know that the hospital assistant was always able to have his "poule au pot," but to purposely strengthen his hands in opposition to the monegar for this purpose would probably be fatal to the quiet and peaceful administration of the islands. Several former hospital assistants have quarrelled with the monegar, and as Mr. Cowie remarks (paragraph 57 of his report), the hospital assistant is always a thorn in his side, but I would qualify this remark by adding "unless he acknowledges that the monegar is the chief man in the place, whose authority must be respected." Mr. Cowie proposed the opposite remedy to that of the District Surgeon, namely, to give him less ground for thinking that he could get the better of them, but I think would be the more effectual remedy.

make the post even less popular than it is now. I do not think, however, that either remedy is necessary. I think the District Surgeon rather overrates the disadvantages of the post, and I cannot quite agree with Mr. Cowie that "in spite of the liberal allowances now paid, his (i.e., the hospital assistant's) lot is a miserable one if he is not a Mussalman." Of course he is out off for a long time from the society of people of his own class, but that is far from being a unique hardship; and I do not think it would be admitted that the lot of all public servants—European or Native who are similarly placed—is entirely miserable. The present hospital assistant, M. Anandan, seems to have taken kindly enough to the post, and did not tell me that he had any particular grievance. He has been content to keep his own place, and he and the monegar have got on perfectly well, because, as each of them said, they looked after their own affairs and did not try to interfere with each other.

70. I agree, therefore, with the opinion of Mr. Brodie, expressed in paragraph 14 of his letter covering Mr. Cowie's report, that the present pay and allowances are quite sufficient. The District Surgeon appears to have been under the impression that the monegar's position is equivalent to that of a revenue inspector on the mainland, because these are locally called monegars, and that as he gets more than double their pay, the hospital assistant should be similarly treated. But the monegar's position is very different from that of a revenue inspector; it is similar rather to that of a Deputy Tahsildar, with a small charge but a great deal more independent responsibility. In former days, when the pay was small, the office was regarded as similar to that of the amins of the Malabar islands, only a little higher and more independent than a village patal on the mainland (as he used to be).

71. As for the difficulty of getting a hospital assistant to serve in the islands, it should only arise occasionally. A native of the islands is now under training in Madras specially for the post, and for such a person the present allowances are, I think, very liberal. To provide for the occasional filling up of the post on account of a casualty or a temporary vacancy, I do not see why all Local Fund hospital assistants of the district should not, in future, be bound by their agreements to serve, if necessary, in Amini for a period not exceeding two years. One year might be sufficient, but usually the best part of a year would elapse before a mainland man began to gain the confidence of the people, and the utility of the dispensary would be much lessened by annual changes. If the hospital assistant were allowed to come over to the mainland with the monegar for two months in the year, I do not think he would have any right to complain of a two years' residence. On the mainland a third-class hospital assistant gets from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 charge allowance. The charge of Amini dispensary carries with it in addition to the charge allowance of Rs. 10 extra allowances of Rs. 10 for vaccination and Rs. 12 for meteorological work, neither of which entails any very heavy work.

72. *Trained midwives.*—There has been no skilled midwife on the islands since the death of the woman Fatima Bee some years ago. That one should be sent to them is, I think, about the greatest boon that could for the present be conferred on the female population. There appears to be a great amount of suffering among the women for want of proper treatment in child-birth. The hospital assistant tells me that almost half of them are suffering more or less from uterine complaints—the result of improper treatment or want of care. Naturally they are very shy about coming to him for advice, and will not submit themselves to treatment at his hands. He appears on the whole to have obtained their confidence as much as could be expected, but no great improvement can be looked for except through a woman who can go freely among the women. I had inquiries made to try to find a woman of the islands who would go to Mangalore and Madras for training, but in vain. The hospital assistant says he has been trying for some time to find one, but the idea of going to Madras is more than they will agree to. I am of opinion therefore that the only feasible plan is to get a woman from Mangalore, or from Malabar district, who either has undergone or is willing to undergo the necessary training and is willing to reside in the islands. A knowledge of Malayalam would of course be essential, but I do not think it is absolutely necessary that she should be a Muhammadan. The people avail themselves freely of the hospital assistant's services although he is a Tien, and there is I believe a trained midwife in Mangalore who practises largely among the Moplahs although she is a Christian from Cochin. A properly trained woman would, of course, have to be well paid. Those attached to the hospital in Mangalore get, I believe, Rs. 15 a month, with Rs. 3 house rent. Those attached to the Local Fund hospitals in Udupi and Kundapur get Rs. 12. I do not suppose that a woman would consent to live in the islands for less than Rs. 15 and a free house, but I should think that if that or any higher pay were offered a suitable person could, with the assistance of the medical officers of this district and Malabar, be found. Unless assistance is offered to the people at their very doors, they will do nothing to help themselves. They will go on in what they suppose to have been the ways of their ancestors.

73. *Sanitation.*—As I have remarked above, the neighbourhood of the houses is usually clean, because there are usually no during the day. The sea-shore is the common latrine. The coir pits in Amini and the washing of their clothes continue to be very dirty, but I believe they are not so bad as they used to be. The monegar says he often insists on their being

cleaned. But as each pit or washing tank is only a hole through the upper crust of coral, with a very small pool of water in the bottom of it, a cleaning naturally does not last long. It is a pity that having a dirty washing or bathing tank should not be one of the recognized offences against customs and morals. I believe the monegar could still make it so if he went slowly and only punished an occasional flagrant case. If the people would build a few bigger tanks for washing purposes, revetting them properly with stone, they might be kept clean much better. There is a very good big tank, besides two or three small ones, near the Jamma Masjid in Amini, which is much used for bathing; and a smaller one, well built, beside the cutcherry. The tanks that are extremely dirty are not those used for bathing, but only for washing clothes. Drinking wells are usually clean.

74. *Improvements in coir.*—Some system for inducing improvement in the quality of coir manufactured has long been sought but no improvement has been made yet, at least no lasting improvement. The people get their fixed price, no matter whether they take pains with their coir or not, and are not sufficiently far-sighted to be induced to exert themselves by a prospect of gain which is not immediate. This, I believe, is the chief reason why the present bonus system does no good, i.e., the system of giving the people 25 per cent. of the profits when the total import of coir exceeds 674 candies, and the price realized by Government exceeds Rs. 40 per candy. The people have always said they do not know about this system, and the monegar has been blamed for not making it generally understood. I do not think he is to blame. I think the system is too complex and the benefits too vague and distant for them to try to understand it—a great deal too much so to induce them to exert themselves. For the coir imported in one fasli is not sold till the next fasli, and therefore they have to wait a year before they know what the result of their work is. As the individual with whom the Government deals is the shipper or the master of the kundra, he has to keep his accounts with the houses whose coir he carries; and I should doubt whether after a year he always settles up the bonus for the previous year's coir fairly, especially as the makers do not care to understand the bonus system. The same kundra owner does not carry every year for the same houses. If he has had in the intervening year any disputes with the houses he may collect for the coir of the previous year of the houses little as possible about any bonus he will most probably carry for other houses, and say as both quality and quantity, and they have no idea of so co-operating. It is of no use for one island to make better coir if the others reap three-quarters of the profit for nothing, or if the others make so little or so badly that there is no profit at all. I have fully discussed with the monegar the question of this percentage given after a year's interval, and he is distinctly of opinion that the people will not be induced to make any improvement by a prospect of gain both doubtful and distant. This is confirmed by all past experience since the bonus system was introduced.

