(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 42

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் மார்ச்சு 1991

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

# தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

PWD துறை

183

அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 1356(W) ~~அச்சகம்~~ ~~பலவகை~~

நாள் : 29-4-1892 19

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

21 Sheets

ஆவண. கா-1—18,000—15-6-87.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1357/1

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 10th December 1891, No. 711 :—

THE HON. MR. J. GROSE.
MR. E. GIBSON.

*Read*—the following letter from V. A. BRODIE, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Mangalore, 30th October 1891, No. 4299 :—

I have the honour to report that in obedience to the orders of Government conveyed in Government Order, dated 16th January 1891, No. 334, Revenue Department, the Aminidivi group of the Laccadive islands attached to this district was visited by my late Acting Head Assistant Mr. Cowie in the months of January and February last, and I beg to submit herewith the detailed report * of that officer embodying the results of his inspection. Mr. Cowie was able to return from the islands after a stay among them of about five weeks (spent partly in making a tour of the islands and partly in transit to and from Mangalore) at the end of February last, but his report reached me only on the 3rd of August. The cause of this delay in the transmission of the report, which appears to have been ready, but remained undespatched, at the end of April, is explained by Mr. Cowie in a foot-note to his report, and is due chiefly to his temporary absence from India shortly after the report was drafted.

* Sent separately.

2. It will be conceded, I believe, that Mr. Cowie's report is full and clear, and I have practically little to add to the several observations and suggestions contained therein. The following matters, however, seem to require some further elucidation.

3. *Population* (*paragraph* 4); *Buildings* (*paragraph* 6).—The figures showing the population and number of houses in the four islands given in Mr. Cowie's report are correct as they agree with those subsequently rendered by the Monegar for the census, except that the number of houses in the latter exceeds by four those given in Mr. Cowie's report. This is, probably due to more accurate tabulation at the time of the submission of the census returns.

I entirely agree with Mr. Cowie in thinking that there is no real decrease in the population, and that the reason assigned for the apparent difference between the present census and that of 1881, viz., temporary emigration to the mainland, is correct, as it is a well-known fact that many of the islanders make their first trip to the coast with sundry articles of produce, such as cocoanuts, cadjans, jaggery, limes, &c., between the months of December and January, leaving the more regular voyages (on which coir-yarn is carried) to be made later on in the season. A good many also remain on the mainland from November to April in order to earn some money by labour.

4. *Education* (*paragraph* 9).—This is one of the most important subjects calling for serious consideration; and it is to be regretted that whilst the educational wants of the people of almost all classes on the mainland have received a stimulus and rapid strides are being made in this direction, the condition of the islanders, as regards elementary education, is still in a very backward state. The islanders are certainly apathetic and indifferent, but so have been the masses of the people on the mainland until they were made to feel the actual benefits of education by placing it at their doors. Some systematic effort should now, I think, be made in order to impart a rudimentary form of education to the island people. When the islands were last visited in 1886

by the then Acting Head Assistant Collector, Mr. Mir Shujaat Ali Khan, that officer proposed, and the proposal received the approval * of Government, that a special system of education suited to the condition of the islanders should be adopted in order to bring them gradually under instruction. Mr. Shujaat Ali Khan's proposals may be summarised as follows :—

* Government Orders, dated 10th August 1886, No. 516, and 14th July 1887, No. 358, Educational.

(1) All attempts to teach the children in the neighbouring Malabar islands in the Coast Malayalam character having hitherto failed, and Arabic being the only character with which the islanders are familiar, and in which they have been reading and writing for ages past, Mr. Shujaat Ali proposed to retain the Arabic alphabet and by means of it to teach Malayalam or Canarese.

(2) He found it hopeless to endeavour to procure trained teachers from the coast, and therefore suggested that local agency should be utilized by sending proper persons to the coast and getting them trained in the Normal Schools in the modern system of secular education.

(3) Mr. Shujaat Ali further proposed that, as the children in the islands are first sent to read and learn the Koran, which is regarded as indispensable, and remain in school for many years until they are too old to learn a new alphabet, the opportunity of their attendance for this purpose should be seized to impart to them a more methodical and secular education also along with the Koran.

(4) An inseparable condition of the above system was that whatever teacher might be employed on the islands, such teacher should be associated with a Mukri, the general religious instructor of the island people.

Mr. Shujaat Ali Khan was not over-sanguine of success in this project, but with the general liking of the islanders for education, he was confident that this system of education would succeed and ere long become very popular, and he accordingly proposed to try it in Amini first, and if successful, to extend it to the other islands.

An intelligent young man by name Khadri Haji, selected by Mr. Shujaat Ali Khan himself, was accordingly sent to the Calicut Normal School to be trained as a teacher, and on his return was sent back by Mr. Wynne to Amini, under the Board's instructions, to open a school, and allowed, under my own orders, to draw an allowance of 18 muras of rice as his remuneration for keeping up a school at Amini. Mr. Shujaat Ali Khan proposed to give him 10 muras of rice a year and an annual grant-in-aid on the results system, but as a periodical inspection of the school for results grants, owing to its isolated position, was out of the question, and 10 muras of rice would hardly give him a proper subsistence, I allowed him 18 muras of rice a-year, expecting him to remunerate the Mukri under whom he was to teach out of this allowance.

It is to be regretted that the popular Mukri with whom Khadri Haji was originally associated in teaching children, and who had a very large number of pupils under him, is dead, and Khadri Haji had but fifteen pupils under him at the time of Mr. Cowie's inspection. It would appear also that Khadri Haji now keeps a separate school of his own instead of working under a Mukri as originally intended. The Monegar should not have permitted this, and Mr. Cowie's suggestion that the original plan should be reverted to by making Khadri Haji attach himself to the most influential among the existing Mukris will be given effect to.

While on this subject it should be noticed that no system of school will succeed unless proper text-books are prepared and supplied to the teacher. The preparation of a graduated series of Readers for this purpose was primarily entrusted to Mr. Shujaat Ali Khan himself as the fittest person to execute the task under the supervision of the officers of the Educational Department, and the last report of that officer was to the effect that while he had collected all the materials necessary for the preparation of the Readers, he was not able to secure the services of a Moilar, who was a native of the islands, to enable him to put them into the Divi dialect. Mr. Shujaat Ali has since been transferred to another district, and it is not likely that he will be able to have the manuals, if ready, translated under his own personal supervision into Malayalam and Canarese, and transliterated again in the proper form into the Arabic character even if a well-versed Moilar be procured and sent up to him for this purpose. As



the sending of a Moilar to Mr. Shujaat Ali is a somewhat inconvenient as well as expensive arrangement, I think the proper course is to get the manuals compiled or completed first in the English language, and when approved by the Director of Public Instruction, to have them translated into Malayalam at Calicut under the supervision of some Educational officer. Then, with the aid of a Moilar, to be procured from the islands, the compilations could be transliterated into the Arabic character and lithographed at one of the local presses here. I would suggest that this work be taken in hand in earnest by the Educational Department in communication with Mr. Shujaat Ali Khan, and that the books be got ready for transmission to the islands as soon as possible.

5. *Government trees* (*paragraph* 12).—In this paragraph, Mr. Cowie gives a statement of what are called "Government trees" to be found on the different islands as distinguished from those owned by private individuals. Some of these appear to have been planted by Monegars on behalf of Government, but the greater portion of them are trees that have escheated to Government from time to time by failure of heirs or other causes. From the statement embodied in the report it would appear that there were at the date of Mr. Cowie's inspection—

1,990 mature trees.
1,024 young trees or plants.

Of the former, 1,477 trees are either rented or held by Government officials (nadpals or watchers) and paupers, leaving 513 trees undisposed of in the above manner. Of the young trees, 497 are held by paupers and 527 are at the disposal of Government. In view of the remarks made by the last visiting officer in his report that it was inadvisable to retain any of these trees in the hands of Government as offering undue temptation to the Monegar, if not to actual corruption, at least to some sort of favouritism in their disposal, I issued an order to the Monegar in April 1890 that he should make arrangements, preparatory to the visit of an Assistant Collector, for giving away all such trees to applicants on darkhast on the arrival of that officer, but in order to ascertain whether some revenue could not fairly be derived from such a measure, I made it a condition that the darkhastdar should be made to pay a fair price for the trees which he did not plant or rear by his own trouble and care. The result of Mr. Cowie's inquiries is that a very inconsiderable amount can be expected as the price of the trees, and in consideration of the circumstances urged in the concluding clause of his above-quoted paragraph, I approve of his proposal to give away the trees on darkhast, waiving the condition as to the payment of their value, the poorer applicants being certainly preferred to the rich. With the Board's approval I shall issue an order to the Manegar directing him to submit his recommendations in this respect, accompanied by sufficient information as to the condition of the applicants, &c.

6. *Rented trees* (*paragraph* 13).—The Monegar is much to blame for neglecting to collect the rent of rented trees. I am directing him to submit a satisfactory explanation for this neglect, anything like which there will be no occasion to notice hereafter if the trees are given away on darkhast as proposed.

7. *Rats* (*paragraphs* 16 *and* 18).—It would be a real blessing to the islanders if some means could be devised for the total extermination of the rats. The holding of periodical coots for killing them does not seem to be very effective, and the indifference of the islanders as regards keeping a sufficient number of cats to be chiefly fed upon rats is probably due to the fact that these cats, if starved, can count upon other means of subsistence, such as crabs, &c., which usually abound on the banks of the lagoons and sea-shores. I would propose as an experiment that a supply of "Rough on rats" be distributed to the different islands. Where other means have failed to free cocoanut trees of this pest on the mainland, this stuff is known to have proved very effective, if not in totally destroying the rats, at least in keeping them off the trees for a very long time, and any little expense incurred by Government for this purpose will probably be more than repaid by increased returns which may be expected in the shape of coir manufactured and delivered to Government. Once the efficiency of the stuff is known, the islanders may be trusted to purchase it on their own account.

8. *Owls* (*paragraph* 17).—It is a pity that only one owl has survived out of the several that have been sent from time to time to the islands. I have issued fresh orders to the taluks to collect more owls for the islands, and hope I shall be able to send a large consignment during the trading season, and that the Monegar will take proper care of them when they arrive. At the same time the next must, I think, be a final experiment, for we have now been sending over owls for years to no purpose. As what are generally sent are young birds, it is possible that they die, because when sent over they are not sufficiently mature to be able to make their own living, and I do not also think they can find sufficient shelter during the monsoon. Certainly the cocoanut tree does not provide the protection they get in hollow trees on the mainland, and unfortunately there are no other trees on the islands to speak of, and certainly no big hollow ones. The Monegar will be directed to put up some boxes on trees for them to take shelter in during the day and bad weather, and not to let them fly till satisfied that they will be able to obtain food for themselves. The experiment has never been tried, but unless the islanders raise objections, I propose to send them over a few full-grown toddy-cats this year as an experiment. From the account given of the toddy-cat (*Paradoxurus Musanga*) by Surgeon-Major Jerdon in his "Mammals of India," p. 125, they seem to be very degenerate cats, and on the mainland to live on cockroaches, other insects and lizards as much as on rats and mice. Still they do eat rats, and as on the islands they will find little other food, I trust they will prove useful, for they can hunt down the rats on the trees which the domestic cat can't. No doubt they are supposed to be fond of toddy, and hence their name, but I have grave doubts as to the truth of the indictment, and in any case, as they prefer animal food, they could not be one-tenth as destructive as the rats on which they prey. Moreover, if only one or two pairs are sent it can be seen whether they are likely to prove a blessing or a curse very soon, and in the latter case it will be easy to kill them off as they cannot find shelter so easily as the rats.

9. *Meteorology* (*paragraph* 22).—The suspension of Meteorological observations in the Amini island is the necessary result of the difficulty which has been experienced in practice by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras in deputing a suitable medical subordinate acquainted with the language of the islanders to Amini, as the Meteorological work is entrusted to him. To avoid this difficulty, which is of constant occurrence, steps have recently been taken with the sanction of Government for training a Mussulman young man of the coast at the Medical College, Madras, for service specially on the Amindivi islands. In the meantime the Hindu Hospital Assistant (a native of Malabar), who has been selected by the Surgeon-General to do duty on the islands, and who has been sent to Madras to get some training in Meteorology at the Observatory, has returned and will shortly be able to go over to the islands as communication with them is now re-opened on the close of the monsoon.

10. *Description of the Islands* (*paragraphs* 23—27).—Mr. Cowie's topographical description of the islands is excellent and gives a very accurate idea of their present condition. Mr. Cowie has been able to get a tolerably accurate survey of all the four islands prepared during his stay among them, and the maps are herewith forwarded. I shall refer to these maps later on.

11. *The Panchayat system and Moktessor* (*paragraph* 30).—It is satisfactory to notice that the old Panchayat system, which is the back-bone of civil administration on the islands, and which it should be our aim to foster and devélop to its fullest extent, still works fairly well. Perhaps the indifference of some of the Moktessors to assemble more freely and willingly for adjudication of disputes arises from the neglect* on the part of the Monegar to take down their opinions or verdicts in writing. This would certainly be a check on both sides, and Mr. Cowie's suggestion that the Monegar should in future be made to write down each moktessor's opinion and take his signature to it, or where a Moktessor is able to commit it to writing himself, to receive and record such opinion from him, commends itself highly to me, and I shall see that it is acted upon as an invariable rule in future.

* *Vide* paragraph 30 of Mr. Bradley's report of 1881 printed in Government Order, dated 16th November 1881, No. 1728, page 12. Paragraphs 43 and 45 of Mr. Shujaat Ali's report in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th January 1889, No. 51.



12. *Laccadive Poor Fund* (*paragraph* 31).—This fund which was instituted by the late Sir William Robinson while serving as an Assistant Collector in this district has now a capital of Rs. 5,900 invested in Government 4 per cent. paper, with surplus accumulations of interest for several years (after meeting ordinary demands on account of charity), amounting to Rs. 1,051–14–4. Mr. Cowie proposes to spend this amount in establishing a school in each island, by which, I presume, he means that the money should be used in building schools. This proposal does not commend itself to me, as I think that the cost of raising the necessary buildings in connection with schools should be borne by either the islanders or Government, and all surplus income derived from the "poor fund" should be carefully husbanded and reserved to meet the cost of the upkeep of schools, the initial cost of these schools being defrayed as above suggested. I accordingly recommend that the above amount of Rs. 1,051–14–4 should be added to the original capital and also invested in 4 per cent. paper. This capital will then come to Rs. 6,950, which, with the surplus interest of the current year, may be increased to Rs. 7,000. This will yield an annual unfailing income of Rs. 280. Charity is now distributed on the is lands at the following rates. Each adult male receives daily half a seer of rice, and once a year 24 lb. of salt, 4 annas in cash for condiments, 1 lb. of tobacco and 4½ yards of coarse cloth. Juveniles are allowed each a ¼ seer of rice daily and 12 lb. of salt, 2 annas in cash for condiments and 2½ yards of cloth per annum. The average annual cost of the distribution of this charity, calculated on the figures of the last five years, amounts to about Rs. 93, so that deducting this amount there will be left an annual surplus of Rs. 187. The intentions of the donor were that the proceeds of this fund should be applied partly in the distribution of charity among the poor and infirm of the islands and partly to educational purposes on their behalf. The latter condition has not yet been fulfilled for the simple reason that no systematic arrangements have yet been made for the diffusion of education among the people, whilst the surplus interest has not of itself been sufficient to meet the cost of education unaided by Government funds. If, as I have proposed above, we should hereafter succeed in training a sufficient number of indigenous teachers for employment on the islands, I think it will be feasible to keep up separate schools in the four islands and to pay the greater portion of the salaries of the teachers out of the interest of the fund. The allowance I have sanctioned for Khadri Haji at Amini, viz., 18 muras of rice per annum, will cost us only about Rs. 49–8–0 a-year (taking the market value of coarse rice at the maximum average rate of Rs. 2–12–0 a mura), and a similar but reduced rate of allowance (say 12 muras) to teachers in the other three less important islands will come to Rs. 99 a-year, or a total of Rs. 148–8–0, leaving a surplus of Rs. 39 and odd to meet the cost of books and contingencies. Until the services of indigenous teachers are available for the remaining three islands, it will be better to reserve and add to the capital that will ultimately have to be paid to them, not only this, but I would even recommend that for some years to come, even the cost of the Aminidivi teacher be defrayed, as at present, from the general revenues of the islands until the poor fund is developed to a sufficient extent to be able to meet all educational expenditure as well as to defray the cost of charities on a slightly more liberal scale, as the present doles of rice, &c., are miserable.

13. *Government buildings* (*paragraph* 34).—The monegar will be directed to put in proper order the dispensary building which is stated to be in need of repair.