75. The Amini people when asked about their coir said that for two or three years the monegar had been getting them to soak more in sea-water and to clean out their fresh-water pits frequently, saying that they would get better prices. "But," they said, "our coir is quite as good now as that of the other islands, and we exerted ourselves to make it better, and still we get the same rates and classification as before; so we are now making it again in the way we used to do." I believe the Amini coir is now as good as the average of the others, but they are all very poor. As the season for exporting comes round, a rush is made to spin as much as possible, regardless of the quality of the twist and regardless whether it has been soaked the proper length of time. The result is everywhere a large quantity of coarse, uneven yarn of very poor colour, useless for matting, useless for almost anything except being made into lawsons in the Government dock-yards, or undone and respun.

76. I do not think it is the fresh water that makes the Amini coir poor. It is the dirt in the pits. I saw some coir from fresh-water pits which had been kept clean, and it was of excellent colour. The coir used by the people themselves in boat building, or for good ropes, is very pale coloured, very fine and beautifully spun; much of it is more like fine hemp than coir; and that is soaked as much in fresh as in salt water. It of course requires a great deal of labour in spinning, and I believe it is made from tender nuts, so that the copra is lost; but it shows what the people can do if they choose.

77. The people are also very careless in bringing the coir to the mainland. It is often soaked with sea-water on the way. They then grumble because it is dried before being weighed. I saw several boat-loads from Kadamat and Chetlat landed in Mangalore in being weighed. I of very poor quality, dark coloured, coarse, unevenly and loosely spun. It was all decidedly the worse, and there was also a good deal of sand in it. That of Kadamat was in purposely to increase the weight, but came from carelessness in probably was not put twisting. It was all saturated with sea-water. After being dried and cleaning and absorbs a great deal of moisture during the monsoon from the salt being and cleaning and results sometimes in a considerable excess in weight of coir stored, the coir usually imported, but I presume also in deterioration when stored. The present bonus system could be changed to one by which the people could get the

be made if the present bonus system
ir profit at once when they brought

over the coir. This apparently can be done only in two ways, either by sorting the coir into classes when received, or by frequent reclassifying.

The first of these was the method in vogue long ago, but was given up because it offered too much room for corruption. The sorting was done by peons, and a small present to them would probably get a whole boat-load of coir into a higher class than it ought to be in. The monegar says the people would like that system again. No doubt a system by which a small gift to a peon would be as profitable as a lot of extra labour and trouble would be very popular with them. I believe, however, that they would like it even if worked in strictest honesty. All coir is now weighed into store by the Assistant Superintendent of Sea Customs. I think that he might be trusted to supervise the classifying sufficiently. The classes would be stored in separate compartments of the godown, and would always be open to inspection and check by the Port Officer or any other officer. I do not see why, with the coir stored, as it is now, for six months or more in the big godown, there should not be sufficient check to make this system work well. No doubt if it was introduced suddenly, and all the coir put into the second or third class, as it ought to be, there would be much grumbling. But if the people were all warned that their coir is so bad now that it will be reduced if not improved, and if they were given two years' notice of the altered system, I do not think there would be any difficulty in introducing it, especially as it is not new to the people, but what they were formerly accustomed to, and what their present classification is based on. Even if there was some reduction at first, I do not think there would be much dissatisfaction, for when I asked the monegar and mottessors in Amini how the people could be made to turn out better coir, they said "fine them if it is bad," and seemed to think that would be perfectly justifiable.

79. The alternative method is that of frequent reclassification. Every five years or so the classification might be revised, either by consulting a few experts, such as a committee of merchants, or by selling by auction a few lots taken at random from the coir of each island, and altering the classification according to the prices got. This again might lead to carelessness during the years immediately after the new rate was fixed, and spasmodic exertions as the time came for a reclassification; or if an average of the past five years was taken as the basis of each reclassification, the possible advantages would be as at present too distant and indefinite for the people to appreciate. It appears to have been intended to have a reclassification after Mr. Cowie's report, i.e., last year, but I am not aware of its having been done.

80. On the whole, therefore, I consider that the system best suited to the people is that of classification at once when the coir is received if it can be satisfactorily worked, and I see no reason why it should not be so. If this system were renewed, I would divide the coir into the three ordinary classes as at present, with a special class for any unusually good lot. For this class 25 per cent. of the sale-proceeds, or even more, might be given. Such coir would not be likely to be produced except by persons who were fairly enterprising and far-sighted enough to see an advantage a year distant, and it would be well to encourage any such people. As the lot would probably be very small, it might even be sold by auction when received and the producer might get his profit at once. For the three ordinary classes standard samples should always be kept for comparison.

81. *Proposed concession or monopoly to Messrs. Morgan and Sons.*—You have asked me also to consider again the proposal of Messrs. Morgan and Sons made in their letter of 8th April 1891 to Mr. Cowie, to set up coir spinning machinery in the islands and make the most of the raw material (teaching the people to do the same) if Government would grant them a monopoly for a term of years or accept a royalty per candy on the coir produced. The Board of Revenue have already expressed their opinion that a monopoly cannot be granted. If some such concession could be granted, and a satisfactory arrangement come to with Messrs. Morgan and Sons, the advantages would be that the islanders would be initiated into the use of machines for making up their coir, and so probably in time a considerable increase of revenue. There is very little prospect of the people taking to the use of machines of their own accord. There are now in Amini two very simple little machines which were sent over a few years ago, and which they could easily make for themselves, but the people say they do not know how to use them, and apparently they have not the least desire to learn. At any rate they will not take the trouble to find out the use of them when they come to the mainland, though they have been several times advised to do so.

82. Of course Messrs. Morgan and Sons could not be expected to undertake the risk of setting up extensive plans without a considerable concession. If a monopoly could be granted, they might be allowed to take over all coir themselves instead of Government, making such arrangements as they chose (subject to approval, so that the interests of the people might not suffer) for its better manufacture. They might give a periodical return of the amount manufactured, and their orders might be accepted by the Treasury Deputy Collector instead of those now given by the Port Officer for payment in the usual manner, they paying to Government as a royalty the average price realized during the last five or ten years. Messrs. Morgan and Sons would thus gain, for the term of their concession, all the profit that might accrue from

improvement in manufacture. Government would not lose, and of course cannot afford to enter into a contract by which it would lose, in comparison with the present financial results of the administration of the islands.

83. If such a scheme as the above were considered too much in the nature of a monopoly, a contract in different terms might be arranged with practically the same effect. Government might contract to sell to Messrs. Morgan and Sons for a fixed price (the average price as above mentioned) all the coir received from the islands for a term of years, on condition that they should send over the necessary machinery for improved manufacture and instruct the islanders in its use. The coir when made might, as heretofore, be brought over and delivered to Government and paid for at the usual rates. Details could easily be settled afterwards if the principle were approved.

84. To both the above proposals it might be objected that the coir was to be improved and the islanders to gain no extra profit thereby. But they would gain in not having to do the work themselves. So long as the concession lasted, Messrs. Morgan and Sons would look after the spinning of the fibre. If they employed the people to do the work, they would have to pay the difference between the wages they do now and the work they would do with mechanical power, a difference which would probably be in favour of the people, but being an innovation would not be considered so by them.

85. The chief objection to any such arrangement is the great and sudden change it would cause in the general ways of the islanders. With their immemorial customs of independence and not being interfered with, they would probably at first resent the innovation of strangers coming to look after their coir-making. They have been accustomed to have all their coir made up by their own women folk, and in their arrangements with the shippers they all know each other and trust each other without any making of documents or disputing over details of contracts. But when the stranger came among them there would probably be no end to their disputes. As when a visiting officer goes over they bring up disputes and unfounded claims which have been decided half a dozen times already against them, even from twenty years before, in the hope that he may not find that out, and that they may have another chance, so they would probably think they could take in the stranger who came to teach them how to make coir, and false claims and disputes would rapidly multiply. I am afraid on the whole that the innovation would very much hasten the approach of the time when a more elaborate and modernized system of general administration, especially of law and justice, will become necessary.

86. *The coir monopoly, and the financial condition of the islands.*—The transactions of the coir department and their financial results for the last three faslis are shown in the appendix. The monopoly continues to be popular; without it the people would not know what to do with their coir. The average price paid to them during these three years is slightly over Rs. 20 nominally, but what it has cost Government, including the salt duty remitted, is nearly Rs. 33½ per candy, and that is what the islanders have practically been getting, including their rice at Rs. 2 per murah was Rs. 28½. The increase is chiefly due to the high price of rice in fasli 1301. The cost to Government will tend to rise again this fasli, as 1½ maunds of salt are now allowed duty free for each candy of coir imported, instead of 1¼ as hitherto. While the coir has been costing Government so much, the average price obtained for it has been slightly under Rs. 40, that of fasli 1300 being barely Rs. 34½, the lowest since fasli 1291.

87. The net financial result of these three years is a profit of Rs. 1,145-13-9, after deducting all charges, including the peishkash remitted to the Bibi of Cannanore. These figures are not quite accurate as the net result of the whole administration of the islands, as there are some petty items of revenue from fines, court fees, rent of trees, pounds, &c., but they are so small as to be of little importance; they are shown separately in their respective places.

There was a loss to Government in 1299 of Rs. 2,370-12-11, and in 1300 of Rs. 5,837-8-9. The latter is due to the very low price of coir and the cost of the Head Assistant Collector's visit to the islands.

In fasli 1301 there was a large profit, viz., Rs. 9,354-3-5, due chiefly to the fact that there were the previous year's 798 candies of coir to sell, and the price was better, while only 492 candies were imported and paid for. This may be expected to balance itself partly in the current fasli, as there will be only 492 candies to sell; but as I have stated above (paragraph 10), the imports were not expected to be large this year either.

My figures may appear to differ greatly from those of Mr. Cowie for fasli 1299, but that is because he did not deduct in the body of his statement the salt duty and peishkash remitted. If he had done so, several years would have shown a result in the "loss" instead of the "profit" column of his statement.

88. *Trade.*—The following statement shows the total imports and exports of the islands for 1891 and 1892:

Year.	Imports.					
	Rice.	Salt.	Tobacco.	Timber.	Areocanna.	Grain.
	Hundreds of Murahs.	Maunds.	Candies.	Value.	Thousands.	Murahs.
1891	168.8	818	55	Rs. 456	1,551.5	348
1892	124.8	597	63	312	1,201	133

Year.	Exports.				
	Cocoanuts.	Limes.	Coir.	Copra.	Jaggery.
	Thousands.	Thousands.	Candies.	Candies.	Maunds.
1891	1,578	274	853	507	14
1892	844.7	37	314½	883	..

* The figures for this year include only ten months.

The total value of these imports and exports according to the karanis' accounts is:—

	1891	1892
Imports	Rs. 63,965	48,219
Exports	48,643	49,132

The figures are probably still very inaccurate, but may be taken as at least a fair approximation. For example, the amount of coir shown as exported is a good deal above that received on the mainland; this may be due, however, partly to inaccuracy in weighing and partly to the coir being very damp when weighed in the islands but dried before weighing in Mangalore. So also the value put upon exports especially is very arbitrary. Cocoanuts for instance continue to be valued at Rs. 10 per 1,000, which is much below their actual value.

89. A few of the figures may be specially noticed. The imports for 1892 are much below those of the previous year; this is probably because of the circumstances shown in paragraph 6 above, which prevented a number of boats from returning to the islands with ordinary supplies. The special supply of rice, &c., which was sent by Government in order to make up for that does not appear to have been included in the statement of imports. Still the import of rice shown in 1892 is not much below the average from 1886 to 1890, that in 1891 being much above it. The import of tobacco has increased immensely, and also that of areocanths and grain. All this shows an eminently prosperous condition.

In exports, cocoanuts and coir were rather low in 1892 on account of bad crop, but a large quantity of copra was exported. The export of limes has greatly decreased, on account of their cultivation being given up in favour of that of plantains. There has been a little export of jaggery.

It may be observed that coir, which goes to Government and pays all the revenue, is a comparatively small portion of the total exports; that exported in the two years being valued in the accounts at only Rs. 16,465 out of the total Rs. 97,775. The rates at which it is valued in these accounts are mysterious, varying from Rs. 8 to Rs. 23 a candy.

There is also some small trade between the islands themselves, consisting chiefly in cocoanuts, areocanths, rice, limes and jaggery, but nothing of much importance.

90. *General Administration.*—The systems of law followed in the islands are a curious mixture of Makkalasantana and Alayasantana. The respective systems appear to attach not only to individuals or families, but to property, so that one man may hold some property which is in course of devolution according to the Makkalasantana system, and some which follows the Alayasantana. Frequent disputes arise from claims that property of one kind has wrongfully been treated by the last owner as of the other kind, and that so the rightful heir has been defrauded. In the cases of this sort which came before me, however, the truth was found to be that the property descends in the owner's family by one system, and the tenancy right in another family by the other system; and that the tenant was merely trying to get to himself the freehold instead of only a lease, the families being closely connected. Tenants, who, a year or two ago, defended thus brought by others for the tenancy on the ground that their family had always been the tenants, will now try to swindle the persons whom they then admitted to be their landlords by false claims to the freehold. In such cases they usually say that they have no evidence to support their claim, but that they have only heard that the property ought to

have come to them many years ago, and wish to decide the case by making oath. The only relic of ingenious simplicity that I found among these people is the childishness with which they expect officials to be deluded by the most absurdly impossible claims of this kind, unsupported by the faintest title of evidence. Some of them appear to have brought up the same claim to every officer who has visited the islands for the last twenty years, each time trying to make it appear that they have just found out the wrong they have suffered, and each time having their claim rejected.