14. *Health* (*paragraph* 35).—I request that the attention of the Medical Department may be drawn to Mr. Cowie's remarks in regard to the rate of salary which should be allowed to the Hospital Assistant employed on the Amini island. From Government Order, dated 10th July 1873, No. 717, Revenue Department, it would appear that Government considered the services of a 3rd-Class Hospital Assistant, with a special allowance of Rs. 10 to cover remuneration on account of vaccination work, to be ample for the wants of the islanders. This would give the man Rs. 35 a month, and the meteorological allowance of Rs. 15 hitherto paid bring it up to Rs. 50 per mensem. Considering the nature of the work the Hospital Assistant has to perform, it would be absurd to pay him more than the above sum, and I would recommend that in future no medical subordinate of higher grade than 3rd-Class Hospital Assistant should be



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deputed to the islands, and the special allowances for vaccination and Meteorological work to be paid to him should be so arranged as to bring the aggregate emoluments under Rs. 50 a-month.

15. *Sanitation* (*paragraph* 37).—The filthiness of the pits set apart for soaking coir and also for bathing noticed by Mr. Cowie reflects much discredit on the monegar, and he will be directed to enforce more cleanliness in future. The samples of drinking water obtained by Mr. Cowie from the different islands were forwarded to the District Surgeon, Dr. Lee, for analysis, and I have been favored with the following results:—

| Wells. | Physical character. | | | | | | Hardness in degree—Clarke's scale. | Chlorine—Grains per gallon. | Oxygen grains per gallon. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Clearness. | Colour. | Lustre. | Taste. | Smell. | Sediment particles. | | | | |
| 1. Amini—Well A. .. | Clear. | None. | Bright. | Tasteless. | None. | Scanty white particles. | 9°·10 | 9·80 | ·075 | Usable. |
| 2. Chetlat— do. B. .. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Abundant white particles. | 23°·45 | 3·85 | ·190 | Do. |
| 3. Kiltan— do. C. .. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Slight. | Do. .. | 17°·67 | 5·32 | ·134 | Do. |
| 4. Kudmat —do. D. .. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Do. | Do. .. | * 26°·30 | 6·30 | ·182 | Do. |

* Permanent hardness 10°·67 = calcium sulphate and chloride and magnesian salts.
Removable hardness 9°·63 = calcium carbonate.

16. *Midwives* (*paragraph* 38).—A certificated midwife seems to be one of the particular wants of the island women, and I support Mr. Cowie's recommendation that a qualified Mussulman midwife should be sent to the islands as soon as possible. The difficulty of course is to procure one.

17. *Improvements in Coir* (*paragraph* 39).—This is a subject of special interest to the islanders as well as to Government. The complaint regarding the inferiority of the coir-yarn manufactured and delivered to Government by the islanders each year is a chronic one. In fact, it appears to have existed at the time of Sir William Robinson's visit, and probably did so before. Diverse expedients have been tried from time to time in order to induce the islanders to improve their manufacture, but without producing the desired result. The last remedy adopted was that introduced by Mr. Thomas in 1874 under Government Order, dated 4th February 1874, No. 160 (Board's Proceedings, dated 5th idem, Mis. No. 787), and Government Order, dated 26th March 1874, No. 387 (paragraph 2), according to which by way of stimulus to greater exertion on the part of the islanders for the improvement of their manufacture, they were guaranteed 25 per cent. of the net profits realized on coir sales as bonus, subject to the conditions (*a*) that the quantity manufactured did not fall short of the then ascertained average, viz., 674 candies; and (*b*) that the market price realized exceeded Rs. 40 a candy, the normal rate. Payments of this bonus have been made on several occasions to the islanders in accordance with the terms of the above-quoted orders, but yet there seems to be no material improvement in the quantity of the coir. The reason for this is not far to seek. Of all occupations on the island, that of making coir and twisting it into yarn is the most laborious and tiresome. The men, indolent and lazy by habit and by nature, do not do it, but relegate the work to their women, themselves taking to more delightful occupations, such as fishing, plucking cocoanuts and preparing them for exportation, drawing toddy from the cocoanut palm and manufacturing jaggery from it and manning the boats that ply between the islands and the mainland. In fact the men enjoy themselves in a variety of ways, and the women have to do the beating out, picking and twisting of the coir throughout. The season, too, during which most attention is given to the manufacture of coir is not a favorable one for supervision on the part of the Government officials, for it is done generally during the monsoon when, owing to the presence at home of the male inmates of the house and the cessation of other more active out-door occupations, the women are



comparatively free and can devote their time exclusively to this monotonous work, and during this time the Monegar is shut up in one of the four islands—Amini,—the manufacture of which nevertheless, in spite of his constant presence therein, is notorious for its indifferent quality. This circumstance naturally leads to the inference that even supervision on the part of the Government officials—supposing the Monegar does exert his influence is this direction—is ineffectual to bring about the desired result. Mr. Thomas, in 1874, took some credit to his system of giving the islanders a bonus on their manufacture for the superior quality of coir said to have been turned out in his time as indicated by the higher prices obtained for it in the market, though he doubted if the higher price obtained was altogether the result of improvement in the quality, but I am inclined to think that the higher prices then, and occasionally since, obtained were not in any way due to any material improvement in the quality of the coir, but solely rather to the state of the market, and the demand existing at the time for the article, for, if the islanders had really exerted themselves to effect an improvement in the manufacture, they would naturally have appreciated the increased prices paid to them and continued their exertions so as to deserve the same consideration all along; whereas, having apparently received a reward on some occasions irrespective of merit, they are presumably under the impression now that whether they improve their manufacture or not, they are entitled, in accordance with Mr. Thomas' system, to participate in the increased profits obtained in the market, provided certain conditions are fulfilled, and so take no pains to improve their coir, but are as indifferent as ever. In my opinion the bonus system, whatever its merits and success may be, where a naturally and really industrious people has to be dealt with, was somewhat hastily devised as a means of inducing the islanders to pay more attention to the manufacture of an improved quality of coir-yarn. Although I would not now advocate its withdrawal, I think the only and proper remedy lies in a periodical re-classification of the coir received from the different islands in the manner now suggested by Mr. Cowie, say once in five years, the coir being taken at random from vessels arriving from the islands, and in fixing a revised scale of valuation for adoption.

With regard to the introduction of any machinery to facilitate the preparation and twisting of the coir-yarn, I am doubtful if any success can be hoped for. The feasibility of such a measure was discussed in 1873 by the then Assistant Collector, Mr. G. Stokes (*vide* paragraphs 32—34 of his report, embodied in Government Order, dated 26th March 1874, Mis. No. 387), with the result that it was then considered to be out of the question to resort to any mechanical contrivance to improve the quality of the coir.

Adverting to the offer of Messrs. Morgan and Sons to undertake the manufacture of coir on an improved method in the islands on the condition that they should be allowed a monopoly of it for a number of years, Mr. Cowie gives no data upon which to arrive at a proper conclusion regarding the advisability of entering into such arrangements with the firm, and any scheme to be adopted will have to be elaborated and carefully considered with reference to its effects on the large number of working women in the islands. I am unable in this covering letter to offer any practical remarks and reserve the subject for separate discussion and report after communication with the firm (of which the senior partner is at present temporarily absent in Europe), should the proposal appear to be advantageous alike to Government and the islanders.

18. *The Coir monopoly* (*paragraph* 40).—I have little to add to Mr. Cowie's remarks regarding the financial bearings of the coir monopoly, except that any change in the present system would be highly disastrous and detrimental to the well-being of these islanders.

It seems strange that although nearly eighteen years have elapsed since the bonus system was instituted, Mr. Cowie should remark that "the islanders seem to know very little about the conditions on which they can obtain the bonus offered by Government." It is difficult to believe this, as the Monegar appears to have been directed to duly proclaim the order sanctioning the grant of it in the islands at the time it was passed, and the islanders have since received the bonus on several

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occasions. I am rather inclined to think that when a European officer visits the islands, the islanders, not having any improvements to show him in their manufacture, deny all knowledge of the order in question, or rather of its conditions, in hopes perhaps that their pretended ignorance will be accepted as an excuse for their indolence, and it must be borne in mind that a scrupulous regard for the truth is not one of their most conspicuous virtues. However, I shall take steps to have a proclamation drawn out again in their own dialect and copies of it written in the Arabic character freely circulated among them.

19. *Criminal returns* (*paragraph* 45).—The Monegar has been directed to explain the causes of the great apparent increase in petty crime in the island of Amini, which is not easy to understand, but it is not surprising that the proportion of those convicted to those tried should be high, as in small confined communities like those of the several islands every man's character and circumstances are perfectly well-known to every one else, so that it is more than probable that the Moktessors and possible that the Monegar commence every trial with their minds more or less made up as to the result.

The use of the "Mantra" as a detective agency would appear to be a relic of the time when the islanders were Hindus and devil-worshippers, and as they are extremely superstitious and abject believers in the supernatural ghosts and devils, the fact that this method of detection is held in high esteem and fairly efficacious is not wonderful.

20. *Disobedience to orders* (*paragraph* 48).—The Monegar has been called on to explain the non-remittance to the treasury of part of a fine imposed in 1889 remarked upon in the first part of this paragraph. Up to date no systematic attempt appears to have been made to limit and control the power of the Monegar to punish for breaches of custom, and so what are customs of which the breach is punishable appears to depend upon the opinion of the Monegar and Moktessors. Practically, every act disapproved of by these authorities as immoral or savouring of contempt for their authority is thus punishable, and it is no wonder that the examples given by Mr. Cowie are varied and numerous. His list, however, is by no means exhaustive, and in the islands attached to Malabar, and so probably in these, I remember being out of doors after dark was punishable on the ground that any one guilty of such conduct could be after no good, whilst it was also an act punishable with fine on the ground of wastefulness to open a tender cocoanut by cutting off the top of the husk instead of first husking the nut so that the husk could be utilized for making coir. As it is necessary that some of these customs should be enforced, such as that which requires attendance at duly proclaimed koots, the Monegar has been ordered to prepare an exhaustive list of offences against custom in consultation with the Moktessors and submit the same for revision by me. As regards "adultery," I dissent from Mr. Cowie's view that the husband might well be left to take action, as well as his opinion that Rs. 5 was an excessive fine in the instance quoted. To leave the husband to obtain redress himself is to refer him to the Penal Code, which means that he must come to the mainland and lodge a complaint in this court as "adultery" is not cognizable by a 3rd-Class Magistrate like the Monegar. Practically, this is to deny him justice altogether and reduce him to take the law into his own hands, and as in all the islands the offence by immemorial custom has been always locally punishable as a misdemeanour, I would leave the custom, which has long been generally acquiesced in, alone. Effect will be given to the suggestion that the Monegar should be made to send regular and frequent returns of all fines imposed, with the reasons for its infliction entered against each item.

21 *Civil file* (*paragraph* 49).—There can be no doubt that the Panchayatdars shirk their duties more than they used to do, but this is probably not so much due to laziness as to disinclination to incur the enmity of one or other party by their decision. However, I think it highly important to retain the system, and propose to issue a few simple regulations regarding the transaction of business by the Monegar in Panchayat. Panchayatdars who shirk their duties will be removed. Due notice will be taken of excessive delay on the part of the Monegar in the disposal of suits, and he has been ordered to see that his register is properly and regularly written up by his clerk.



22. *Revenue file* (*paragraph* 50).—That so large a number of cases was pending was unsatisfactory, and I am ordering the Monegar to submit quarterly returns hereafter so as to be able to check his work better.

23. *Monegar's conduct* (*paragraph* 51).—It is very satisfactory that Mr. Cowie concurs in the good opinion of his predecessor, Mr. Mir Shujaat Ali, regarding the present Monegar. Knowing how troublesome the islanders of the Malabar islands are to manage (and those of the South Canara group are no better), I am much pleased with the state of affairs generally in our islands, and think it would be difficult to get a better man. No change in the pay and allowances of the Monegar also appears to be feasible, as, holding the responsible position he does, he must receive such a rate of pay as will secure him against temptation to dishonesty, and he also deserves some compensation for the fact that he is serving virtually abroad.

24. *The establishment* (*paragraph* 52).—The peon Ismail Beg will be removed from the islands. No additional establishment of any kind is, in my opinion, at all necessary.

25. *Monegar's tours* (*paragraph* 53).—I concur with Mr. Cowie in thinking that the Monegar must visit each of the two outlying islands at least twice a year and Kadamat oftener. Orders accordingly are being issued to him.

26. *Fish-curing yards* (*paragraph* 55).—It seems after all not advisable to attempt to establish any fish-curing yard on the islands, and I agree with Mr. Cowie that there are insuperable difficulties as well as disadvantages in working any scheme of the kind.

27. *Oil-mill* (*paragraph* 56).—I support Mr. Cowie's recommendation that an oil-mill should be supplied to each of the other three islands as was done in the case of Amini, but I cannot see the necessity for sending out a second one to Amini. If the one supplied to it some years ago is appreciated, there is no reason why the islanders, who are generally well off, should not procure a second one at their own cost. It would be a mistake, I think, to make them too much dependant upon the assistance and care of Government.

28. *The proposed combination of the appointments of Monegar and Hospital Assistant* (*paragraph* 57).—The Board has already, in its Proceedings of 29th April 1891, Mis. No. 2955, disapproved of the proposal to amalgamate the two offices, and I refrain from offering any remarks.

29. *Survey* (*paragraph* 58).—The four* maps prepared by the Surveyor who accompanied Mr. Cowie are herewith forwarded for reference. They seem to be only poor maps, but will serve as a basis for future surveys, and the stones put down in all the islands, except Kadamat, will show in what directions the configuration of the islands is altering and the rate of alteration. I request that the maps may be returned when done with.

* Sent separately in a tin case by parcel post.

30. *Requests of the Islanders*—

(1) *That they should be allowed to purchase more salt at cost price*—(*paragraph* 59).—Mr. Cowie makes out a pretty strong case, but I hesitate to recommend the concession, for if the want were real they would surely purchase some salt now in the open market, and apparently they purchase none. They have the remedy also in their own hands as they can earn a bonus by sending over coir of better quality and can get more salt by sending more coir too.

(2) *The request that the islanders may be supplied with a better quality of rice* (*paragraph* 60).—Every necessary precaution is taken to supply the islanders in part payment for their coir with as good rice as is available in the local market, and the Monegar is much to blame for not reporting to me or the Treasury Deputy Collector if the rice supplied on the last occasion was not of average quality. As a further precaution against the possible substitution of inferior qualities of rice on the part of contractors who are prone to resort to such practices, especially when the market price

suddenly rises above the contract rate, I shall make it a rule hereafter that no payment shall be made for any quantities of rice supplied to the islanders unless each bill or receipt presented at the treasury is countersigned by the Monegar (when he is present on the mainland) and the Assistant Superintendent of Sea Customs at Mangalore in token of the rice having been approved by them.

(3) *That the fee now collected on darkhasts at the rate of one rupee each may be remitted* (*paragraph* 61).—This may, I think, be done as recommended by Mr. Cowie. The amount of revenue concerned must be very small.

(4) *The prayer of the islanders of Chetlat that trees on Tekkalapalla be given up to them* (*paragraph* 63).—Mr. Cowie's recommendations have my support.

(5) *Petition from the Monegar's Clerk, Sayed Oosman, praying for an increase to his pay Rs.* 10–8–0, (*Paragraph* 64, *2nd clause*).—I am not prepared to support Mr. Cowie's recommendation in this behalf. The clerical work of the Monegar was formerly done by one of his peons, who received only Rs. 6 per mensem, but as the pay of the Divi peons was generally considered to be inadequate, it was, in 1881, raised to the uniform rate of Rs. 8 Government Order, dated 16th November 1881, Mis. No. 1728. Later on, at the recommendation of Mr. Sturrock, the Monegar was provided with a separate clerk and his pay fixed at Rs. 10–8–0 per mensem with a view to give him a claim to a pension on the superior scale. I consider this pay ample for the description of man ordinarily found willing to serve on the Divis as a clerk and the quality of the work that has to be done.

(6) *That a money allowance be substituted for the trees given to the Kavilgars at Amini as their remuneration, as they find it difficult to pluck the fruit on account of their distance* (*paragraph* 64, *clause* 2).—The Kavilgars or Nadpals were given 20 trees each in lieu of fees and perquisites on the recommendation contained in paragraph 52 of Mr. Bradley's report printed in Government Order, dated 16th November 1881, No. 1728 (Board's Proceedings, dated 21st January 1882, Mis. No. 195); who calculated that this grant would be equivalent to Rs. 12 per annum, which it was estimated they received. As they so desire, I think the trees can be taken away from them and given to settlers, receiving instead an allowance in rice. The allowance proposed by Mr. Cowie is, however, too small, and it is little wonder they complain if their trees are only worth Rs. 2-8-0 per annum, seeing that Mr. Bradley thought they would bring them in about Rs. 12 per annum. I would give each 4 muras of rice per annum, of which the value will vary between Rs. 11 and Rs. 12.

31. I regret the delay in the submission on my part of this report. But I have had much other pressing work during the past two months, and have found it difficult to find time to go through all the references, &c., connected with the island administration of the district.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From D. COWIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of South Canara, to the Collector of South Canara, dated Coondapoor, 30th April 1891, No. 644.

I have the honour to submit the following report on my visit to those of the Laccadive islands attached to South Canara.