91. According to the present system, the monegar is a third-class magistrate, acting according to the provisions of the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes, and as such his powers in criminal matters is, I think, quite sufficient. There is very little crime; there have been serious cases for the last three years. Persons accused of offences in the other island were brought to Amini for trial, unless the monegar happens to be on tour in the island where the offence occurs. I think it would be a good thing if one moktesoor, or else a bench of two of them in each of the minor islands, exercised the powers of at least a village magistrate. At present, the only thing they do is to take security from any one who is suspected of an offence, however petty, until he can be taken to the monegar for trial. Complaints are made to the peon of the island, who makes inquiry into the case, and if necessary takes the accused and the witnesses to Amini on the first opportunity, acting in the matter as if he were a police officer in charge of a station. If it is necessary to take security, the peon takes the accused to the moktesoors, who take it. This system, of course, entails great delay in the disposal of cases arising about the beginning of the monsoon in Kiltan or Chetlat; but, fortunately, such cases are very few, and I do not think the delay could be avoided, or has any serious consequences.

92. In civil matters the monegar and moktesoors make an informal sort of court, but one which is in accordance with the ancient customs of the place, and whose authority is generally acknowledged by the people. They resemble rather a court of arbitration, depending for its authority on the willing submission of the people, than an ordinary court of law with the whole power of Government to support and enforce its decrees; for the monegar has no such power except through the system of punishing offences against custom.

93. This system still works satisfactorily, though there is a tendency, chiefly as yet among the monegar's enemies, not to submit to his orders. On the whole, his authority is generally respected. I received two or three petitions stating that his orders in civil cases had not been followed, and praying that they might be enforced. I could only send these to the monegar, and direct him to see that his orders were carried out; and I have no doubt that they now will be. As long as the present monegar remains, and exercises his powers as judiciously and unoppressively as he has done hitherto, I think that there will be no real difficulty in carrying on the administration, and that the system is the best that could be applied to the present condition and circumstances of the islands. But if this monegar were to be replaced by another unfamiliar with the people and their ways, I think it not improbable that the opposition to his authority would soon increase so much as to render a change in the method of administration necessary. It will probably depend entirely on the character of the man appointed.

94. *Criminal Returns.*—The statement in the appendix shows the particulars of criminal cases disposed of from each island for three years. The total number of complaints in the three years is 116, all falling under the four heads—assault, theft, mischief, and criminal trespass. Of these, 61 were in 1890, and the percentage of convictions in that year was also very high. The monegar says, that is because he was absent during the time of Ramzan, and a great many petty thefts were committed then which were easily detected. In 1892 the number of complaints fell to 12, and of 16 persons accused only 7 were convicted. The monegar says the proportion of false complaints has increased. Of the whole 116 complaints, 91 were made in Amini. Apparently people complain there, because the monegar is on the spot in petty cases which they would not trouble to go to another island about.

The average pendency of cases in 1891, from date of filing to date of disposal, was 6.5 days, including one case from Kiltan which was pending 154 days, because the monsoon came on between the filing and the completion of inquiry. Excluding this case, it was only 3 days. In 1892 it was 7.5 days, including one case from Kiltan which was pending for 39 days. In a good many cases from Kiltan and Chetlat there was a long delay between the offence and the filing of the case, because the peon could not get an opportunity of bringing the parties to Amini. The longest was nine months; a theft was committed in Kiltan in March 1891, the offender was not found till during the monsoon, in October the peon brought some other persons to Amini for trial, but not the accused in this case because the property had not yet been traced, he returned and completed his investigation, and in December he brought the accused for trial. The case was filed on December 10th, and disposed of on the 11th, the accused being convicted and sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 30. This is the heaviest punishment inflicted by the monegar. His sentences are usually very reasonable.

I found that the monegar had been in the habit of writing only the finding and sentence himself, leaving his clerk to add an abstract of the evidence on which they were based. He was duly ordered to cease this practice at once.

One appeal was made to me. I found the monegar's judgment quite right, and confirmed the finding and sentence.

When people are sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, they are made to clean the roads. Compensation was allowed to complainants in a few cases of mischief; the ordinary mischief complained of being the tying of cattle or goats where they may feed on other people's young trees.

95. *Magisterial fines, and Magisterial contingencies.*—The following statement shows the amount levied as fines, and the amount spent on prisoners in the sub-jail:—

Year.	Persons fined.	Amount.	Persons imprisoned.	Expenditure.
1890	60	Rs. 334 0 0	10	Rs. 24 6 0
1891	35	308 0 0	12	20 8 0
1892	6	35 0 0	2	4 12 0
Total	102	677 0 0	24	49 10 0

96. *Offences against custom, or disobedience of Orders.*—The acts and omissions punished summarily under this heading are as usual very varied. The amounts of the fines levied in the last three years are as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
1890	33	0	0
1891	24	4	0
1892	14	0	0

In all these cases the monegar acts summarily taking only oral evidence, and not calling any moktesoors. They are mostly of the nature of contempt of the monegar's authority, such as not obeying orders to appear in court or orders on petitions, or not assisting in koots for pulling up roads. This last accounts for most of the persons fined in 1891, the fines varying from As. 2 to As. 8. Three persons were fined Rs. 4 each for contempt of the monegar's orders on petitions. Cases of misappropriation in which the criminal intent is doubtful are occasionally punished summarily in this manner; thus, when a man was cutting the fruit of his bread-fruit tree another took it without asking permission, the monegar was doubtful if he intended to steal, so he fined him As. 4 summarily. Another man, when leaving the mosque, put on some one else's sandals; he was asked to return them, and said at first that he had mistaken them for his own; it was found however that he possessed none; the monegar summarily fined him one rupee instead of taking up the case as a criminal one, because no formal complaint was made. Reading in the mosque without calling the kazi, and failing to attend mosque on the day of a particular ceremony were also punished. Some holothurias imported without manifest were confiscated and sold.

On the whole, the monegar has exercised this summary jurisdiction reasonably. The people submit to it willingly; and the fact that they do not appeal against the orders shows that they do not find them oppressive.

97. *Civil file.*—The statement appended shows the disposal of what are treated as civil suits for 1891 and 1892. The number of suits instituted in the two years is 133, or very nearly the same as the average for the preceding five years. The most notable fact in this statement is that none of the suits were decided by panchayat. I have already remarked on the tendency of the monegar to dispose of all the work by himself, and that of the moktesoors to let him do it. From 1885 to 1890, 10 per cent. of the civil suits were disposed of with the assistance of panchayats, and before that the number was still greater.

All these civil suits are petty suits for money or moveable property which may be valued in money, usually rice, cocoants, copra and such like, occasionally jewels. They are hardly ever valued at over Rs. 20. One suit was instituted in 1892 for land and trees.

It will be observed that most of these suits are settled either by the parties coming to an agreement or by one of them taking oath.

98. *Revenue file.*—This continues to include all the miscellaneous matters that are not criminal complaints or civil suits as above described. The statement appended shows the number of cases registered and disposed of in the two years. Again, it will be observed that only one case has been disposed of by panchayat, one in Kiltan in 1892. The total number registered in the two years is 321, of which 133 refer to immovable property and 90 to questions of divorce or maintenance. The remainder are of the same miscellaneous nature as in former years.

99. *Establishment.*—The revenue establishment maintained for the islands is the same as formerly, viz.:—

1 Monegar, Rs. 70 per mensem.
1 Clerk, Rs. 10-8-0 per mensem.
8 Peons, Rs. 8 each,—5 in Amini, one in each of the other islands.
1 Karani Amini, 36 murhas of rice per annum.
1 " Kadamat, 14 " " "
1 " Kiltan, 17 " " "
1 " Chetlat, 17 " " "

- 5 Ugranis or kavilgars, Amini, 20 trees each, except one who had 80 given to him in the time of the Bibi's Government; his bit of land now contains 90.
 1 Clerk on Rs. 15, 1 toladar on Rs. 7, and 3 peons on Rs. 6 each per mensem, employed in the Mangalore Sea-Customs office.
 1 Ugrani or nadpal in each of the minor islands, on 20 trees each.
 1 Schoolmaster, 18 murafts of rice per annum.
 Hospital Assistant, with ward cooly on Rs. 8.

100. *Office records, registers, &c.*—The records of the monegar's office are in good order and well looked after. No daily hatkarada of all receipts and expenditure is kept. The monegar was directed to keep one, and shown the proper manner.

Register of deposits.—The total amount held in deposit in connection with various suits was at the date of inspection Rs. 1,102-3-4. The oldest item dates from August 1888. It was kept pending the result of appeals to the Board of Revenue. The Board's orders have been received, and the monegar was directed to pay the amount accordingly. The largest item is one of Rs. 179 received in November 1890. The register has not been kept in a very convenient form, and it has been the practice merely to note "paid" against any item when paid, without date or mark of recipient or anything, so that it would be necessary to search the records for particulars. When a party has been ordered to produce to any amount and deposit it, the amount has been entered in the register in pencil till collected. The total amount of such entries was Rupees 130-15-0. A new and more convenient and complete form was given, and the monegar directed to keep the register according to it.

Court Fee Register.—Fees are levied on Civil and Revenue petitions at As. 8 each, and As. 4 for each witness summoned. No fees are levied in criminal cases. The amount levied in 1891 was Rs. 69-12-0, which was remitted to the treasury in September 1892. The amount levied in 1892, up to date of inspection, was Rs. 73, which was still with the monegar.

Rent of trees.—This register shows only the amount collected, with date of collection; it does not show the demand or the number of trees rented. The amount collected in 1891 was Rs. 118-9-1, being rent due for 1890. The amount collected in 1892 was Rs. 131-4-0, rent for 1891. The collections of these two years were remitted to the treasury in September 1892. The monegar was directed to show in the register, in future, the number of trees rented by each person, and the rent due from him.

Register of Magisterial fees.—This was thoroughly checked with the cases and the calendar file, and found correct. The amounts levied have been noticed above.

Permanent Advance Fund.—The monegar has a permanent advance of Rs. 20. The register of expenditure has not been kept in the prescribed form, but that is not of much importance, as all the expenditure is under the one head, dieting of prisoners. The amount so spent was Rs. 20-8-0 in 1891 and Rs. 4-12-0 in 1892. There are no expenses for carriage of records, because the monegar travels always in his own boat, and of course no outward or postage expenses.

Pound register.—This is properly kept in the printed forms. The contents have been noticed above.

Government trees.—There is a register of the produce collected from trees remaining in the possession of Government. It shows only 130 coconuts collected in the two years, because most of these trees are just coming into bearing. These nuts will be taken to the mainland and sold when the monegar goes.

Register of wrecks.—This is properly kept, showing all wreckage found on the islands. As the sale-proceeds have to be kept in deposit for a year, the register shows Rs. 84 in deposit. The wreckage sold consists only of a mast and sundry odd pieces of wood.

101. *Tours of the Monegar.*—The following statement shows the number and length of the monegar's visits to the minor islands in the two years:—

Years.	Kadamat.		Kiltan.		Chotlat.	
	Visits.	Days.	Visits.	Days.	Visits.	Days.
1891	3	23	3	23	2	7
1892	3	28	3	13	3	28

This gives an average of 65 days a year in the islands, which is much above the former average. From 1886 to 1890 it was 55 days, and hence on which that it was less.

102. *Requests of the islanders.*—No requests were made which require much notice, beyond such as have been incidentally noticed above. All the islanders repeated their request for more salt, but were perfectly satisfied when they heard that orders were already given that they were to get 1½ maunds.

They all asked that the cost of the special supply of rice sent to them should be distributed over several years. This I believe has already been granted.

They all said they ought to be exempt from the landing and shipping dues in Mangalore, thinking that they were customs duties. They, of course, have no more claim to be exempted than people from any other part of the district, so I told them it was impossible.

Some, as usual, complained that the rice supplied is not of good enough quality. I told them it was their own business to see that what they got was similar to the samples, which they could always inspect. A few grumbled, because they did not get first-quality rice, but had to admit that they would not think of buying it for themselves. I do not think their complaint has any foundation, though for this year the monegar brought a sample of the rice contracted for and showed me it in Mangalore, saying it was inferior to that supplied formerly. As I had no sample of the former supplies, I could not form any opinion.

103. *Petitions, &c.*—I received 50 petitions, of which 41 were from Amini. The nature of some of these has already been noticed. Seven were concerning matters which the monegar would ordinarily dispose of, and were referred to him for disposal. Most of the others do not call for any particular comment. Particulars of them may be found in the petition registers which are sent herewith. There was one complaint against the monegar (petition No. 8), but it was perfectly clear that it was made purely out of malice. It was presented by some of the most litigious and troublesome people in the place, who are always making false claims and are particularly hostile to the monegar. They accuse him of every imaginable irregularity in his official work, alleging that he gets money into deposit and embezzles it, that he embezzles all money that he collects, is corrupt in his judicial work, and everything else that could be thought of, but all generalities, no particular act being complained of; finishing up with what probably was nearest of all to the feelings of the petitioners, that the monegar has been there so long that he knows a great deal too much about everybody's affairs, and should therefore be removed. What they want is evidently a man whom they can persuade to believe their false claims. As for the alleged irregularities with deposits, &c., thorough inspection of the monegar's accounts proved that they are utterly unfounded.

104. It is also complained that the monegar does not go now to the Jamma Masjid. The monegar himself made a representation to me in this matter (huzur petition register No. 9). It is chiefly through his support and assistance that this big mosque has been built and made what it is. His name was inscribed over one of the doors in Arabic, and he kept a praying mat in the mosque. Some time ago his name was obliterated by some one, and his mat put up. He called on all the maktessors to assist in detecting the culprit, but in vain. He very naturally presumes that the offence originated with his chief enemy, one of those who now complain that he does not go to the mosque; and as he is an influential maktessor, it is not to be wondered at that the offence is not detected. This matter has considerably increased the ill feeling between them. The monegar also made a complaint (huzur petition register No. 8) against one of these men, Maktessor Porokat Bavahe, of insult and assault; and that maktessor made another petition against the monegar (petition No. 27). I advised the monegar, in the interests of peace, to come to an agreement; and he withdrew his complaint, and Porokat Bavahe agreed that no further notice need be taken of his petition. As regards the offence in the mosque, I spoke to the maktessors and pointed out that, if such things were allowed to pass unpunished they could not expect the monegar to continue his support; and I advised the monegar to let them know that if his mat was replaced and his name put again over the door as it had been, he would take no further notice of the matter. They were accordingly told so, but I am not aware whether the breach is likely to be patched up.