2. I left Mangalore on 19th January and returned on 27th February last. I visited the four inhabited islands, Aminidivi, Kadamat, Kiltan and Chetlat, in the order in which I have named them: the number of days spent by me on each island is shown in the margin. I was not able to go to Bitra, the uninhabited island, or to the open reefs: the weather was unfavorable and I had not time to wait for a change.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amini .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 13 |
| Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 9 |
| Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 |
| Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 |

I had little difficulty in moving about among the islands. The weather delayed me a little at Kadamat.

Of course my clerks and followers suffered a good deal from sea sickness and did not take kindly to journeys in open boats.

3. *General condition*—This is good. The islanders, especially the people of Aminidivi and Kiltan, give one the idea that they are decidedly well off.



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The people of Kadamat and Chetlat are behind hand: there are, however, remarkably few paupers on the islands. Any man or woman fit and willing to work can always make a living. The islanders are a smaller race than the Moplas of the mainland; all the men I saw were in capital condition, and they are much cleaner than the mainland men.

Nearly all dress neatly and well: the women too and in bright colours, though not much can be seen of them as they run away as soon as they see a stranger.

The dwelling houses are substantially built of lime stone; they are untidily thatched and are terribly dark and dirty inside.

There is little furniture but cots: in one or two houses I saw really good bedsteads. In some of the houses now being built some attempt is being made to introduce a rudimentary form of window.

Except during the rains the islanders live almost entirely in the open air: in Kittan and Chetlat every one sleeps at night on the shore of the lagoon to get the benefit of the breeze.

The health of the people is generally good. There has been no epidemic for some years. The trade returns show increased importation of tobacco, arecanuts, &c., the luxuries of island life. A few hours' work in the morning is all that the great majority of the men do: for the rest of the day they loaf.

The Monegar's files show how fond they are of going to court; they do not appear to abandon their old habit of reliance on oral agreements: documents are hardly ever executed.

The registers contain few, except documents evidencing marriages and divorces, registration of which the Monegar declared to be compulsory when the present system was introduced.

It is now optional and very little advantage is taken of it.

Marriages are as temporary as ever. The Karani of Chetlat told me he had married at least three women. A man who can afford it takes a fresh wife, or rather mistress, as often as he likes.

I did not hear of any instance of a will.

Disputed successions give the Monegar a good deal of work. In such cases a dying declaration or death-bed statement of rights is implicitly relied on and not seldom invented.

The people have not become in the least more energetic or less apathetic than they were. To all suggestions as to new industries in which they might engage to their advantage they turn a deaf ear; they are perfectly content with their lot, and for this there is, of course, good reason, as they make a living, obtain what comforts they wish and are let alone.

4. *Population*—

| Names of islands. | 1886. Men. | 1886. Women. | Total. | 1891. Men. | 1891. Women. | Total. | Increase or decrease. Men. | Increase or decrease. Women. | Total. | Percentage of increase or decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amini .. .. | 1,059 | 1,095 | 2,154 | 1,021 | 1,130 | 2,151 | — 38 | + 35 | — 3 | — ·04 |
| Kadamat .. .. | 142 | 125 | 267 | 175 | 163 | 338 | + 33 | + 38 | + 71 | + 25 |
| Kiltan .. .. | 379 | 387 | 766 | 351 | 372 | 723 | — 28 | — 15 | — 43 | — ·6 |
| Chetlat .. .. | 311 | 356 | 667 | 189 | 322 | 511 | — 122 | — 34 | — 156 | — ·25 |
| Total .. | 1,891 | 1,963 | 3,854 | 1,736 | 1,987 | 3,723 | — 155 | + 24 | — 131 | .. |

The figures of 1891 are the result of this year's census which was held as on the mainland. I found that the preliminary census had been duly carried out, though rather late. The enumerators had some difficulty about columns 3 to 6 of the schedule, and one man was writing down every person in his block as both Sunni and Shiah—a mistake that was duly corrected.

The population appears, if the census figures are compared with the figures of 1886, to have decreased by 131, or some 3·5 per cent., but that this decrease is real is very doubtful.

The census was held in the fair weather, and several boats' crews must have been away from the islands either at the coast or at the outlying reefs. The difference, too, between the sexes is much more marked now than at former enumerations; in fact, it was pretty constant before. That it is so much marked now is probably owing to the absence of a larger number of boats' crews than happened to be away at the time that the other enumerations were held. The population of Kadamat has increased by at least 25 per cent., that of Chitlat has apparently decreased to the same extent, but that this really is so is extremely improbable. That island certainly suffered more than the others from small-pox in 1887, but this does not explain the decrease. The people of the island are exceedingly unwilling to emigrate. I have no doubt the apparent decrease has been caused by the absence of a number of boats and their crews. The population of Kiltan and Amini has not increased or diminished to any marked extent: both islands are thickly inhabited and the people do not emigrate.

5. *Registration*—

| Years. | Births. | | | Deaths. | | | Population in 1886. | | | Population in 1891. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1886 .. .. | 46 | 43 | 89 | 49 | 48 | 97 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1887 .. .. | 45 | 41 | 86 | 35 | 42 | 77 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1888 .. .. | 54 | 44 | 98 | 83 | 86 | 169 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1889 .. .. | 35 | 39 | 74 | 57 | 49 | 106 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1890 .. .. | 29 | 46 | 75 | 48 | 39 | 87 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 269 | 213 | 422 | 272 | 264 | 536 | 1,891 | 1,963 | 3,854 | 1,736 | 1,987 | 3,723 |

The net decrease of the population shown by these statistics (the figures are taken from the registers which are in the same form as the birth and death registers kept on the mainland) is about the same as that shown by the census figures. These figures are, of course, not entirely reliable as the registration is probably defective owing to lack of supervision, and account must be taken of the little immigration and emigration that goes on.

However, this table shows that the decrease of population in Chetlat according to the census is not real, the decrease in that island is according to this table only 22. In only one year out of the last five were there more births than deaths.

The death-rate in 1887 was 22·03 and the birth-rate 19·97 per mille. I notice that the figures, births and deaths, of the last five years are, as a rule, much smaller than those of the eleven years preceding. The registers show 108 or 20 per cent. of the deaths of the last five years as those of children under one year of age.

If 20 per cent. of the children born die in this way, it is no wonder that the population does not increase. The register has probably been very much neglected.

6. *Buildings*—

| Island. | Houses. | | Mosques. | | Number of persons to each house. | Number of persons to each mosque. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | | |
| Amini .. .. .. .. | 424 | 445 | 36 | 39 | 4·8 | 55·1 |
| Kadamat .. .. .. | 41 | 50 | 6 | 8 | 6·7 | 42·2 |
| Kiltan .. .. .. .. | 197 | 196 | 19 | 17 | 3·6 | 42·6 |
| Chetlat .. .. .. .. | 140 | 149 | 12 | 12 | 2·1 | 26·8 |

The number of houses has increased in every island except Kiltan.

The figures for mosques call for no remark.

No change worth mentioning has been introduced into the style of building. The houses are strongly built and from the outside look well enough.

I saw a good many of the mosques. The Jumma masjid in Aminidivi is far the largest and first building in the islands and is well kept up.

For it a good deal of timber has been imported from the mainland; the Monegar is the treasurer and gets the work done.

A few other mosques in this island and those called Jumma masjids in Kiltan and Chetlat are well kept up. Many of the older pallies are in ruins.

7. *Boats*—

| Years. | Amini. | | | Kadamat. | | | Kiltan. | | | Chetlat. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Large. | Small. | Building. | Large. | Small. | Building. | Large. | Small. | Building. | Large. | Small. | Building. |
| 1886 .. .. | 32 | 101 | 2 | * 5 | 30 | .. | 26 | 77 | 3 | 30 | 68 | 1 |
| 1891 .. .. | 36 | 153 | 4 | 6 | 23 | .. | 24 | 87 | 8 | 30 | 83 | 4 |

* One belonged to Aminidivi.

These figures are satisfactory, especially those that show an increase in large boats belonging to Kadamat which is really 2, one of the boats shown as belonging to this island in 1886 being really an Aminidivi boat and having since been sent back to Aminidivi. The large boats run



from 12 to 18 tons: the great majority of them are about 15 tons. Of small boats (column 3) many are really small fishing boats, but the little includes a fair number of boats pulling 8 or 10 oars, such as the one like Monegar owns and makes his tours in. The large boats are built almost entirely of timber imported from the mainland.

Island wood is used for gunwales, internal fittings, &c. Sails are made of imported cloth. A 15-ton boat costs some Rs. 450. The fact that Kadamat has in five years been able to build two such boats shows how that island is advancing.

The islanders, though anything but bold seamen, are extremely fond of over-loading their boats. They use the compass and have other nautical instruments, made, I was told, in Kowrati, one of the Malabar islands.

8. *Occupations*.—

| Islands. | Goldsmiths. | | Silversmiths. | | Blacksmiths. | | Carpenters. | | Malims (navigators). | | Barbers. | | Teachers. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. |
| Amini .. .. | 4 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 21 | 14 | 22 | 10 | 27 | 7 | 10 |
| Kadamat .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kiltan .. .. | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 10 | 8 | 20 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Chetlat .. .. | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 36 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 |

There is no more skilled labour on the islands than there used to be. There is little or no division of labour. Every one helps every one else and is helped in his turn.

9. *Education*.—

| Islands. | In 1886. | | | | In 1891. | | | | Total increase. | Total decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Teachers. | Pupils. | | Total. | Teachers. | Pupils. | | Total. | | |
| | | Males. | Females. | | | Males. | Females. | | | |
| Amini .. .. | 7 | 141 | 123 | 264 | 10 | 148 | 121 | 269 | 5 | .. |
| Kadamat .. | 2 | 21 | 13 | 34 | 2 | 17 | 16 | 33 | .. | 1 |
| Kiltan .. .. | 5 | 44 | 31 | 75 | 2 | 14 | 8 | 22 | .. | 53 |
| Chetlat .. .. | 4 | 38 | 7 | 45 | 5 | 33 | 28 | 60 | 5 | .. |
| Total .. | 18 | 244 | 174 | 418 | 19 | 211 | 173 | 384 | .. | .. |

The figures were obtained from the Karanis. Chetlat is the only island that shows an increase in the number of pupils.

No explanation was given of the falling off in the numbers of scholars in Aminidivi. The figure 269 includes 15 boys studying with Khadri Haji, the teacher paid by Government, referred to in Mr. Shujaat Ali's report and the Board's Proceedings thereon.

This man was sent to work under one Rajah Mukri, who had a very large number of pupils, but this Mukri died a short time ago; the Monegar has had a shed built and set Khadri Haji up to keep school in it. At first he had thirty-one pupils; now he has not half that number.

He makes use of Garthwaite's Malayalam Reader, Parts I and II, and the same author's Arithmetic, Part I, Malayalam.

Unfortunately there is now in Aminidivi no Mukri of anything like the popularity of the late Rajah Mukri.

I do not think it is advisable to let Khadri Haji continue by himself. Pupils are much more likely to go to him if he is attached to a Mukri.

All must go to a Mukri to at least learn to repeat texts from the Koran. No Mukri at present has more than forty pupils.

I would recommend that Khadri Haji be attached to the most influential among them.

Now that Kadamat is independent of Aminidivi, no children go from that island to school at Aminidivi. In Kiltan three schools are at present closed, two teachers being temporarily absent from the island, and a third sick. The number of teachers has increased in Amini alone.

The death of Rajah Mukri has, of course, benefited his unsuccessful rivals.

The proportion of girl to boy pupils is satisfactory, but I understand that girls stay at school longer than boys. In Kiltan I was told that girls went to school till they were ten years old and after that "continued their studies" at home.

I need not say that in each island the Moktessors when questioned on the subject said they could not afford to pay for education. The people of at least three islands out of the four can



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afford to pay moderate fees; they are not all badly off, but they have not the slighest desire to obtain improved education: they are as indifferent to it as they are to any industry by which they might improve their material condition.

10. *Cattle.*—

| Islands. | In 1886. | | In 1891. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cows. | Goats. | Cows. | Goats. |
| Amini .. .. .. .. .. .. | 208 | 514 | 300 | 167 |
| Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 | 32 | 42 | 31 |
| Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. .. | 33 | 28 | 40 | 34 |
| Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. .. | 21 | 63 | 8 | 26 |
| Total .. | 312 | 637 | 290 | 258 |

The cattle are of course all imported.

There are a few bulls and bullocks all lumped together with the cows in the return. The number of cows in Chetlat has decreased considerably.

As far as I could make out Chetlat sells cattle to Amini.

Goats in Amini and Chetlat have decreased in numbers. The people have been killing them off to preserve the young cocoanut plants from destruction. Kadamat has more grazing ground than any other island and supports a few cattle from Aminidivi.

11. *Planting.*—The next paragraph contains what I have to say about planting by or for Government.

As to planting by the islanders, I did not have the cocoanut trees counted; the work would have given the officials considerable and the islanders far more trouble; besides, the Board of Revenue has expressed itself as against such a proceeding. How planting progresses can be ascertained sufficiently accurately from the statement of the officials and islanders and the inspection of the islands.

Kiltan and Aminidivi are, as you know, fully planted. Old trees are regularly replaced and no land that is worth anything is wasted.

Planting in Kadamat is going on rapidly; roughly speaking the Aminidivi people plant the southern and the Kadamat people the northern half of the island.

In Chetlat newly formed land is planted, and I noticed a number of young trees and plants all over the island. The soil is, however, very poor.

The tabulation begun by the Monegar, and referred to in the two last reports, has been discontinued in accordance with your order, No. 8, dated 13th January 1890.

12. *Government trees.*—

| Islands. | Trees. | Plants. | Rented. | | Enjoyed by officials. | | Given to paupers. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Trees. | Plants. | Trees. | Plants. | Trees. | Plants. |
| Amini .. .. .. | * 417 | 192 | 12 | .. | 80 | .. | 213 | 148 |
| Kadamat .. .. .. | 1,232 | 404 | 647 | .. | 121 | .. | 205 | 23 |
| Kiltan .. .. .. | 169 | 135 | 70 | .. | 20 | .. | 79 | 37 |
| Chetlat .. .. .. | † 172 | 293 | 10 | .. | 20 | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 1,990 | 1,024 | 739 | .. | 241 | .. | 497 | 208 |

* These include 187 which the Monegar calls "old plants," plants more than four years old.
† Do. 159 do. do. do.

The monegar at first gave me a return compiled, I believe, from his records of 1874, which turned out of course to be worthless, so I made him count all the trees himself. The return appended is probably accurate. The monegar has obeyed your Order No. 61, dated 29th April 1890, and has put in no plants for some time.

The statement shows the number of trees held by Government servants (the nadpal of each minor island and the kavilgars of Aminidivi), trees held by paupers, trees let out on rent and a number of young plants.

I called for darkhasts for Government trees in obedience to your Order No. 61, dated 29th April 1890, but on this I passed no final orders because your Order states that the darkhastdars are to have the trees at a fair price or rent.

Renting Government trees is in my opinion to be avoided as far as possible; the inconsiderable number of trees that it may be necessary for Government to retain in order to be able to provide for persons left destitute by a hurricane or other cause might, or, I think must be,



rented out, but the mass of the trees should be got rid of once and for all. The monegar told me that the planting and rearing of the trees had cost Government nothing.

I asked the headmen of the islands what would be a fair price; they say Re. 1 for a full-grown bearing tree, annas 2 to annas 6 for plants according to age and size.

This is, I believe, a moderate valuation in the case of the islands of Aminidivi and Chetlat, Kadamat I except as the trees on it are to be given to immigrants from other islands and for Kiltan a higher value would be appropriate. The people of Kiltan are better off than any of the others and unwilling to answer questions about their condition.

However, the Government trees on Kiltan are few in number. Taking the rate mentioned above the value of all the trees and plants that Government has to dispose of in the four islands comes to an inconsiderable sum.

In each case it was the islanders who, under the supervision of the peons, did all the work of planting and as I have said before they received no remuneration. I would venture to propose that the trees be given up to the darkhastdars, poor people being preferred.

13. *Rented trees.*—The average amount of rent for the last five years is Rs. 88-2-3. I found that the monegar had neglected the collection.

14. *Records.*—The record room, when I arrived at Amini, was tidy and clean. There are 15 dufters at present and an index is maintained; it is the one seen by Mr. Bradley in 1880 continued.

The dufters are kept on wooden racks; the fittings of the room, which is also the room where the monegar's clerk does his work, are quite good enough.

Papers are now sorted into three main heads—Magisterial, Revenue and Civil, in accordance with your Order No. 8, dated 13th January 1890, paragraph 9.

As I report upon each branch of the monegar's work, I will mention the records of that branch. Here I have to say that no darkhast register is kept. One might be kept with advantage and would give little trouble while it would be exceedingly useful for reference.

During my stay on the island of course constant calls were made on the record room; the papers were found to be properly arranged, and both the monegar and his clerk seem to be able to find anything that was wanted. When on tour the monegar carries the necessary records in a large wooden box in which, when at head-quarters, he keeps his stationery.