105. *Petition from the Monegar.*—The monegar submits a petition for an increase of pay to Rs. 100 and for second-class magisterial powers, so that he may be on the same footing as a deputy tahildar on the mainland. His pay appears to have been raised to Rs. 70 in order to be equal to that of a deputy tahildar. His position is analogous. Though in area his charge is only as big as two or three villages, and in population not very much larger, his position is one of great independence and responsibility, and has drawbacks which no deputy tahildar's post has. For ten months in the year he has to live on these islands, quite cut off from his native country; and as he shows in his petition he has occasionally to run great danger, and always great inconvenience, in getting there. It is a post, therefore, which requires to be well paid. On the other hand, he is not a man of sufficient educational attainments to make him eligible for any high post on the mainland; and is therefore already getting much better pay than he could possibly get elsewhere. I doubt if it will be possible to find a fit successor to him without making the pay equal to that of a deputy tahildar, but I hardly think it necessary to do so at present.

106. *Petition from the Monegar's clerk.*—The monegar's clerk again petitions that his pay should be raised from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 15 per mensem. Mr. Cowie recommended this increase in 1891, but it was refused on the ground that the duties are those rather of an attender than of a clerk. I have already shown, however, that he has a number of accounts and registers to keep, besides correspondences, with its registers, and all the magisterial, civil and revenue work, with their writing and copying and keeping of files. He shows at length in his petition a variety of

duties which he has to attend to; and I think it must be admitted that they far exceed any attendant's duties. The work of the office includes on a small scale all the work done in a deputy tahsildar's office, and a great deal besides; and he has it all to do. All records are now being kept in Canarese, so that he has even to look after birth and death registers and other things, which were formerly done by karanis, for they only know Malayalam. I venture, therefore, again to recommend that his position should be made equal in pay to that of an ordinary taluk clerk. He is, I think, quite as competent as most of the old class of "General test" vernacular clerks.

107. In conclusion, I beg to express my regret for the delay in submitting this report. When I left Chetlat on December 22nd, knowing that I should have to spend some time on the steamer before reaching the mainland, and should then have to disembark at Calicut, to wait there for a B.I. steamer, and come by it to Mangalore, with expenses for embarking, passages, freight on luggage, and disembarking, I thought it best to avoid as much of such expense as possible. I therefore left two clerks, some peons, and the vaccinator, with most of the records and office furniture, to return as soon as possible by kundra. The monegar promised to see that they got away without delay. It appears, however, that storms and unavoidable circumstances delayed them, so that they did not reach Mangalore till January 20th, after I had left for Coondapoor. Then, apparently, the two clerks (Abbas Ali of the Mangalore Divisional office and Hayat Khan of the Account department) each thought the other was in charge of the records, and they were not sent to me, though my clerk wrote more than once to ask for them. Meanwhile, I was busy with jamabandi in Coondapoor taluk. When I returned to Mangalore in the end of February, I sent word that everything must be handed over to me there. Those clerks however sent everything off to Coondapoor the day before I reached Mangalore. I was then in Uppinangadi for some time doing jamabandi, and when I got back to Coondapoor in the end of March and at last got all the records, I had so much arrears of magisterial and revenue work to make up, especially with the 1st-class magisterial work of Mangalore taluk added, that it has been as much as I could do to get this report finished by now. I trust the explanation will be considered sufficient.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT showing transactions of Coir department.

Faali.	Coir received from islanders.	Paid to islanders.		Actual cost of rice to Government.	Total of columns 3 and 4.	Establishment, Land Revenue.	Contingencies, Land Revenue.
		In cash.	In rice at Rs. 2 per muna.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1299 ..	Cdn. M. L. R.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1300 ..	853 2 16	4,250 13 9	12,015 0 0	20,762 0 1	25,112 13 10	2,578 0 0	409 5 4
1301 ..	798 0 23	4,078 3 9	12,193 8 0	19,550 7 11	23,628 11 8	2,345 9 4	1,517 11 1
1302 ..	492 11 19	2,531 13 1	7,562 0 0	14,021 9 0	16,553 6 1	2,244 0 0	632 0 7
Total ..	2,144 4 2	10,960 14 7	32,770 8 0	54,334 1 0	65,204 15 7	7,107 9 4	2,550 1 0

Faali.	Total expenditure, columns 6 to 8.	Salt duty remitted.	Police cash remitted to M.B. of Cannanore.	Total to Government, columns 9 to 11.	Sale proceeds, column 12.	Result.	
						Profit.	Loss.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1299 ..	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1300 ..	28,091 3 2	2,352 8 0	5,250 0 0	35,693 11 2	33,322 14 2	2,370 12 11	2,370 12 11
1301 ..	27,832 0 1	2,306 0 0	5,250 0 0	35,388 0 1	29,149 7 4	6,238 12 7	6,238 12 7
1302 ..	19,639 8 8	1,482 8 0	5,250 0 0	26,371 14 8	25,706 2 1	665 12 11	665 12 11
Total ..	75,562 9 11	6,020 0 0	15,750 0 0	97,332 9 11	98,178 7 8	1,145 13 9	1,145 13 9

* Includes cost of Mr. Cowie's visit to the islands in 1891.
† Represents chiefly the value of coir received in the previous faali and sold in this.

STATEMENT showing the number of criminal cases instituted and disposed of during the years 1890, 1891 and 1892.

Nature of offences.	Amlal.				Kadamat.				Kilian.				Chetlat.				Total.			
	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.	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.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1890.	Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation..	7	42	4	4	38	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Theft..	40	42	4	4	38	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Mischief..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Criminal trespass..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total ..	48	64	64	64	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
1891.	Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation..	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Theft..	16	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
	Mischief..	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	Criminal trespass..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total ..	32	39	39	39	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
1892.	Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation..	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Theft..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Mischief..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Criminal trespass..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total ..	11	15	15	15	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

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STATEMENT of civil suits instituted and disposed of during the years 1891 and 1892.

Aminal and Kadamat.														Kilkan.									
Years.	Number tried by the monagar.						Tried by monagar and panchayat.	Dismissed or with- drawn.	Pending.	Number of suits.	Number tried by the monagar.				Tried by monagar and panchayat.	Dismissed or with- drawn.	Pending.						
	Number of suits.	Decided on evidence.		Decided by oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.					Decided on evidence.	Decided by oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.									
1	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
1891	64	20	10	26	56	..	8	..	4	1	..	..	1	..	16	17							
1892	37	10	14	6	29	..	3	..	3	..	1	..	1	..	3	..							
Total ..	101	30	24	31	85	..	11	6	7	1	1	..	2	..	3	2							

Cheliat.														Total.									
Years.	Number tried by monagar.						Tried by monagar and panchayat.	Dismissed or with- drawn.	Pending.	Number of suits.	Number tried by monagar.				Tried by monagar and panchayat.	Dismissed or with- drawn.	Pending.						
	Number of suits.	Decided on evidence.		Decided by oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.					Decided on evidence.	Decided by oath.	Amicably settled.	Total.									
18	19	30	21	23	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33							
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	49	21	10	26	67	..	12	..							
16	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	46	10	20	10	40	..	6	8							
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	135	31	30	34	97	..	20	8							
total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..							

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STATEMENT of revenue cases filed and disposed of during the years 1891 and 1892.