The monegar keeps neither a darkhast register nor a Civil Court deposit register. He should, I think, be made to open both the registers referred to and to keep a Hathcarda as other Sub-Magistrates do; further he keeps no proper cash account.

15. *Pounds.*—

| Years. | Amini. | | | Kadamat. | | | Kiltan. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cows and bulls. | Goats. | Amount. | Cows and bulls. | Goats. | Amount. | Cows and bulls. | Goats. | Amount. |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | | | Rs. A. P. | | | Rs. A. P. | | | Rs. A. P. |
| 1886 .. .. .. | 4 | 60 | 26 12 0 | .. | 5 | 2 0 0 | .. | .. | .... |
| 1887 .. .. .. | 10 | 67 | 18 9 0 | .. | .. | .... | .. | 9 | 2 | 2 8 0 |
| 1888 .. .. .. | 1 | 3 | 1 4 0 | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | .... |
| 1889 .. .. .. | .. | 1 | 0 8 0 | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | .... |
| 1890 .. .. .. | 2 | 2 | 1 8 0 | .. | .. | .... | .. | .. | .... |

| Years. | Chetlat. | | | Total. | | | Deduct. | | Net collection. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cows and bulls. | Goats. | Amount. | Cows. | Goats. | Amount. | Rewards to seizers. | Feeding charges. | |
| | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | | | Rs. A. P. | | | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. | Rs. A. P. |
| 1886 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .... | 4 | 65 | 28 12 0 | 8 14 0 | .. | 19 14 0 |
| 1887 .. .. .. | 3 | 9 | 2 14 0 | 22 | 78 | 23 15 0 | 6 7 0 | 0 6 0 | 17 2 0 |
| 1888 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .... | 1 | 3 | 1 4 0 | .... | .. | 1 4 0 |
| 1889 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .... | .. | 1 | 0 8 0 | 0 4 0 | .. | 0 4 0 |
| 1890 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .... | 2 | 2 | 1 8 0 | .... | .. | 1 8 0 |

There are, as you are aware, no pounds on the islands. Cattle are invariably carefully tethered; if an animal breaks loose and does any damage the injured party takes the animal to the cutcherry, where a fine is levied.

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The statement shows the amounts collected and details for the last five years. In islands where the monegar does not happen to be at the time of seizure the case is reported when he does appear by the peon in charge. Trespass and damage by cattle gives rise to a fair number of suits. Owing to the extensive planting that has been going on of late years the number of goats in Chetlat and Amini has been considerably reduced. In each island I asked the people how the rules worked and they told me that if there were no pound rules they would not be able to live.

In one they said it was hard on them to have to pay fines especially when the animal broke loose through no fault of the owners, but they would rather pay fines than be left to themselves.

16. *Rats.*—The people of Kiltan and Chetlat complain of this pest more than the people of the other islands, but in all the islands the people told me they thought the numbers of the rats were not increasing, increase being prevented by the activity of the inhabitants in holding rat-killing koots.

The custom as to holding these koots is at present this: as soon as all the islanders have returned from the mainland, say the end of April, koots are held daily or a little less frequently until the monsoon sets in; they are also held during breaks in the monsoon.

It was the custom that unmarried men should not attend these koots, but this restriction is no longer observed.

I heard no complaints about the cocoanut worm or beetle and when I asked the islanders about it they said the damage done by it now is inconsiderable.

They told me the refuse that accumulates in large quantities in the coir-making places would not do for manure as it breeds a worm.

17. *Owls.*—

| Years. | Number of owls sent. | Number of owls that reached the islands alive. |
|---|---|---|
| 1886 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 | 3 |
| 1887 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 |
| 1888 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 | ... |
| 1889 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | ... | ... |
| 1890 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 1 |
| Total ... | 23 | 6 |

Aminidivi is the only island where there is said to be an owl living at the present time.

The statement shows the number of owls sent to the islands of late years.

It is a pity that those shipped in 1888 were not better looked after.

Mr. Thomas was able to send owls across to the islands without loosing any.

The islanders appreciate owls and ask for more.

I could not take any one to the islands with me as the notice given to me was short. No attempt is made in Amini to provide shelter for the owls. The bread fruit and other trees provide a good deal of shelter; in Kadamat the jungle is thick enough and in the other islands there are thickets which probably supply all the shelter required. I would suggest that a fresh supply of owls be sent over as soon after the monsoon as possible.

18. *Rat snakes and mungooses.*—I could hear of none alive on the islands.

Though the people denied the impeachment there is no doubt that they killed all or nearly all the snakes and mungooses sent. Of the former they were, and are, desperately afraid and the latter they object to as the mungooses are partial to fowls.

The island rats now live on the cocoanut trees, and I doubt whether a mungoose climbs trees.

The islanders have no objection to the toddy cat (they certainly know very little about him). What they ask for is poison.

The monegar told me he bought some poison in the Mangalore bazaar some years ago and it was the death of many rats. I could not make out what it was exactly, but will ask him about it when he comes to the mainland.

The islanders could, if they chose to starve them a little, get good work done by their cats. I made the Kadamat people starve their cats for two or three weeks and the effect, as they admitted, was good.

19. *Dry grain, &c.*—The tot or kát in Amini still exists, but it has been very much encroached upon. The soil is said to be particularly good for cocoanut plants which have come into bearing very speedily, but, on the other hand, do not last.

What remains of the tot is cultivated with dry grains, vegetables and plantains, as in former days. My surveyor had not sufficient time to demarcate the tot.

In Kadamat the old quasi-Kumeri cultivation is carried on but less than was formerly the case.



In Kiltan and Chetlat no attempt is made to grow grain; these islands produce a few vegetables.

*Trees, &c.*

| Islands. | Bread fruit. | | Lime trees. | | Honne. | | Arecanut. | | Other sorts. | | Plantains. | | Betel vines. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. | 1886. | 1891. |
| Amini .. .. | 787 | 686 | 656 | 446 | 35 | 30 | 100 | 79 | 267 | 1,008 | 3,520 | 2,949 | 101 | 3,766 |
| Kadamat .. .. | 12 | 25 | .. | 6 | 15 | 15 | .. | .. | .. | 128 | .. | 32 | 8 | 316 |
| Kiltan .. .. | 68 | 148 | .. | 4 | .. | 17 | .. | .. | .. | 496 | .. | 22 | 30 | 340 |
| Chetlat .. .. | 27 | 20 | 12 | 15 | .. | 9 | 15 | 3 | 25 | 203 | 53 | 25 | 970 | 539 |

The statement compares the present number of trees other than cocoanut trees with that of 1886.

Mr. Bradley's remarks hold good now. The exportation of limes has fallen off. There are large quantities of a fibrous plant in Aminidivi, the sap of which is in great demand for the hair, and I am told encourages its growth besides being cooling. The plants are exported to Mangalore, where they fetch 12 annas a piece. The Manji Mara, another cactus, is used for mat-making and a few nets are still made with the fibre of what, I believe, is the wild pine-apple.

20. *Mainland trees, vegetables, &c.*—The monegar introduced pine-apples some twelve years ago, but to no purpose.

At the same time he began to rear casuarinas and now there are some 18 fairly well-grown trees round the cutcherry at Aminidivi. He has now a quantity of seedlings that he intends to distribute among the islands.

He put in some more pine-apples, and coast plantains, a short time ago, and all with attention are doing well. In the other islands there are as yet no imported trees or vegetables, except one mango tree, which is in Kadamat.

21. *Rainfall.*—There are three rain gauges on the islands—one in Kiltan, two in Amini, one of which is looked after by the Karani and the other by the Hospital Assistant. The Kiltan gauge needs some slight repairs. The Karani's figures are appended.

22. *Meteorology.*—The Hospital Assistant left the islands in April of last year and at the time of my visit no one had taken his place. The result was that the meteorological instruments were sadly neglected and only a few observations had been recorded. The ward cooly did all he could in the way of observations but that was little enough.

He was afraid to handle some of the instruments; they were in a terrible state of rust. I had them cleaned; the result was disappointing.

I omitted to take the Hospital Assistant's figures recording the rainfall. His records are all at Mangalore. I have written to the District Surgeon on the subject.

The instruments are in a suitable place near the hospital; the stand on which the wind gauge is requires repair.

23. *Amividivi*—is still the most forward of the islands. The people on the whole are in very easy circumstances and consequently more litigious than the people of the other islands. That they have more than enough and to spare is shown by the money spent on the Jumma Masjid. The island, as Mr. Bradley says, very nearly fills up the reef. There is really no lagoon; big kundras can get inside the outer reef at four points but except at high tide they cannot get in unless unladen. There is one more small opening in the reef.

The island undergoes little or no change in configuration. It increases slightly to the south-east.

Along the northern shore the coral rock crops up and good deal is cut by the islanders for building purposes.

It is much harder than the limestone quarried in the interior of the island.

The island is fully planted; at the northern end there is a considerable space along the shore left vacant; it is very poor land.

24. *Kadamat* is still the most thinly populated and backward of the islands, but there are signs of progress.

The old dependence on the people of Amini has been shaken off. Very few people are now tenants of Amini and even these have the tenure of their tenancy well defined and are in a not unfavorable position.

The islanders have now six big boats of their own; in 1886 they had only four.

The population of the island has increased in the last five years by 25 per cent.



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Plantation is going on rapidly. No immigration to this island has as yet begun from Amini and Chetlat. I had a number of applications from people willing to immigrate if Government would give them trees.

The people of Amini have planted nearly all the trees in the southern part of the island; it will probably pay them in time to put in resident tenants.

There is a little dry cultivation, not so much as in former days I was told.

The islanders suffer a good deal from jungle fires, but they deserve little pity as if they would only take the trouble when they plant to clear away the jungle (leaving enough to shade the young plants) no fire would spread and little damage ensue. They are not perhaps more apathetic than the people of the other islands, but they are certainly not less so.

The lagoon is far the largest in our islands and people from Amini as well as from some of the Malabar islands come to it to fish. There are two entrances for large boats and a few small ones. The island is extending at its southern extremity but not rapidly.

Lime and limestone are exported to Amini, firewood to all the other islands and the mainland.

25. *Kiltan.*—The people here are very well off and, as in Sir W. Robinson's time, they object more than the people of any other island to any enquiry into their condition.

Like the others they are not in the least eager to better their condition. They do not want a fish-curing yard; they do not want to make oil for sale, they do not want to do anything that will make them exert themselves.

Their women make coir, the men make copra (not a difficult operation), for which and for cocoanuts a good price is at present obtained.

The island still increases on the west. The lagoon is very shallow and nearly dry, a good deal of it, at low water. There are two entrances for large kundras (both cleared by the monegar and people some years ago) and one or two small ones.

Planting is attended to and a fresh row of plants put in every few years on the shore of the lagoon.

As in Kadamat and Chetlat the houses are all together and not scattered throughout the island as is the case in Amini.

26. *Chetlat.*—The coir of this island is particularly good. The people, however, do not pay much attention to it as their trees are generally so poor.

They own a great number of boats that is great in proportion to the population, do a good deal of fishing at the reefs and a good deal of carrying between the Malabar islands and the Ccast. Sir W. Robinson says of Chetlat: "The inhabitants are all poor, but quiet and well behaved and devote most of their time to fishing as the returns from plantation are not sufficiently large to induce them to take much pains with it."

There are, however, a very large number of young plants and the goats have been killed off to some extent for the protection of them. The people say that only a very small proportion of the plants put in reach maturity, and if they do, as a rule, bear very poorly.

The island is increasing on all sides es pecially towards the lagoon as also Kiltan, which island it resembles a good deal.

The opening in the reef at the north (see Mr. Stokes' report) is kept clear by the islanders and prevents the erosion that used to take place.

Formerly this island was the scene of several wrecks. A seaman named Primrose, died here. I found his tomb-stone had fallen down and been carried away. I had it replaced and the grave fenced in.

Some limestone is exported from this island to the coast and good mats are made here though not exported.

27. *Bitra.*—I got what information I could about this island from the people of Chetlat who apparently are the most frequent visitors to it, though the Malabar islanders also go to it. I was told that the Peer's tomb had been washed away. Planting is kept up. The island is washed away at the north and as regularly added to at the south. Sea birds are now scarce. Rats are numerous and visitors now and again make a raid on them. A good deal of the jungle has been cut.

*Reefs.*—There are four open reefs. The most northern is Beliapauni, which is of considerable length and only shows two small spaces above water at high water. Boats can get inside the reef. This reef is 18 miles from Bitra.

Cheriapauni lies 18 miles south-west from Beliapauni. It is better known as the Byranbor reef and no part of it is above water at high water. Boats can get inside the reef and it is the favourite fishing ground. It is much larger than Beliapauni. The islanders say they notice no change in these reefs. There is the stem of an iron ship still visible on Cheriapauni.

Birds are not numerous on these reefs.

Permulla is a reef due west of Amini 45 miles. A small portion is above high water mark and is usually occupied by a large number of sea birds.

Elekulpiny lies 30 miles east of Kiltan and is some 30 fathoms below the surface.



28. *Fishing.*—There is little to add to Mr. Bradley's and Mr. Stokes' statements except that the islanders apparently use the line much more than in former days. They are still devoted to the spear. The spear used by day light for large fish is in no way remarkable.

The smaller spear used at night in the lagoon has a head or rather a sheaf of heads of arecanut wood. At the open reefs large coir nets are used, but the smaller nets in common use about the islands are made of twine brought from the mainland. Their fishing lines the islanders get from the mainland.

I saw an octopus caught. The islanders said it was very good eating "better than chicken."

29. *Birds.*—The islands do not possess a greater variety of birds than at the time of Mr. Bradley's inspection ten years ago. The crow still keeps to Amini, but the paddy-bird has found out Chetlat.

30. *Moktesors.*—The number in Amini is 21. Of these, four were originally considered first class, the names of such families being Porahat, Pondamterli, Poradan and Biamadi. Of late years Kannolu has been treated as first class.

The only advantage that the sitting member gains is precedence over all the second-class moktesors.

The present man is respectable and intelligent.

There are no moktesors to represent the lowest Melacherry caste. Some people of this caste hinted to me that they would like some to be appointed, but the monegar's opinion is that the moktesors of higher caste would strongly object to the innovation, and he is probably right. The appointment of moktesors of the lowest caste in Amini would be contrary to custom and result in no moktesor doing any duty at all. As it is, I think the monegar is sufficient check on the moktesors and low caste people, as if they think themselves unfairly treated by the moksesors, can always appeal to him. In Kadamat there were originally seven mupamars, the monegar said there should be eight, but apparently the islanders are right. There are now seven men serving; one of the old families (Pondal) has died out. I got the mupamars to recommend a respectable family to replace it, but on second thought I have to say that I do not see the advantage of appointing another man.

In Kiltan thirteen names were given to me, but I found that the proper number was seven or eight. The islanders say that the number was increased because of the increase in the number of intelligent men in the island. No less than four of the present mupamars are related to Mupava Kunnipere Abdurrahaman who, is a prominent mupamar, but it must be remarked that some of these represent the old families, and I could discover nothing discreditable in the circumstances of their appointments. Two of the mupamars are blind and one is a leper; the latter of course does no work. I would allow his nephew to succeed him and would not appoint any one to succeed the three mupamars who are said, have no near male relations. This will in time reduce the number of mupamars to ten, a number that the present men declare is quite large enough.

In Chetlat there were originally nine mupamars. There are now ten persons serving, four of these representing families selected by the monegar and mupamars on the extinction of old families. As directed I made a list * of the present mupamars and moktesors.

* Enclosure 1.

In each island one or two people came forward and claimed the office, but I found in each case that no redress was deserved. Appointments appear to have been properly made by the monegar and moktesors.

The monegar does not try as many cases as in former days with the aid of these functionaries who, it should be mentioned in many cases, are too lazy to take any interest in matters of public importance. In Kiltan I appointed a panchayat to decide a dispute, and the members at once tried to get out of it.

Mr. Bradley suggested in 1880 that "it would be a good plan to introduce the custom of taking down the opinion of each moktesor in writing and obtaining his signature for purposes of record, as cases have occurred of moktesors denying any knowledge of the decision of a panchayat on which they acted." No effect was given to this suggestion though the monegar told me that in former days moktesors used to sign judgments.

The monegar, I find in judgments in cases he has tried with moktesors, quotes their findings freely.

There would be no difficulty in making him write down each moktesor's opinion and take the signature in each case.

In one island a silversmith on becoming a moktesor threw up his former occupation, but this sacrifice, I fancy, cannot have been due to his public spirit.

31. *Laccadivi Poor Fund.*—There are at present five recipients of charity, four in Amini, two old women and two young boys (the latter I am told will receive the dole until they marry) and one (an old blind man) in Kadamat. The latter wished to be allowed to give up the dole and receive some Government trees as he wished to take a wife; a recipient on marriage forfeits the dole. No complaint was made as to the way in which the dole is given and I found the

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accounts regularly kept. I received only one *bonâ fide* application to be admitted to the benefits of the fund; this was in Kiltan and the applicant a half-witted dumb man. The people said he was quite incapable of making a living; so I told the monegar to put him on the list.