Years.	Amind.										Kadamat.										Kilkan.									
	Total number of cases.	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 pending.	Number of cases.	Number of cases.	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 pending.	Number of cases.	Number of cases decided		Number of cases.									
		By monagar.	By panchayat.								By monagar.	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								
1891	110	73	..	32	39	20	24	6	7	6	..	1	6	..	..	..	36	19	..	17	46	1	23							
1892	96	72	..	4	30	12	30	20	9	8	..	1	1	1	1	6	10	3	1	5	22	1	23							
Total ..	206	145	..	36	69	32	54	26	16	14	..	2	7	1	6	..	46	22	1	23	68	90	46							

Years.	Cheslat.										Total.											
	Number of cases relating to land.	Number of cases relating to trees only.	Number of cases relating to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.	Number of cases referring to land.	Number of cases referring to trees only.	Number of cases relating to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases pending.	Number of cases.	Number of cases.	Number of cases decided		Number of cases dismissed or withdrawn.	Number of cases relating to land.	Number of cases relating to trees only.	Number of cases relating to divorce, maintenance, &c.	Number of cases pending.	Number of cases.	Number of cases decided		Number of cases.	
											By monagar.	By panchayat.							By monagar.	By panchayat.		
1	23	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
1891	8	7	4	..	13	11	..	3	1	..	10	..	166	109	..	52	44	27	38	5	90	33
1892	1	..	3	1	40	34	..	6	6	13	13	2	155	117	..	16	38	26	52	23	23	23
Total ..	9	7	7	1	53	45	..	9	7	13	23	2	321	226	..	68	82	53	90	78	113	56

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Resolution—dated 2nd June 1894, No. 227.

With the letter read above the Collector of South Canara submits his Head Assistant Collector's report of his visit to the Amindivi islands in December 1892.

2. Mr. Slight spent 19 days in all in visiting the four inhabited islands comprising the group, and though his report was submitted so long ago as April 1893, it was through oversight not submitted by the Collector to the Board till March 1894.

3. The salient features of the report which is full and lucid are summarised by the Collector and it only remains for the Board to notice a few points.

4. The islands were last inspected by Mr. Cowie in January 1891, and during the interval the people continued to prosper notwithstanding slight epidemics of small-pox and influenza and a period of scarcity due to boats laden with food supplies being driven back to the mainland by stress of weather. The inhabitants of Amini are the most advanced in material well being, but it is observed that the people of Kadamat have recently made great strides in prosperity and are gradually becoming more and more independent of the Amini folk.

5. The maps prepared at the time of Mr. Cowie's visit are reported to be useless for the purpose of checking the changes in the configuration of the islands. The Collector's suggestion that a competent surveyor should in future be deputed somewhat in advance of the inspecting officer with instructions to prepare a correct topographical survey map has the Board's approval. The Superintendent of Revenue Survey, Madras, should be communicated with on the subject.

6. The Board concurs with the Collector that the lumps of coral growing in the entrance to the Amini island should be cleared by the people themselves.

7. The statistics recorded in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Collector's letter indicate the development of local industries, especially of boat building, since the time of Mr. Hall's visit in 1869.

8. The Collector's suggestion to obtain periodically from the monegar rough statements showing the number of trees in the islands is approved.

9. The Board notes with satisfaction that Kadiri Haji, whose work as secular teacher was reported to have become unpopular, has, since the time of Mr. Cowie's visit, collected more pupils chiefly by supplementing the secular teaching by lessons in Arabic and the Koran. Some of the pupils are also reported to be learning navigation under another instructor. It is satisfactory to note that the number of teachers in the islands has increased since the last inspection from 19 to 26 and the number of pupils from 384 to 520.

10. Mr. Slight is of opinion that instruction should be conveyed to the islanders only in Canarese or Hindustani and not in Malayalam, which is of little practical use to them, as their dealings in the mainland are mainly with people speaking the former languages. The Collector holds a different opinion and thinks that what is wanted is a convenient and easy mode of conveying a certain amount of purely rudimentary knowledge to the children and that the Malayalam language and the Malayalam character are best suited for the purpose. The Board concurs with the Collector. It would also recommend the adoption of the Collector's proposal to send a few more teachers from the islands to the training school at Calicut on a stipend of Rs. 5 per mensem payable out of the general revenues of the islands, but not out of the Laccadive Poor fund, the capital of which he wishes to accumulate to Rs. 8,000 before the interest is utilized for educational purposes.

11. Mr. Slight's recommendation, to supply Kadiri Haji's school with a half dozen benches, a black-board, a table and a chair is approved. The Collector will make arrangements for supplying them.

12. The purchase of a building for the residence of the hospital assistant referred to by Mr. Slight has already been sanctioned by Government—vide Government Order, dated 11th April 1894, Mis. No. 1490, Revenue. A reasonable rent should be fixed for the house when it comes to be occupied.

13. The Board is glad to note that the dispensary is kept by the hospital assistant and that it is largely resorted to by patients in the islands. It is, however, disappointing to find that vaccination has not been

chiefly owing to want of lymph. The Board requests Government to address the Surgeon-General to arrange for the supply of a sufficient stock of lymph to the hospital assistant.

14. The Board concurs in the opinion of the Collector that the pay and allowance of the hospital assistant are quite sufficient and that he should be required to make periodical visits to the other islands drawing travelling allowance on such occasions. During the absence of the hospital assistant from Amini, the ward cooly should be entrusted with the meteorological work as proposed, and if the present incumbent is incapable of doing it, he should be replaced by a competent man. The proposal to bind over all the Local Fund hospital assistants in the district to serve in Amini for two years at least is, as observed by the Collector, impracticable.

15. The want of a midwife for the islands has already been supplied—vide Government Order, dated 18th September 1893, Mis. No. 3412.

16. In paragraphs 74 to 80 of his report Mr. Slight has discussed the means of improving the manufacture of coir. He considers the present bonus system a failure and advocates the system of classifying the coir immediately on receipt at Mangalore under the supervision of the Superintendent of Sea Customs who now does the work of weighing it. The Collector supports the proposal and the Board agrees with him. If, after a trial, this remedy is found to be ineffective, the system of granting money prizes advocated by the Collector may be introduced to supplement it.

17. In regard to the grant of a monopoly to Messrs. Morgan and Son with a view to the introduction of machinery for the manufacture of improved quality of coir-yarn, which is discussed in paragraphs 81 to 85 of Mr. Slight's report, the Board agrees with the Collector that, for the reasons stated by him in paragraph 20 of his letter, the proposals cannot be accepted.

18. The net financial result of the coir monopoly for faslis 1299 to 1301 is a surplus of Rs. 1,145-13-9 after deducting all charges including the peishoush paid to the Bibi of Cannanore and salt duty remitted.

19. The Board is glad to learn that the monegar has been exercising his varied powers satisfactorily and that the people are generally disposed to submit to his authority, though in Amini a tendency to dispute his authority is observed as the result of increasing intercourse with the mainland.

The monegar should not be encouraged to dispense with the assistance of the panchayat. In paragraph 24 of his covering letter the Collector supports strongly the monegar's application for an increase of pay, and, considering the efficient and tactful way in which he has performed his duties, the Board recommends that his pay should be raised from Rs. 70 to Rs. 85 per mensem. He lacks the educational attainments requisite for a Deputy Tahsildar's post on the mainland; hence the Board does not recommend the full increase of pay sought. The proposal to increase the pay of his clerk from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 15 may also be approved.