Of the four people named by Mr. Shujaet Ali as fit objects of charity, the monegar has identified three, all old women of Chetlat and had put them on the list.

With regard to your letter No. 487, dated 4th February 1891, requesting me to submit proposals for the utilization of a sum of Rs. 993, which has accumulated out of the interest realised on the capital of the fund, I have to say that the monegar could make no suggestions.

The only way in which I can think of employing the money is to establish a school in each island under a paid Government teacher. The fund was intended for charitable or educational purposes. Several people in Amini applied to be put on the poor list, but as they were all immigrants I did not comply with their requests. The benefit of the fund might be extended to them; their names appear in my petition register.

32. *Wrecks.*—The last report does not mention any wrecks

I was told that in 1885 an iron vessel floated about on fire among the islands until she went ashore and to pieces on Cheriapauni reef.

Of late years there has been no important wreck.

A Kundra in 1888 bringing what the islanders call "the inam rice" ran past Amini and broke her back on Permulla, the crew were saved but all the cargo was lost. Early last year the Amini Kazani's Kundra capsized in a squall on her way to the coast, crew all saved after a week at sea in an open boat. There is a small quantity of wreckage on the islands; little of it has been washed up recently.

During the last monsoon two large cases full of Natrium metallicum and a case half full of liquor ammonia were washed ashore and are now on their way to Mangalore with the monegar. I saw the cases, the iron hooping had been stripped off (probably by the islanders) and there was no mark on them by which their destination or the vessel that conveyed them could be identified.

33. *Registration.*—

| Years. | Sales. | Gifts. | Promissory Notes. | Marriages and divorces. | Mortgages. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1886 .. .. .. .. .. | Rs. 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | Rs. 1 | 5 |
| 1887 .. .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | .. | 5 |
| 1888 .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | 1 | .. | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 1889 .. .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | .. | 4 |
| 1890 .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 3 |
| Total .. | 7 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 30 |

This return shows a very small number of documents registered in fact since the monegar was instructed that his assumption that registration of marriages, divorces, &c., was compulsory was wrong; very few documents have been presented to the registering officers. This is so not because the people object to registration but because they so seldom execute any documents at all.

34. *Government buildings.*—The cutcherry and sub-jail at Amini are in good repair and well looked after.

The cutcherries on the other islands are of the same pattern and well built.

They are capital places to camp in as they are always cool, much cooler than a tent. The peons on the islands no longer live in the cutcherries but in houses built, I understand, of the materials of the old cutcherries pulled down in 1881–82. The dispensary at Amini needs repair.

The monegar has had a temporary school built for Kadri Haji and has also built a shed for the oil mill in Amini.

35. *Health.*—There has been a Hospital Assistant and a 3rd-class Dispensary on the island of Amini since 1874.

At the time of my visit there had been no Hospital Assistant for nearly a year. One Amini moktesor did ask me to request you to abolish the hospital, but that this was not the wish of the people at large is shown by the way in which they came to the Hospital Assistant who accompanied me for treatment. There is little or nothing to add to Mr. Bradley's remarks on this subject. There has been no serious epidemic with the exception of one outbreak of small-pox in 1887 (according to the death register in that year 38 people died of small-pox in Chetlat) since 1865.

The people admit that they are generally more healthy than in former days. They apparently suffer a good deal from rheumatism caused, they say, by the sea-breeze. The Hospital Assistant reports that uterine complaints are more common in Kiltan than in the other islands because the women of that island are of poorer physique and more sickly than those of the others.



The nikka marriages or rather connections have no doubt a good deal to do with the condition of the women and children. The women do not willingly call in a medical man who is not a Mussalman and, of course, the people generally prefer a man of their own religion. Unfortunately the last Mussalman medical subordinate sent to the islands quarrelled with the monegar; so far the matter of that did the last man a christian.

I think the Hospital Assistant on the islands is too well paid; if his allowances were cut down so that he would not think himself as big a man as the monegar, he would give that officer less trouble. I would suggest that the medical subordinate should not be kept more than two or say three years on the islands, or that he should be allowed to visit the mainland every year.

In spite of the liberal allowances now paid his lot is a miserable one if he is not a Mussalman. If he were allowed to come to the mainland every year with the monegar, no doubt the post would be more popular.

As it is Hindu Hospital Assistants are terribly afraid of it. I understand that the man at present under orders for the islands wished to resign on hearing of his appointment; he is undergoing instruction in Meteorology in Madras at present. It is only too probable that as soon as he reaches the islands he will resign and return. If the Hospital Assistant is a Hindu or a Christian he is absolutely alone on the islands and though the monegar may assist him, the islanders are not likely to go out of their way to make things comfortable for him. A Mussalman must get on much better and, as I have said, the people prefer to be attended by one of their own religion, and the women, as a rule, will not employ a medical man who is not a Mussalman. The Hospital Assistant should certainly accompany the monegar on at least one visit in the year to each of the outlying islands. The great objection to his doing so is the gap that would ensue in the Meteorological statistics; this can be got over if the ward cooly has a little more coaching in the registration of observations. The people of the outlying islands appreciate medical aid. My Hospital Assistant had a number of patients in Kiltan.

Mr. Bradley's suggestion that a small stock of simple medicines should be entrusted to the peon in charge of each of the minor islands does not appear to have been carried out. Such a supply would be of great use.

The islands are cut off from one another for five months in the year and the hospital assistant seldom, if ever, visits any island but Kadamat.

The people, like the natives on the main land, are impatient under treatment and give up going to the hospital if they are not cured at once.

My hospital assistant attended 275 cases—

| Names of diseases. | 1886. | 1887. | 1888. | 1889. | 1890. | 1891. Treated while on tour by Hospital Assistant M. Unny. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fevers .. .. .. .. .. .. | 8 | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | 4 |
| Rheumatic affections .. .. .. .. | 157 | 122 | 340 | 356 | 39 | 123 |
| Syphilitic do. .. .. .. .. | 5 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Scrofula .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. | 2 | 6 | .. | 4 | 1 |
| Phthisis pulmonalis .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. |
| Anæmia .. .. .. .. .. .. | 14 | 88 | 147 | .. | .. | .. |
| Dropsy .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 | 1 | 6 | 87 | 9 | 5 |
| Nervous affections .. .. .. .. .. | 9 | 2 | 65 | .. | .. | .. |
| Ophthalmia .. .. .. .. .. .. | 17 | 34 | 69 | 160 | 5 | 7 |
| Diseases of the ear .. .. .. .. .. | 8 | 5 | 6 | 123 | 5 | 23 |
| Respiratory affections .. .. .. .. | 24 | 26 | 64 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Dysentery .. .. .. .. .. .. | 3 | 1 | 41 | 26 | 12 | 10 |
| Diarrhœa .. .. .. .. .. .. | 18 | 11 | 31 | 19 | 2 | .. |
| Worms .. .. .. .. .. .. | 127 | 241 | 185 | 49 | 1 | 2 |
| Dyspepsia .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 4 | 154 | 8 | 26 |
| Gonorrhœa .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 | .. | 1 |
| Abscess, whitlows and boils .. .. .. | 10 | 9 | 26 | 1 | .. | 3 |
| Skin diseases .. .. .. .. .. | 32 | 56 | 112 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Ulcers .. .. .. .. .. .. | 3 | 6 | 11 | 186 | 10 | 14 |
| Other diseases .. .. .. .. .. | 337 | 176 | 440 | 220 | 3 | 12 |
| Wounds and injuries .. .. .. .. | 22 | 12 | 20 | 31 | 29 | 21 |
| Debility and old age .. .. .. .. | 6 | 9 | 20 | 10 | 9 | 3 |
| Cancer .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 10 | .. | .. | 7 |
| Leprosy .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 5 | .. | 1 |
| Total .. | 808 | 810 | 1,608 | 1,470 | 142 | 275 |
| Minor operations .. | 7 | 2 | 22 | 6 | .. | 1 |



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36. *Vaccination.*—

| Years. | Successful. | Unsuccessful. | Unknown. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1886 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1887 .. .. .. | 8 | 1 | 11 | 20 |
| 1888 .. .. .. | 29 | 4 | 1 | 34 |
| 1889 .. .. .. | 26 | 5 | .. | 31 |
| 1890 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1891 * .. .. .. | 49 | 9 | 24 | 82 |

* During the tour by hospital assistant and the vaccinator.

The figures are taken from the hospital returns and those for 1891 represent the work done by the hospital assistant and vaccinator who accompanied me, there having been no hospital assistant on the islands since March 1890.

These men did not do much, but I believe they did as much as they could under the circumstances. They were supplied with only a small quantity of lymph which turned out not to be good.

Lymph had to be taken from subjects vaccinated on the islands and this was difficult, as the people, though they approve of vaccination, usually bathe in salt water immediately after the operation or scratch the vesicles. The hospital assistant says they object to lymph being taken from them. In Amini and Kadamat (which the island hospital assistant can easily visit as it is only 8 miles from Amini) nearly all the people are protected. In Kiltan, three-fourths of the people have had small-pox and the remainder, with the exception of very young children and persons suffering from skin diseases, are protected. In this island mothers strongly object to vaccination for their children.

In Chetlat, five-sevenths of the people have had small-pox, all the rest but 21 have been vaccinated. The last outbreak of small-pox was in 1887, and it visited Chetlat more severely than any other island.

The number of deaths from the epidemic in that island in that year was 39. The karanis accounts do not show any deaths from it in the other islands.

37. *Sanitation.*—All the people use the shores of the lagoons as latrines. In Amini the pits for soaking coir and in all the islands the bathing pits are most filthy and offensive. The monegar's attention has been called to this matter over and over again.

The neighbourhood of the islanders' houses is, as a rule, fairly clean, except where, as in some cases, they have backyards.

The dead are buried apparently at haphazard anywhere, but I did not notice any graves close to drinking-water wells. The latter are, as a rule, clean. I brought a bottle of water from the best well in each island for chemical analysis.

38. *Midwives.*—Fatima Bee, the pupil and successor of the Madras midwife, Zainab Bee, who was on the islands from 1876 to 1878, is dead, and the women now enjoy no skilled assistance unless they call in the hospital assistant, which, especially when that officer is not a Muhammadan, they are loth to do. Uterine diseases and death resulting from child-bearing are said to be most common in Kiltan.

In Amini and Kadamat the old women who attend labour cases may be of some use as they must have picked up some knowledge from Zainab Bee and Fatima Bee. Still, though the islanders have not asked for the concession, I would recommend that a certificated midwife be sent to the islands.

The islanders are apathetic enough in matters that concern themselves: they are still more so when their women are concerned. At the time of the last two inspections, viz., 1881 and 1886, Fatima Bee was alive and doing good work. Now, as I have said, there is no skilled woman on the islands, and it is a fact that the women of the islands have always suffered much from careless and unskilled treatment at confinements.

39. *Improvements in Coir.*—The people of Amini contend that the coir they now make is as good as that made on the other islands and wish to be paid more highly for it. In former days Amini coir was always the worst of all.

Before Mr. Bradley's visit in 1881, Kadamat coir and that of Amini ranked together. On that officer's recommendation, Kadamat coir was ranked with that of Kiltan and Chetlat.

The Amini people say they have taken pains with the manufacture, have cleaned the soaking pits frequently and thoroughly and taken special care with the picking and twisting.

The monegar says that, in his opinion, Amini coir is now quite as good as that of Kadamat.

Still the fact remains that the people of Amini do not give up the practice of soaking their coir in fresh water and they do not clean the soaking pits as they ought to do (I saw a large number of these pits).

I spoke to the people of the other islands about the Amini coir. Some said it had improved and was as good as that of Kadamat.



A great deal more of the Amini coir might be soaked in salt-water if the people were not so lazy. I have not been able to compare the Amini coir in bulk with that of other islands.

I would recommend that a committee of merchants be requested to give their opinion in the matter after inspecting on its arrival, the coir now under shipment to Mangalore. This course was adopted in 1837, when the matter for decision was how the coir of each island was to be classed and paid for.

The Port officer, Mangalore, has promised to have the Amini coir marked and set apart, so that any comparison that you may think advisable can be made without difficulty.

I asked the headmen of each island how they could suggest improved coir might be turned out and they said that what was necessary was soaking for a proper length of time, careful picking and twisting.

I asked them if they had any wish for machines: they said they had no wish for them and could not use the two sent over to the islands in 1886 by Messrs. Morgan and Sons.

I do not think that there is more fresh water soaking in the other islands than in former days. Both the people of Kiltan and Kadamat (there are no pits in Chetlat) said that no new pits had been opened for a long time.

I had a small quantity of good coir made in Chetlat and Messrs. Morgan and Sons, who have inspected it, say that some of it is very good indeed.

I find that in 1886 the islanders were stirred up by the monegar and turned out 60 candies of specially good coir which was very favorably reported upon and purchased at Rs. 57–8–0 per candy by Messrs. Morgan and Sons.

In that case, on the recommendation of the Collector, the islanders received the whole of the sum fetched by the coir.

There is no doubt that the islanders could, and would, if properly kept up to the mark by the monegar and the prospect of such remuneration as they received in the instance above noted, turn out a considerable quantity of good coir.

At present there is little inducement for them to exert themselves. All their coir sells and fetches a fair price; at present too copra and nuts pay them handsomely for exportation, so the islander, though he will always, in all probability, turn out a fair amount of coir in order to obtain rice at the composition rate and salt duty-free, will not exert himself to send any quantity of really good coir to the main land unless a very strong inducement is held out to him.

I enclose (enclosure 2) a letter on the subject of the coir that I brought from the islands addressed to me by Messrs. Morgan and Sons, Mangalore: they say they would be willing to place the plant necessary for the outturn of a large quantity of good coir on the islands if Government would give them a monopoly for a term of years or if Government would accept a royalty per candy. Other terms would not of course make it worth their while to put plant on the islands and show the islanders how to make good coir. The outlay on machines would necessarily be large.

If such a monopoly were granted, it would no doubt give good results.

These islands would export a much better coir, Government would get a better price for it, and even under the existing arrangement the islanders would receive a substantial bonus.

Of course the amount of good coir turned out would depend entirely upon the exertions of the monopolists.

As it is, the exertions of the monegar are all that is to be relied upon.

40. *The Coir monopoly.*—The statement appended shows the transactions in connection with coir for 10 faslis (fasli 1290 to 1299).

I found after the statement was prepared that fasli 1289 had been omitted; the last review of coir transactions included only fasli 1288. However, I have taken those of the last ten faslis.

The coir monopoly is as popular as ever with the islanders. In every island when I asked the chief people what they thought of its abolition they replied that they were perfectly satisfied with it and would starve if it did not continue.

They at present receive an average price of about Rs. 20 per candy, of which Rs. 15 is paid to them in rice, at the rate of Rs. 2 per murah (roughly 66 per cent. of the bazaar rate), and they are allowed to purchase 1¼ maund of salt at cost price for every candy of coir imported: in addition to this, when they import more than 674 candies of coir and the price obtained by Government exceeds Rs. 40 per candy, they receive 25 per cent. of the profits.

Taking the figures appended of the last ten years, they have been paid at the rate of Rs. 28–10–0 per candy; the low rate at which they have obtained three quarters of this in rice has given them Rs. 6–5–0 per candy more and the salt duty, payment of which Government has not claimed, has come to Rs. 2–5–0 per candy. Thus for the last ten years they have obtained an average price of more than Rs. 28–8–0 per candy, really considerably more because if they were left to buy rice for themselves they could not, in all probability, have got it retail at anything like so low a rate as Government gets it by calling for tenders and buying wholesale.

Ten years ago Mr. Bradley calculated that the islanders virtually sold their coir to Government at the rate of Rs. 30 per candy or even more. They are very nearly as well off now-a-days.

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41. As to the question how they would prosper if left to find a market for themselves, it is certain that they would have great difficulty. All the coir comes to the main land at one time of the year, rice must be bought and the boats must return to the islands well before the setting in of the south-west monsoon; the islanders could not, even if they had sufficient intelligence, watch the market. As it is, there is a ring formed in Calicut for keeping down the price of coir, and it is, I understand, proposed to arrange to send the coir of the southern islands to Calcutta and elsewhere. It is not likely that the ring in Calicut or elsewhere will be more tender in dealing with the islander than with the Government.

The islander is completely at the mercy of the coast traders and still more so because he has no idea of market anywhere except on the West Coast. The island boats hardly ever go beyond Colombo in one direction and Marmagoa in the other. A few may go to Bombay—but very few.

42. The next point is whether the islands are a burden to Government.

They are not a burden, but they do not pay anything like as well as they used to. The returns appended show an average net profit of Rs. 2,693 per annum for the last ten years.

The average net profit ten years ago was Rs. 8,818–1–0 per annum; seven years before that again it was Rs. 7,437–4–4.

Fasli 1289 has not been included; if it were, the Rs. 2,693 would be still less, for, that year was a year of heavy loss to Government.

Mr. Bradley's report reviews the transactions of six years: the average number of candies of coir imported annually was then 775; for the last ten years it has been 839, while the average price per candy realized from fasli 1283 to 1288 was Rs. 54; for the last ten years it has been Rs. 42 per candy.

This, of course, accounts for the diminished profits now accruing to Government. The average annual amount paid in rice has risen from Rs. 11,500 to Rs. 12,700, a very slight increase, had not the average price of the coir fallen so much: it is, however, to be remembered that the price of rice during the more recent, was below that of the earlier, period.

Taking all the expenditure, including the salt duty remitted and the peishoush, the average expenditure per annum of the last ten years has been about Rs. 1,000 *less* than that of faslis 1283 to 1288.

The diminution of profit is due entirely to the low price at which the coir was sold; in not a single year of the ten under reference, except faslis 1293 and 1297, did the coir fetch much more than Rs. 40 a candy and in no less than three years it fetched less than that average price.

I do not know to what cause to attribute this but to deterioration of the quality of the coir. It cannot be entirely due to depression of the market, for in faslis 1293 and 1297 the coir sold very well indeed. However, the islands still pay their way, and if the islanders were put in the way of turning out really good coir and plenty of it, there would be no chance of their becoming a burden to Government.

I have here to make the same remark as Mr. Bradley, viz., that the islanders seem to know very little about the conditions on which they can obtain the bonus offered by Government. The monegar told me that they had all been told of them and ought to know all about them.

43. *Trade.*—The returns of imports and exports enclosed (enclosure 3) were carefully prepared, but a comparison of the figures showing the export of coir with the amount of coir actually sold by Government shows that the karanis' accounts are utterly untrustworthy.

As an instance I may state that in 1884 Government sold 920 candies of coir; the Karanis entered in the accounts 482 candies as exported. In 1885 as bad a mistake was again made. The chief imports are, as formerly, rice, salt, tobacco, arecanut and timber. There is now no importation of cocoanuts. I found that a little kerosine oil had found its way to these islands.

The annexed table shows the average of the chief imports for the last five years:—

| Years. | Rice. | Salt. | Tobacco. | Timber. | Arecanut. | Grains. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | HUNDREDS OF MURAHS. | MAUNDS. | CANDIES. | RS. | THOUSANDS. | |
| 1886 .. .. .. .. .. | 139 | 981 | 12 | 176·5 | 631 | 139 |
| 1887 .. .. .. .. .. | 116 | 709 | 11·5 | 313 | 752 | 281 |
| 1888 .. .. .. .. .. | 149 | 674 | 13·6 | 388 | 1,293 | 284 |
| 1889 .. .. .. .. .. | 145 | 815 | 19 9 | 619 | 1,400 | 138 |
| 1890 .. .. .. .. .. | 138 | 988 | 10·2 | 388 | 1,330 | 359 |
| Average .. | 137·5 | 832 | 12½ | 377 | 1,080 | 240 |
| Average, 1880—85 .. | 125 | 821 | 12 | 544 | 437 | 125 |

NOTE.—The above table does not, like the average for 1880—85, include inter-island trade.

The comparison shows that the importation of every article has increased. I must except timber. If, however, inter-island trade is reckoned here, the average value of timber imported is only some Rs. 70 per annum short of that for 1880—85.



The imports have been steadily increasing (according to the karanis' accounts and these are probably faulty more from omission than exaggerations) since 1870—a sure sign of the prosperity of the islanders.

They are allowed to buy one maund and a quarter of salt at cost price for every candy of coir that they import. According to the returns in some years, they must buy a considerable quantity of other salt as well, in others not even all the cost price salt appears to have reached the islands. That, however, the accounts do show in some years a quantity of salt over and above the amount obtained at cost price as imported, makes it certain that the allowance of salt made to the islanders by Government is at any rate not too large.

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44. *Exports.*—The chief exports are those shown in the table, the export of jaggery having now practically ceased to be carried on.

Chetlat exports large quantities of cadjan leaves.

The following table compares the exports of the last five years with those of the period 1880—85:—

| Years. | Cocoanuts. | Limes. | Coir. | Copra. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | THOUSANDS. | THOUSANDS. | CANDIES. | CANDIES. |
| 1886 .. .. .. | 1,649 | 100 | 897 | 351 |
| 1887 .. .. .. | 678 | 8 | 849 | 358 |
| 1888 .. .. .. | 1,700 | 326 | 835 | 828 |
| 1889 .. .. .. | 943 | 165 | 834 | 898 |
| 1890 .. .. .. | 956 | 139 | 900 | 467 |
| Average .. | 1,185 | 145 | 863 | 580 |
| Average, 1880—85 .. | 1,512 | 207 | 755 | 278 |

The figures are as unreliable as the rest. The price of cocoanuts and copra on the main land has for the last year or more been exceedingly high, and the islanders were fully aware of it. In spite of this, the Karanis have persistently calculated the value of the nuts exported at Rs. 10 per thousand. Minor exports are cadjan leaves, limestones, gravestones (exported to other islands), shark's fins and tortoise-shell.

45. *Criminal Returns.*—The statement appended shows the returns for each island. In Amini (corresponding to Amini and Kadamat in the last report) the average number of complaints in the years 1886 to 1890 has been 23: for the preceding five years it was 14.

The large apparent increase is due to the number of complaints of theft filed in 1886 and 1890: in nearly every one of these cases convictions were recorded. The only offences charged were assault, hurt, theft, mischief and criminal trespass. The average annual number of complaints in Kiltan was 4: in the preceding five years it was 3. The average number of complaints in Chetlat has fallen from 6 to 5.

The total of complaints in all the islands for the five years is 172, persons concerned 247, persons convicted 179; 112 out of 139 persons charged with theft were convicted; 9 were charged with criminal trespass, 8 of whom were convicted. The monegar's revenue file shows that he takes care to keep complaints of trespass that are family or civil matters out of his magisterial file.

I went through a good many of his cases and found no grave faults. The monegar or his clerk files assault cases under the assault under grave provocation section.

This was only a sort of exaggerated clerical error. The monegar had probably once looked at the number of the assault section and forgotten it.

There was one appeal which I tried.

I reversed the conviction which was based on apparently very slight evidence.

The monegar's judgments are short and to the point. There are a few little errors—charges not sealed, orders disposing of property not properly recorded, &c.

It is remarkable that, in so many cases, no complaint is made till a long time after the offence has been committed. I was told that this is because either the parties are coming to terms or the detection of the criminal is still going on. No detection is done in the monegar's absence.

In one case the witnesses said that the accused had undertaken to produce the property and a "mantra" was therefore not required. The object of the "mantra" (something written on paper or metal and put in the way of the persons for whom it is intended) is to make the subject of it speak the truth. I do not remember how the monegar accounted for the large number of theft cases in 1890. They were all, or nearly all, petty thefts.

Three years ago two men, one of whom belonged to Kalpeni, a Malabar island, were sent to Mangalore to be tried for housebreaking and were convicted.

No other case has been sent to the main land during the last five or six years.

46. *Magisterial contingencies.*—

| Years. | Number of persons imprisoned. | Expenditure. Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1886 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 14 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| 1887 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | 11 | 4 | 0 |
| 1888 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 19 | 69 | 1 | 0 |
| 1889 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 1890 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 | 24 | 6 | 0 |
| Total ... | 49 | 132 | 13 | 0 |

I did not work out the average period of imprisonment. It is probably about the same as at Mr. Bradley's visit, viz., between two and three weeks. This being so, the cost of keeping a prisoner has fallen since 1880, and this ought to be so as the price of rice has fallen. Prisoners are now employed on road-making by the monegar.

47. *Magisterial Fines.*—

| Years. | Amount. Rs. | A. | P. | Number of persons fined. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1886 | | | | |
| 1887 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 182 | 8 | 0 | 39 |
| 1888 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 96 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| 1889 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 177 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| 1890 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 116 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 334 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Total ... | 905 | 8 | 0 | 187 |

The total of the fines realized by far exceeds the expenditure on the sub-jail and the persons in it. Criminal justice in the islands pays its way.

The average fine is not quite Rs. 5—rather less than it was ten years ago.

Rupees 1–8–0 was awarded as compensation in the five years. There are no details given in the last report under this head and that of magisterial contingencies, so no comparison can be made.

48. *Disobedience to orders.*—The amounts levied were—

| | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1886 | | | |
| 1887 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 20 | 8 | 0 |
| 1888 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 23 | 6 | 0 |
| 1889 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 39 | 14 | 0 |
| 1890 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 46 | 8 | 0 |
| ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 33 | 0 | 0 |

The fines run from Rs. 5 (in two cases) to annas 2. Of the total amount, Rs. 14 was collected in Kadamat (1889), Rs. 5–8–0 in Chetlat (in three years). The annual average for all the islands together is Rs. 32. For 1880 to 1885 it was Rs. 17. For 1874 to 1879 it was Rs. 5. I found part of the fine imposed in 1889 had not been remitted to the treasury.

These fines are said to be imposed on those who do not observe the customs of the island. That they have increased so much is, I think, due in some measure to the growing independence of the islanders.

That they are far from being so unsophisticated as they were is shown by the increase of criminal complaints and civil disputes.

The two Rs. 5 fines were imposed, one on a man who was caught committing adultery (the woman also was fined) and the other on a man who shirked attending a koot alleging that he was sick when he was not.

Of course in both these cases the fine was excessive: in the former the monegar might have left the husband to take action. The list of offences for which people have been fined is too long to insert here; it includes all the instances noted in the last report and others, which of course *can* all be said to deal with offences against custom. The definition must be elastic to cover them all.

The islanders apparently can be fined for any interference with a Government servant and any contempt of court. Offences such as coming to an island without a port clearance, bringing



cargo that is not shown in the manifest, having to go to another island with cargo without a port clearance are punished with fine.

Turning one's sister out of doors, adultery, beating a play-fellow at play, refusing to surrender property to a (presumably successful) petitioner, being suspected of an undetected theft (!), refusing to surrender stolen property, not reporting concealment of property, giving milk to a prisoner at work without the guard's permission, sending for a woman, making a false complaint, being found out in making "mantrams," defamation, making a false complaint, have all been dealt with in the same way.

Though the monegar has exercised his authority in this all-reaching way, it is surprising, considering how ready the islanders are now-a-days to appeal, that so few appeals have been made.

It is hard to say how this exercise of authority is to be kept within due limits. The best way would be (unless the thing were put a stop to altogether, which, however, is out of the question as the power to fine for non-attendance at koots and a few other offences is undoubtedly necessary) to insist on the monegar sending regular and frequent returns of the fines inflicted and the reasons for their infliction. This and the expectation of a visit from an officer once in every two or three years would probably keep him within bounds.

It is a fact that he fined some persons for fishing without leave, but there was some reason for this. Two parties of men quarrelled about a certain fishing ground, and the monegar's orders were issued in order to prevent a breach of the peace.

Again, he fined some persons for being out after dark, but it was when there were several cases of theft under inquiry, and probably the islanders had decided in koot, that there was to be no moving about after dark.

49. *Civil file.*—The average number of suits instituted in 1874 to 1879 was 50, in 1880 to 1885 was 40, for the last 5 years it is 67. The monegar has sought the assistance of a panchayat in about 8 per cent. the cases filed in 1874 to 1879, 10 per cent. of those filed in 1886 to 1890: in 20 per cent. of those of 1880 to 1885. The last report mentions "the monegar's growing impatience of the panchayat." I could not get anything definite out of the monegar on this subject, but I fancy, from what I have seen of them, that the moktessors are not so public-spirited or rather not so simple and obliging as they used to be and that they shirk sitting on panchayats. Another point is that (as far as I have seen their working) panchayats are very slow: of course they ought to dispose of business quickly as the members must be fully acquainted with the circumstances of nearly all the cases that come before them, but in practice the members do not like coming to a decision adverse to one or the other party, more particularly when the parties are of their own caste or position in life.

The civil file, as formerly, consists mainly of suits for money or movables that can be represented by a money value. One suit in 1889 was for immovable *and* movable property and petitions asking for permission to withdraw suits were filed in the suit register. This register is not properly written up, date of cause of action is not shown, disposal of cases in 1890 has not been written up. The clerk said he meant to fill up this column when all the cases for the year had been disposed of, quite forgetting that such a course would give him far more trouble than his writing up each case as it was disposed of. One suit for restitution of conjugal rights has somehow found its way into this register. There are 6 cases of 1886 and 17 of 1890, pending. The former are all brought by a Mangalore man. The monegar should have given him fair notice, and, if he did not put in an appearance, should have disposed of the cases. The monegar is unconscionably lazy in making up his mind in cases about which he is doubtful. The largest sum (estimated value of claim) claimed was Rs. 750, the smallest, annas 6.

50. *Revenue file.*—This includes every petition that is not a magisterial complaint or a so-called civil suit. It is remarkable how small the number is of suits between landlord and tenant. The average number of cases filed was 115 in 1874 to 1879, 142 in 1880 to 1885, 183 in 1886 to 1890. Considering the nature of the file, this increase is not remarkable. There were 38 cases of 1890 pending at the end of the year: none of course of previous years pending. That such a large number of one year should be pending at its close is not satisfactory. The large number of cases filed in Chetlat in 1889 (102) is said to be the result of the monegar's having paid two visits to that island in that year. The statement in the last report does not show the nature of the subject-matter of the cases. The return appended shows, as does Mr. Bradley's, the number of cases relating to land and trees respectively. The proportion of cases relating to land to the total number was in 1874 to 1879, 24 per cent.; in 1886 to 1890, 22 per cent.; of trees 23 per cent. and 23 per cent. respectively. From this it is clear that suits for immovable property still form 50 per cent. (roughly) of the claims registered in the revenue file. I went all through this file; its contents are miscellaneous in the extremes. They are fully described in the last two reports, so that it is unnecessary to detail them now.

51. *The Monegar.*—As you are aware, several anonymous petitions were referred to me for inquiry. I inquired into these matters both in the presence of the monegar and when he was

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absent. I am satisfied, after inquiry, that the statements made in the petitions, in so far as they allege violation of duty on the part of the monegar, are quite unfounded. Of course he has some enemies in the islands, and they try to make matters unpleasant for him. The monegar has great influence over the islanders and manages them very well indeed. He is of course thoroughly up in his work, he takes great interest in the people, and I am sure that it would be very difficult to replace him. I consider him thoroughly straightforward and efficient though rather slow in disposing of cases and petitions. He disposes of the cases that come before him, on the whole, without undue delay: when, however, he finds it difficult to decide a civil case he is given to postponing the matter indefinitely. The people have great confidence in him and seem to commence no undertaking of any importance without his advice which too I find is usually sought before a person with a grievance or a request will put in a formal petition. The present method of administration still works well and needs no amendment. As to whether the administration might be carried on for a smaller annual outlay, I would not propose any alteration in the existing scale. I do not think that the monegar is too highly paid, he occupies a position of great responsibility, he is both a civil judge and a third-class magistrate; he is not more highly paid than the deputy tahsildars on the main land, who are much more under direct control. The monegar too virtually serves abroad.

52. *The Establishment.*—

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 murahs of rice per annum.
1 do. Kadamat, 14 do. do.
1 kiltan, 1 Chetlat, each 17 murahs of rice per annum.
5 ugranis or kavilgars, Amini, 20 trees a-piece, with the exception of one man who has 80, given to him in the times of the Bibi's Government.
1 clerk on Rs. 15, 1 toladar on Rs. 7, and 3 peons at Rs. 6 each per mensem, are doing duty in the Mangalore Sea Custom office.
1 ugrani or nadpal in each minor island, 20 trees each.
1 schoolmaster, salary 18 mudis of rice per annum.
Hospital Assistant and ward cooly.

The monegar has adopted the course which is, I think, good of not keeping a peon for a long time in one island. The men are frequently moved from island to island. I had only one complaint against the island officials and that was at Chetlat, where it was said that the peon, karani and some mupamars had to get a confession in a case of theft, hung a boy by his heels to a beam in the cutcherry and burnt chillies under his nose. I inquired into this at once. After hearing all the evidence adduced by the complainant, I found that the complaint was false. I discovered that it was true that peon Ismail Beg had been, as alleged in one petition, trading in cloth on the islands. This man naturally applied to be transferred to the mainland. He said he did very little business, and thought there was no harm in it as peons on the main land indulge in similar practices I do not think he should be allowed to remain on the islands. It is true that some of the peons are related to the monegar. As they are not appointed by him, I see no harm in this. The irregular privileges of the kavilgars have been done away with. The monegar asks for two extra peons. He does not require them in the least in my opinion. He also asks for another clerk; one I think is ample. The present clerk is by no means overworked; in fact, he has light work compared to what one ordinary taluk clerk has to do.