20. Mr. Slight's proposal to appoint one of the moktessors in each of the other islands to exercise the powers of a village magistrate is supported by the Collector except in regard to the island of Kadamat which, being close to Amini, is not put to any inconvenience by the present practice of bringing down the offenders to Amini. The proposal appears to be judicious and may be approved.

21. The usual statements showing the transactions of the coir monopoly and the cases on the civil, criminal and revenue files disposed of and pending are appended to the report.

22. It is gratifying to note that no complaints worth noticing were made by the islanders during Mr. Slight's stay in the islands.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary, Government, Revenue Department.
" Co. South Canara.
" Labar.

ORDER—dated 7th August 1894, No. 576, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

With the foregoing Proceedings, the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) submits, with its remarks, letter from the Collector of South Canara forwarding the report of his Acting Head Assistant Collector (Mr. Slight) of his visit to the Amindivi Group of the Laccadive Islands in December 1892.

2. Mr. Slight's report is, as observed by the Board, full and lucid, and the Government notices, with satisfaction, the evidence it furnishes of the continued prosperity of the islanders, the increase in the population as ascertained by special enumeration, the progress of education and the good administration of the islands by the monegar.

3. Paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings will be referred to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey for remarks.

4. Paragraph 20 of the Board's Proceedings will be considered in the Judicial Department, and paragraphs 13 and 14 in the Public.

5. The Government concurs in the Board's remarks in paragraph 10 as to the advisability of continuing the existing system of conveying instruction to the islanders in the Malayalam language and in the Malayalam character. The Board's recommendation to send a few more teachers from the islands to the training school at Calicut will be considered in the Educational Department.

6. The proposal in paragraph 16 of the Board's Proceedings to introduce the system of classifying the coir immediately on receipt at Mangalore is approved. The effect of this system and of the system of offering special money prizes sanctioned in G.O., dated 7th July 1894, No. 2637, should be carefully watched and reported on in due course.

7. The Government concurs in the Board's remarks in paragraph 17 of its Proceedings.

8. The Board's recommendation in paragraph 19 of its Proceedings to raise the pay of the monegar from Rs. 70 to Rs. 85 and that of his clerk from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 15 is approved.

(True Extract.)

A. D. Shetty
Capt. R.

per Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

- „ the Public Department.
- „ the Judicial Department. ✓
- „ the Financial Department.
- „ the Educational Department.
- „ the Superintendent, Revenue Survey.
- „ the Accountant-General.

more teachers from
per

Ed. C. M. Brisson.

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Gobt. of (1894) Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 7th August 1894, No. 576.

AUGUST.

Amindivi Islands.

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks, Mr. Slight's report on his visit to the — in December 1892.

3-5-92 320 Sub Mis. & all for
Readers.

11/11

For Orders

It appears from para. 44 of Mr. Slight's report that in each island there are certain chiefs (how many does not appear) who are called 'Moktessors' in Amindivi & 'Mopamans' elsewhere. There is besides a manegar for the whole group who exercises 3rd class magt powers.

The present proposal is that, in each of the islands except Amindivi, the Moktessors should be invested with the magt powers exercised by Village Magt under Reg. XI of 1816 (Sec. 10) & IV of 1821 (Sec. 6). And, with the object of carrying out this proposal, the Collr, in para. 22 of his report, proposes to extend these Regs to the islands by means of a 'holog' under Sec. 5 of Act XIV of 1874 & the Board, in para. 20 of its Resolution, supports this suggestion.

If, however, Moktessors & Mopamans fall within the meaning of the term 'Head of a Village' as defined in the (unfortunately) repealed Sec. 2 of Reg. IV of 1816, then there is no reason for doubting that they are entitled to possess the powers conferred by Reg. XI of 1816 & IV of 1821 for petty offences, & there is no reason to doubt that these enactments are in force in the Amindivi, inasmuch as the islands have formed a part of the Presidency since the beginning of the century (viz. 1803, 4 Sept. 1803, No. 607-S, 1803). Still, it is to be observed that Reg. XI of 1816 finds a place in the Second Schedule of Act XV of 1874 & it has been laid down by the G.O. that the enactments in the Second Schedule of Act XV of 1874 are in force in the islands.

It is a scandalous case of neglect — The H. & Res. Dept. should have taken notice of it — I don't see that we are doing anything in the matter. But let a note be made of the case.

the Amindivi, being part of the Laccadives, are a Scheduled District.

If, then, Moktessors & Mopamans are 'Heads of Villages', the required 'holog' should issue under Sec. 3 of Act XIV of 1874 & not under Sec. 5 thereof.

If, on the other hand, these officials are not 'Heads of Villages', then the application of Reg. XI of 1816 & IV of 1821 to the islands will not invest them with the powers conferred upon Heads of Villages by those enactments.

Apparently then all that can be done is to point these facts out to the Collr. & ask him to define more accurately the position & duties of the Moktessors & Mopamans.

2. H. & R. will observe that Mr. Power took 11 months to submit Mr. Slight's report. Mr. P. explains the delay in para. 25 of his letter. The Board & the H. & R. Dept. have made no remark thereon. In this connection attention is invited to Mr. Slight's remarks under cover of G.O. of 15 Jan. 1894, No. 621, 1894. Mr. Slight will doubtless explain that Mr. P. was called away the other day to explain his delay in submitting a petition from the Amindivi.

BS

9/10/97

*Extension of
certain laws to
the Annamites*

[8]
500-50-8-24

Sub DEPARTMENT. 41

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 18 , No.

Again G.O., dated 18 , No.

Current No. 4233 of 1824, dated 7 Aug from R. D.

Current No. of 18 , dated

Order from 16 Aug 1914 No 2506

Order
The mere scheduling of the
Lacandives does not imply
that Regs XI of 1816 & IV of
1821 are not in force in the
Annamite islands. Reg. XI of
1816, indeed, appears in the
Second Schedule to Act XV of
1874 & it is, therefore, advisable
to issue a Notice under sec. 3
of Act XIV of 1874 in respect
of both the Regs. The ap

The Coll. should be directed
to report fully as to the
number, position & duties
of Moktessors & Hopamars
in the Annamite islands.
If these officials are heads
of villages within the meaning
of Regs XI of 1816 & IV of
1821, they already possess
the judicial authority conferred
by those enactments & the
interest that will be done
is to notify under sec. 3 of
Act XIV of 1874 that the
Regs are in force.
If, on the other hand, the
Moktessors & Hopamars
are not heads of villages,
then the extension of these
two Regs to the islands
would not have the effect
of conferring any judicial
powers upon the persons

AS
15/10/14

To the R. D. ...
17/10
DEPARTMENT
1901

Act in the
Amundson

607/824-9-9386
S.F. 945-2726-4-1547

PAPER, No. 636/95 OF 189

[Faint handwritten notes and scribbles]

ORDINARY, MS.

Lucien DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 16-10-94
No. 2506

INDEXED

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[Despatch Abstract.]

*Supplies the D of the
to the
fully as to the number
location
houses & the islands*

*22/6/02
20-9-05
22-11-13 ✓
16-1-14*