53. *Tours of the Monegar.*—The amount of travelling done by the monegar varies considerably from year to year. The average number of days spent by him in the minor islands was from 1874 to 1878 31 days and from 1880 to 1885 41 days. The average for the last five years is 55. This average is very fair, as the monegar does not do much travelling after Christmas, having to go to Mangalore in January or February and not returning to the islands many days before the monsoon sets in. The island of Kadamat he can, I believe, visit during breaks in the monsoon. He can visit each of the outlying islands, Kiltan and Chetlat, at least twice every year; this should be insisted upon. At his first visit he can take up all the cases that have accrued during his absence and at the second he can clear off all arrears. The average number of visits paid to each of these islands during the last five years is less than two. The monegar admits that he can manage two visits a year to each. He has a capital ten-oared boat.

| | Travelling by Monegar. | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kadamat. | | Kiltan. | | Chetlat. | | Betra. | |
| | Visits. | Days. | Visits. | Days. | Visits. | Days. | Visits. | Days. |
| 1886 .. | 2 | 5 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 3 | .. | .. |
| 1887 .. | 3 | 14 | 2 | 40 | 2 | 28 | 1 | 1 |
| 1888 .. | 2 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 19 | .. | .. |
| 1889 .. | 2 | 18 | 1 | 42 | 1 | 32 | .. | .. |
| 1890 .. | 1 | 11 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 8 | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 10 | 52 | 7 | 132 | 6 | 90 | 1 | 1 |



54. *Tenure of land.*—There is not much to be said on this point. There are, as I have said, remarkably few landlord and tenant cases on the monegar's file, and among the petitions that I received there was not, as far as I can recollect, one complaint of such nature. The Kadamat people are now almost entirely emancipated from the control of the Aminidivi people. In 1880 Mr. Bradley remarked that "there are a considerable number of suits to enforce terms of the tenancy, now on the file in addition to the ordinary disputes about rights to trees, &c., between landlords and tenants. This question does not call for special orders, as the tenants are gradually procuring their own freedom and they will probably find their proper position in the course of the next few years." What he anticipated has, I think, taken place, at any rate the present small number of landlord and tenant cases points in that direction.

55. *Fish-curing yards.*—I made inquiries on this subject. The islanders, except the people of Chetlat, do not seem to welcome at all the proposal to supply them with duty-free salt for curing purposes. The only island on which a yard could be established with any chance of its being properly supervised is Amini and even if it was there the monegar could not do much in the way of supervision as the greater part of the curing (fair weather) season he has to spend in travelling among the islands or in Mangalore. The islanders could give me no idea of what weight of fish they would be likely to bring to the yard. At present, as far as I could ascertain, the people of Chetlat alone do any trade in saltfish. They barter a little, roughly cured with brine, to the people of the Malabar islands for jaggery, cocoanuts or anything they can get. As it is, they go to the outlying trip to fish: they can only return thence if the wind is favorable. However, they admitted that that difficulty could be got over by temporarily curing the fish at the reefs. The next question is, given a fish-curing yard at Amini, and fish brought to it in sufficiently large quantities to make the industry a paying one and to prevent loss to Government, what chance is there of misappropriation of the duty froe salt? I learn from the monegar that the Malabar islands do not obtain any salt duty-free. It is clear then that if there was a fish-curing yard on Amini or any of our islands, the salt would not be used for fish-curing, it would almost certainly be supplied to each minor island, and a second to Amini. There is no doubt the one in Aminidivi is highly appreciated.

57. Your letter No. 1129, dated 18th March 1891, as to combining the offices of monegar and hospital assistant, I see no reason why one man should not hold both appointments. The hospital assistant is now a thorn in the side of the monegar and his presence in the islands is after all a very slight check on the latter. The combination of the two offices would certainly benefit the outlying islands which never see a medical man or a vaccinator unless an inspecting officer visits them. The officer must of course be a Mussulman—he should not be too young and should have acquired some experience as a magistrate before he is sent to the islands. The monegar's is a personal government: peculiar qualifications are required for the appointment. I enclose (enclosure 4) a petition on the subject from the monegar. I told him that it would, at any rate, be some time before the amalgamation, if sanctioned, was carried out and that it would probably not affect him.

58. *Survey.*—I have requested the Deputy Superintendent, IV Party, to send you the maps that the surveyor who accompanied me prepared. He brought with him 30 division and 70 field stones. He made only a rough plain table survey of each island; his maps are not all on the same scale, and in the case of Amini he has put in very little detail. He did his work very slowly, it used to take him some time to get over the effects of the boat journeys. However, I think the maps, as far as they go, are fairly accurate, and as in the case of each island, except Kadamat, he has put down survey stones and recorded their situation with regard to high-water mark, it will be easy in future to determine how fast the islands are growing. He has shown the reefs pretty accurately and the openings in them. The reason why he did not put down any stones in Kadamat was this. Nearly all round the island the jungle comes down almost to high-water mark, the "Kannimara" growing to a considerable height. The surveyor had consequently to work below high-water mark and it was of course of no use to place stones there. Clearing the jungle would have been an endless task even if the necessary time and labour could have been afforded.

59. *Requests of the islanders—A. From all the islanders.*—(1) That they may be allowed to purchase a larger quantity of salt at cost price. At present they are allowed to purchase 1½ maund of salt at cost price for every candy of coir that they bring to the main land. Up to 1873 the quantity allowed was one maund per candy of coir, the quantity was then raised to the present figure. The karanis' import returns are not to be relied upon, so it cannot be learnt from them how far the islanders purchase salt in the open market. It is probable that they do not, as a rule, purchase any, but content themselves with what they get duty-free. In the last ten years, according to the karanis' accounts, they have imported annually an average of 832 maunds; the average amount that they should have received on the amount of coir sold to Government during that period is 1,049 maunds. The last-named amount they have, it is almost certain, received: this, for a population of say 4,000 (the actual figure is less than this), gives them 7¼ lb. per head per annum for all purposes, or a pound a head more than they received in 1873. This is, however, I believe, a good deal lower than the average consumption on the main land. The islanders have really more need of salt than people on the main land as they must store fish for consumption during the monsoon months. I think the quantity allowed might safely be increased to 1½ maunds per candy of coir, that is, without fear of the islanders being tempted to export the salt to the Malabar islands, which obtain no salt duty-free. At the same time it must be remembered that this extra concession will cost Government something and still further reduce the income derived from the islands.

60. (*B*) *Requests from one or more islands—From Amini, Chetlat and Kiltan.*—That a better quality of rice be supplied. This complaint is an old one. It was first made in 1870. The islanders say that the rice supplied is not equal to the sample that is accepted by the Treasury Deputy Collector, who calls for tenders in Mangalore. Each islander who imports coir receives an order on the contractor for the amount of rice to which he is entitled. The practice in 1870 was much the same as the present practice; the Collectors and Board then came to the conclusion that no change was called for. I cannot see what change can be made now with any advantage to the islanders. If any of them finds that the rice he has received is not as good as it ought to be he can complain to the Port officer or Treasury Deputy Collector. The monegar is, I understand, always at hand to see that the islanders receive fair treatment. He says that the last supply of rice was not as good as the sample that was approved. If this was the case, it was entirely the fault of the monegar himself whose duty it was to bring the matter to notice. There is probably little foundation for the islanders' complaint. They delight in having a grievance, and are not unwilling to get all that they possibly can out of Government.

61. The islanders of Amini represent that the coir they make ought to be paid for at as high a rate as that of the other islands. I have already noted this complaint.

*Amini.*—Request that Government will supply explosives and clear the openings into the lagoon. A similar petition was presented to Mr. Bradley in 1880. The request cannot be complied with. All the islanders have to do is to get the monegar to hold a koot and themselves clear the openings as they have done on previous occasions, and as the people of Kiltan and Chetlat periodically do.

*Amini.*—That a second oil-mill be supplied. The people want the mill as a convenience in the manufacture of oil for their own consumption. They have no idea of making oil for exportation. The cost of such a mill is small. I recommend that one be supplied.

*Amini.*—That the court fees now levied be abolished. These fees are the mamul fees that used to be received by the kavilgars from suitors and witnesses: they have been credited to Government since Mr. Bradley's visit, after which the kavilgars were given Government trees. The petitioners say that in the old days they never paid anything to the kavilgars; this statement



is, of course, untrue. The rule is that costs are to be paid by the unsuccessful suitor, and the fact that the amount collected is not large (witnesses being examined very seldom indeed) make it tolerably certain that the levy of fees is no burden to the people; on the other hand, as it probably discourages litigation, it confers a benefit on them. Under the head of court fees are included darkhasts on which the monegar levies a fee of rupee 1 per case. Darkhasts, I think, might well be free. The amounts levied as court fees are: 1886–87, Rs. 105–12–0; 1887–88, Rs. 106–8–0.

62. *Kadamat.*—That when the islanders catch tortoises at Banjira (Ayati) and (Kowrati) both Malabar islands, their hand is seized by the servants of Government and that people from these islands may and do fish in the Kadamat lagoon without being interfered with. I learnt from the monegar that all tortoise-shell obtained at the Malabar islands is sent to the Collector of Malabar, the finders are always deprived of it as in the old days. The matter is not one that calls for interference.

*Kiltan.*—That the islanders may not be compelled to carry on their vessels the ships' lights prescribed by the Port officer, Mangalore. I could not make out clearly why the islanders objected to the lights. The complaint was made, I think, more from want of something to say than from any good reason. It is frivolous. The same islanders complained of the ravages made by the rats and asked for owls. They also suggested that Government should build a small boat; "it would be convenient" was all I could get out of them. Their last representation was, viz., they requested that as they now-a-days dry their coir very carefully, there is no reason why it should be dried and weighed at Mangalore, that therefore the weight recorded on the island should be accepted by Government. Of course they do not like the weighing of the coir at Mangalore, but it is childish of them to imagine that Government would ever consent to accept their estimate of the weight.

63. *Chetlat.*—(1) The islanders request that the trees on Tekkalapula be given up to them. As I have said, these trees cost Government nothing and may well be handed over gratis to poor applicants, *i.e.*, with the exception of those planted, though without permission, by individuals, which may as well be handed over to the planters.

(2) The islanders wish for assistance from Government this year as they are so badly off, the yield of their trees having latterly been exceedingly scanty. They say the reason of this is want of rain, but the monegar says that this is not the case, that the islands have good and bad seasons, and that last season was a particularly bad one. I had an estimate made of the quantity of coir that was likely to be sent from Chetlat to Mangalore this season; it amounted to 73 candies (if the monegar has exerted himself in encouraging the people this may have been increased to 80 candies) as against an average export of 120 candies for the last ten years. The average being taken from the Karanis' accounts is not to be relied upon. The 80 candies of coir will give them roughly Rs. 1,600 or Rs. 400 in cash and 600 muras of rice, say altogether 720 muras of rice or 1½ muras per head. This ought to last for from five to seven months, as the people of this island never do eat much rice; the monegar says ½ seer per day per head is a fair average. Besides this rice they will have some return from their trade, so that there is not likely to be any real scarcity in the island for the next nine months; they will not begin to consume this year's rice before the monsoon begins. Of course if this season is as bad a one as the last, the islanders' condition may become precarious. The monegar must visit the island at soon as possible after the monsoon is over and report on the prospects of the season.

64. *Petitions.*—One hundred and twenty-three were presented to me on the islands. Of these 100 were presented by inhabitants of Amindivi, some 15 were petitions that would have been presented to the monegar had I not been on the islands and were referred by me to him for disposal. About 30 are petitions for Government trees. All petitioners whose requests were disposed of on the spot were informed of my orders.

*Petitions from Government servants.*—Syed Usman, *the monegar's clerk, applies for an increase of salary.* He is now paid Rs. 10–8–0 per mensem. *He does all the clerical work, and his work requires the same qualifications as that of an ordinary taluk clerk on the main-land.* He is on the islands for ten months in each year, and he travels with the monegar. As the lowest grade of revenue and magisterial clerks on the main-land are paid Rs. 15 per mensem, I recommend that Syed Usman be paid at that rate. His work is satisfactory. Peon Ismail Beg applied for a transfer to the coast. He is the man who did a little business on the islands as a cloth merchant; he should certainly be brought to the main-land and punished. The monegar ought to have stopped the trade; he told me that he thought there was nothing wrong in such conduct on the part of inferior servants. The five ugranis or kavilgars of Amini complain that the 20 trees a piece that they have been given are in Kadamat and that they are not of much use to them, as they have to employ and pay others to fetch the nuts, &c. They request that they may be paid in cash or given trees in Amini. I think the best plan is to pay them in cash or in rice as the Karanies are paid. If this is done, 100 more trees in Kadamat

will be available for grant to immigrants, the Kadamat people will escape the bullying that they probably suffer from the Amini kavilgars, and the latter themselves will be in a better position than they now are. Rs. 12 per 100 is an average rent for trees. A kavilgar's 20 trees are therefore to him equivalent to Rs. 2½ per annum. I propose to pay each man this sum per annum or its equivalent in rice. The brother of the Kadamat Nadpal complained that the 20 Government trees given to the latter are insufficient. The statement being untrue, the petition was rejected.

65. *Claims to appointments.*—Of these there were very few. A man claimed the karanishap of Chetlat on the ground that it was hereditary in his family. The senior and other Mupamars denied this. The petitioner was the man who got up a false complaint against the present Karani and the peon. The claim was rejected. In Amini there was a claim to a moktessorship; it was found that the petitioner had no better claim than the man whom he wished to supplant. Two similar claims in Chetlat were rejected. In each island I made it known that such claims might be preferred, so that from the small number of claims put in it is clear that appointments to moktessorships have been properly made. The present kahatib or naib, Amini Jumma Mazid, applied to be appointed khazi. As the present khazi was appointed some time ago after due inquiry, this claim could not be entertained. The same man asked to be given remuneration as khatib. It appears that in introducing a khatib, the Mangalore custom was followed. As naib this man received no remuneration; there is certainly no reason why he should receive any now. On the day I left the island the same man petitioned again for the post of khazi. I have, of course, rejected his petition. The son of a peon applied for a post in Government service. There is no vacancy to give him.

*Other petitions.*—I do not think it necessary to notice them in this report. The petition register gives a summary of each petition and the order passed on it.

66. *Government trees and emigration to Kadamat.*—I enclose lists of darkhastdars (enclosure 5) for the Government trees with some particulars of their circumstances. I would recommend that the poorer people be preferred. As to the trees in Chetlat planted by private individuals in Government land, which I propose should be given up to the planters, the monegar's lists of trees are enclosed (enclosure 6) and give all the information available. The petition register (enclosure 7) contains what the moktessors and monegar had to say in the cases of applicants for trees in Kadamat except in the case of some, the Amini petitions, on which I have only the monegar's remarks (enclosure 8), as the petitioners only came in just before I left the islands. I should mention that I obtained hardly a single offer to emigrate until I made it know that emigrants would receive 90 trees a piece; the offer of 50 trees satisfied hardly any one. There are now on record a large number of applications. I recommend that those from Chetlat be given preference.

67. The clerks and other subordinates whom I took with me worked well and steadily. They were J. C. Vass, S. S. Saldanha, Hyat Khan and Hospital Assistant M. Unny. The latter was the only man who could talk to the islanders.

68. In conclusion, I have to say that it is a little more than two months since I returned from the islands. Since my return, however, I have been busy with arrears of magisterial work and the jamabandi of my division. The latter is only just completed. Last week I received intimation of my transfer to Madras, and I have since done my best to complete the report, though I am afraid a good deal more hurriedly than would otherwise have been the case.

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This report was sent to Madras for signature in May when the undersigned was absent from India. He returned to Madras on the 13th instant.

16th July 1891.

(Signed) D. COWIE,
Acting Deputy Registrar,
High Court, Appellate Side.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ACCOUNT of rainfall on the islands from 1886 to 1890.

| Years. | Inches. Amini. | Kiltan. |
|---|---|---|
| 1886 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 66·5 | 99·0 |
| 1887 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 47·5 | 59·5 |
| 1888 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 52·5 | 61·5 |
| 1889 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 76·5 | 60·0 |
| 1890 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 66·5 | 51·5 |



STATEMENT showing the transactions of the Coir department from fasli 1290 to 1299 inclusive.

| Faslis. | Quantity of coir received from the islands. | Payments made to islanders. In rice or its value at the standard rate of two rupees per mura. | Actual cost to Government. | Profit or loss to Government. Profit. | Loss. | Portion paid in cash. | Total of columns 4 and 7. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | CDS. M. LB. | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. | | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. |
| 1290 .. | 919 11 3 | 14,014 0 0 | 18,351 10 6 | .. | 4,337 10 6 | 3,607 5 7 | 21,959 0 1 |
| 1291 .. | 825 12 19 | 12,593 8 0 | 14,692 6 8 | .. | 2,098 14 8 | 4,206 5 11 | 18,898 12 7 |
| 1292 .. | 748 2 18 | 11,425 8 0 | 12,717 10 5 | .. | 1,292 2 5 | 3,819 8 9 | 16,537 3 2 |
| 1293 .. | 827 4 24 | 12,628 0 0 | 18,190 5 3 | .. | 5,562 5 3 | 4,222 13 7 | 22,413 2 10 |
| 1294 .. | 920 14 11 | 14,051 0 0 | 20,741 15 0 | .. | 6,690 15 0 | 4,695 8 9 | 25,437 7 9 |
| 1295 .. | 871 1 12 | 13,295 0 0 | 19,705 1 4 | .. | 6,410 1 4 | 4,441 7 7 | 24,146 8 11 |
| 1296 .. | 820 4 20 | 12,433 0 0 | 16,429 5 0 | .. | 3,996 5 0 | 4,388 13 4 | 20,818 2 4 |
| 1297 .. | 775 16 2 | 11,838 0 0 | 17,334 3 4 | .. | 5,496 3 4 | 3,957 14 4 | 21,292 1 8 |
| 1298 .. | 831 3 3 | 12,686 0 0 | 20,244 11 10 | .. | 7,558 11 10 | 4,244 9 5 | 24,489 5 3 |
| 1299 .. | 853 2 16 | 13,015 0 0 | 20,762 0 1 | .. | 7,747 0 1 | 4,350 13 9 | 25,112 13 10 |
| Total .. | 8,392 13 16 | 1,27,979 0 0 | 1,79,169 5 5 | .. | 51,190 5 5 | 41,935 5 0 | 2,21,104 10 5 |

| Faslis. | Establishment (Land Revenue). | Contingencies (Land Revenue). | Total expenditure. | Sale-proceeds of coir credited to Government. | Result. Profit. | Loss. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. | RS. A. P. |
| 1290 .. | 2,025 12 11 | 81 15 10 | 24,066 12 10 | 33,650 6 0 | 9,583 9 2 | .. |
| 1291 .. | 2,490 0 0 | 86 3 1 | 19,113 6 3 | 30,898 9 7 | 9,423 9 8 | .. |
| 1292 .. | 2,369 2 11 | 90 15 9 | 24,873 5 6 | 31,860 6 4 | 12,747 0 1 | .. |
| 1293 .. | 2,505 0 6 | 63 7 6 | 28,005 15 8 | 49,673 12 8 | 24,800 7 2 | .. |
| 1294 .. | 2,495 5 0 | * 510 5 10 | 27,152 3 9 | 34,876 4 0 | 6,870 4 4 | .. |
| 1295 .. | 2,501 9 11 | † 383 5 2 | 23,703 1 5 | 35,224 4 0 | 8,072 0 3 | .. |
| 1296 .. | 2,533 11 2 | ‡ 4,788 8 9 | 28,594 5 7 | 34,385 4 0 | 10,682 2 7 | .. |
| 1297 .. | 2,488 3 2 | 451 10 0 | 27,429 2 5 | 39,077 8 7 | 10,483 3 0 | .. |
| 1298 .. | 2,578 0 0 | 400 5 4 | 28,091 3 2 | 27,967 12 6 | 538 10 1 | .. |
| 1299 .. | | | | 33,322 14 3 | 5,231 11 1 | .. |
| Total .. | 24,492 11 7 | 6,907 2 6 | 2,52,504 8 6 | 3,50,937 1 11 | 98,432 9 5 | .. |
| Deduct loss to Government of duty on salt supplied to the islanders at cost price instead of at the selling price— | | | | | | |
| Fasli 1290 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,927 8 0 | | |
| ,, 1291 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,730 8 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1292 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,388 0 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1293 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,474 0 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1294 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,984 0 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1295 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,926 0 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1296 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 1,794 0 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1297 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 2,137 8 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1298 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 2,285 0 0 | .. | |
| ,, 1299 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | 2,352 8 0 | .. | |
| Actual net profit .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | .. | 18,999 0 0 | |
| Yearly average .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | | | .. | 79,433 9 5 | |
| Deduct peishkash permitted to Cannanore Government .. | | | | .. | 7,943 5 9 | |
| Net .. | | | | .. | 5,250 0 0 | |
| | | | | .. | 2,693 5 9 | |

* Includes charges incurred on account of the visit of the Head Assistant Collector to the islands.
† Contingent charges from fasli 1296 include monthly conveyance allowances at the rate of Rs. 25 granted to the Post and Customs officer, Mangalore.
‡ The enormous increase is due to the inclusion of the sum paid as bonus in this fasli.

1332/17

STATEMENT showing the number of criminal cases instituted and disposed of during the last five years (1886 to 1890).

| Nature of offences. | AMINI. | | | | | KADAMAT. | | | | | KILTAN. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of complaints preferred. | Number of persons concerned. | Number of complaints dismissed. | Number of persons discharged or acquitted. | Number of persons convicted. | Number of complaints preferred. | Number of persons concerned. | Number of complaints dismissed. | Number of persons discharged or acquitted. | Number of persons convicted. | Number of complaints preferred. | Number of persons concerned. | Number of complaints dismissed. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 1886. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hurt | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Assault or use of criminal force on grave and sudden provocation | 8 | 14 | 2 | 10 | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 | .. |
| Theft | 14 | 16 | .. | 3 | 13 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 7 | .. |
| Mischief | 3 | 8 | .. | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| Criminal trespass | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 27 | 40 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 7 | 11 | .. |
| 1887. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault or use of criminal force on grave and sudden provocation | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 18 | .. |
| Theft | 8 | 10 | .. | .. | 10 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. |
| Mischief | 4 | 5 | .. | 3 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Criminal trespass | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 14 | 18 | .. | 6 | 12 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | 19 | .. |
| 1888. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault or use of criminal force | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Theft | 11 | 12 | .. | .. | 12 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. |
| Criminal trespass | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 18 | 19 | .. | .. | 19 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. |
| 1889. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Committing affray and assault or use of criminal force | 1 | 5 | .. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation | 2 | 4 | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Theft | 6 | 6 | .. | .. | 6 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. |
| Mischief | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Criminal trespass | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 11 | 17 | .. | 4 | 13 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. |
| 1890. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation | 4 | 7 | .. | .. | 7 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 4 | .. |
| Theft | 40 | 42 | .. | 4 | 38 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | .. |
| Mischief | 3 | 4 | .. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. |
| Criminal trespass | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| Total .. | 48 | 54 | .. | 6 | 48 | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | 3 | 5 | 6 | .. |
| Grand Total .. | 118 | 148 | 2 | 36 | 112 | 7 | 7 | .. | .. | 7 | 18 | 37 | .. |

Statement showing the number of criminal cases instituted and disposed of during the last five years (1886 to 1890)—*cont.*

| Nature of offences. | KILTAN—*cont.* | | CHETLAT. | | | | | TOTAL. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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. |
| | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 1886 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hurt | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. |
| Assault or use of criminal force on grave and sudden provocation | 1 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 18 | 2 | 11 | 7 |
| Theft | .. | 7 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 22 | 25 | .. | 3 | 22 |
| Mischief | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 9 | .. | 6 | 3 |
| Criminal trespass | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total .. | 1 | 10 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 37 | 54 | 2 | 21 | 33 |
| 1887. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault or use of criminal force on grave and sudden provocation | 9 | 9 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 6 | 21 | .. | 11 | 10 |
| Theft | .. | 1 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 12 | 14 | .. | .. | 14 |
| Mischief | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 5 | .. | 3 | 2 |
| Criminal trespass | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 1 | .. |
| Total .. | 9 | 10 | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | 3 | 23 | 41 | .. | 15 | 26 |
| 1888. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault or use of criminal force | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | .. | .. | 3 |
| Theft | .. | .. | 5 | 18 | .. | 9 | 9 | 18 | 32 | .. | 9 | 23 |
| Criminal trespass | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | 4 |
| Total .. | .. | .. | 5 | 18 | .. | 9 | 9 | 25 | 39 | .. | 9 | 30 |
| 1889. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Committing affray and assault of use or criminal force | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 5 | .. | .. | 5 |
| Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation | .. | 1 | 7 | 15 | .. | 7 | 8 | 10 | 20 | .. | 11 | 9 |
| Theft | .. | .. | 7 | 11 | .. | 4 | 7 | 13 | 17 | .. | 4 | 13 |
| Mischief | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 |
| Criminal trespass | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total .. | .. | 1 | 14 | 26 | .. | 11 | 15 | 26 | 44 | .. | 15 | 29 |
| 1890. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation | .. | 4 | 1 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. | 8 | 13 | .. | 2 | 11 |
| Theft | .. | 2 | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | 4 | 46 | 48 | .. | 4 | 44 |
| Mischief | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 6 | .. | 2 | 4 |
| Criminal trespass | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 |
| Total .. | .. | 6 | 5 | 6 | .. | 2 | 4 | 61 | 69 | .. | 8 | 61 |
| Grand Total .. | 10 | 27 | 29 | 55 | .. | 22 | 33 | 172 | 247 | 2 | 68 | 179 |



18/1756

STATEMENT of civil suits instituted and disposed of during the last five years (1886 to 1890).

| Years. | AMINI AND KADAMAT. | | | | | KILTAN. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of cases. | Number tried by Monegar. | Number tried by Monegar and Panchayat. | Dismissed or settled. | Pending. | Number of cases. | Number tried by Monegar. | Number tried by Monegar and Panchayat. | Dismissed or settled. | Pending. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1886 .. .. .. | 73 | 65 | 2 | 36 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 1 | .. | .. |
| 1887 .. .. .. | 64 | 54 | 12 | 45 | .. | 14 | 8 | 6 | 8 | .. |
| 1888 .. .. .. | 65 | 56 | 8 | 29 | .. | 2 | 2 | .. | 2 | .. |
| 1889 .. .. .. | 58 | 52 | 6 | 39 | .. | 16 | 14 | 2 | 13 | .. |
| 1890 .. .. .. | 75 | 67 | .. | 55 | 8 | 29 | 24 | .. | 15 | 5 |
| Total .. | 334 | 294 | 28 | 204 | 15 | 69 | 55 | 9 | 38 | 5 |

| Years. | CHETLAT. | | | | | TOTAL. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of cases. | Number tried by Monegar. | Number tried by Monegar and Panchayat. | Dismissed or settled. | Pending. | Number of cases. | Number tried by Monegar. | Number tried by Monegar and Panchayat. | Dismissed or settled. | Pending. |
| | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 1886 .. .. .. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | 82 | 72 | 4 | 37 | 6 |
| 1887 .. .. .. | 23 | 15 | 6 | 16 | .. | 101 | 77 | 24 | 69 | .. |
| 1888 .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 67 | 58 | 8 | 31 | .. |
| 1889 .. .. .. | 26 | 26 | .. | 15 | .. | 100 | 92 | 8 | 67 | .. |
| 1890 .. .. .. | 8 | 4 | .. | 2 | 4 | 112 | 95 | .. | 72 | 17 |
| Total .. | 58 | 45 | 7 | 34 | 4 | 462 | 394 | 44 | 275 | 23 |

STATEMENT of revenue cases filed and disposed of during the last five years (1886 to 1890).

| Years. | Islands. | Number of cases. | Number of cases decided. | Number settled or dismissed. | Number referring to land only. | Number referring to trees only. | Number pending. | Number of applications for copies. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1886 .. | Amini .. .. .. .. .. | 96 | 72 | 24 | 40 | 28 | .. | .. |
| | Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. | 10 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 2 | .. | .. |
| | Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. | 23 | 16 | 7 | 4 | 4 | .. | .. |
| | Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | .. | .. |
| 1887 .. | Amini .. .. .. .. .. | 123 | 100 | 23 | 28 | 32 | .. | .. |
| | Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. | 6 | 6 | .. | 1 | 3 | .. | .. |
| | Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. | 48 | 44 | 4 | 12 | 22 | .. | .. |
| | Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. | 65 | 49 | 16 | 6 | 31 | .. | .. |
| 1888 .. | Amini .. .. .. .. .. | 81 | 42 | 38 | 22 | 11 | .. | 2 |
| | Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 1 |
| | Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | .. | .. | .. |
| | Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. | 6 | .. | 6 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| 1889 .. | Amini .. .. .. .. .. | 96 | 79 | 17 | 12 | 12 | .. | .. |
| | Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. | 15 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. |
| | Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. | 47 | 31 | 16 | 5 | 14 | .. | .. |
| | Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. | 102 | 65 | 37 | 13 | 31 | .. | .. |
| 1890 .. | Amini .. .. .. .. .. | 108 | 37 | 48 | 29 | 14 | .. | .. |
| | Kadamat .. .. .. .. .. | 3 | 3 | .. | 2 | 1 | 23 | .. |
| | Kiltan .. .. .. .. .. | 65 | 29 | 27 | 16 | 6 | 8 | .. |
| | Chetlat .. .. .. .. .. | 15 | .. | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 |



*Resolution*—dated 10th December 1891, No. 711.

The Collector of South Canara submits, with his remarks. the usual report of the visit of the Inspecting officer—in this case, Mr. Cowie, Acting Head Assistant Collector —to the Aminidivi Islands.

2. These islands differ from those attached to the Malabar district, in that they *belong* to the British Government, having fallen to the East India Company in 1799, along with Canara, and not having been restored to the Bibi of Cannanore ; a remission of revenue of Rs. 5,250, which figures in the accounts as "peishcush permitted to the Cannanore Government," being conceded to her instead. The Malabar islands are the property of the Raja of Cannanore, but have been attached for arrears of revenue. The Canara islands are scheduled.

3. There is not very much to comment on in the report. The condition of the islanders appears to be fairly prosperous (paragraph 3); life is easy, and with their docile temperament, and distance from the outer world, there is not much reason to look for very rapid improvement ; but the figures showing the number of boats (paragraph 7), and the number of artizans, gold and silversmiths (paragraph 8), the progress of planting (paragraph 11), and the increased imports (paragraph 43), show that this prosperity is on the increase. As usual, the figures showing the population show a decrease, but the Collector's suggestion (paragraph 4) that this is due to the absence of men in boats or on the mainland at the time of the census is probably correct.

4. The monigar, the retired duffadar of the Collector's office,—who represents Government on the islands, and is paid Rs. 70, appears to have conducted himself well ; his criminal work is good, and the Collector explains reasonably the high percentage of convictions (paragraph 45), his records are good (paragraph 14), and he appears to be popular. As the Collector recommends, therefore (paragraph 51), his pay and position should remain the same. The punchayet system is also in force in the islands, and though the members of it appear to be lazy and disinclined to incur odium, as might be expected in so small a community (paragraph 49), it appears to work well, and the office appears to be held in repute (paragraph 30). The Collector has already ordered the monigar to visit the outlying islands twice a year (paragraph 53). There is a practice of punishing by fine, offences against the "customs" of the island, which appears to bear a wide latitude, and to furnish a summary and useful substitute for a considerable portion of the Civil and Criminal Codes ; the Collector (his paragraph 20) is taking steps to define and limit this power (paragraph 48), but care should be taken not to limit it too much. It does not appear to have been abused, and is probably very well suited to the conditions and circumstances of the islands ; all Inspecting officers appear to be agreed that the patriarchal form of Government is the one most suited to, and most popular in, the island. The question is raised of amalgamating the appointments of monigar and hospital assistant (paragraph 57), but there is a great deal against such a confusion of work and position and hardly anything to be said for it ; the question need not therefore be re-opened. The question is also raised of increasing the monigar's establishment (paragraph 52), but the Collector thinks it sufficient as it is : the clerk gets poor pay, but he appears (paragraph 64) to be more of an attender than a clerk ; the substitution of rice for trees to the kavalgars of amini (paragraph 64), is approved.

5. A proposal is made to keep the pay of the hospital assistant down to Rs. 50, so that he should feel himself subordinate to the monigar (paragraph 35). The Collector approves of this (paragraph 14 of his covering letter), but the obvious objections to it are that the appointment would always be ill-paid, and consequently additionally unpopular, and that when a suitable man—who should certainly be a Muhammadan—is found, he would be withdrawn on promotion just at the time when becoming most useful. The Board cannot therefore support it. Friction would be less, probably, if a Muhammadan were employed—the monigar being of that persuasion. Whoever is sent should accompany the monigar to the outlying islands as suggested.

6. The only Government revenue, proper, comes from the coir monopoly, all coir coming to Government, and being paid for at fixed rates. All parties are agreed that this monopoly should continue (paragraph 10) ; the question is raised of improving the

Order—dated 30th March 1892, No. 310, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government has perused with interest the report submitted by Mr. Cowie on his tour of inspection in the Aminidivi group of the Laccadive islands attached to the South Canara district. The islanders appear to be in a fairly prosperous condition and to be making a steady advance as is evident from the increase in the number of houses and boats and the progress of the import trade. The apparent decrease in population as shown by the Census of 1891 is ascribed to temporary emigration to the mainland, and this explanation is probably correct.

2. The Government concurs in the Board's remarks in paragraphs 4—6 and 8—11 of its Proceedings and sanctions its recommendation in paragraph 6 to increase the allowance of salt from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per candy of coir brought to the mainland.

3. The report called for in paragraph 10 on the subject of education should be submitted for the information of Government.

4. The appointment of a qualified Mussalman midwife will be considered in the Public Department.

5. The reports called for from the Collectors of Malabar and South Canara as to when they propose to make their next visit to the islands will be awaited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with enclosures.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

80 Copies.

1352/21

Gobt. of {1892} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 30th March 1892, No. 310.

MARCH.

**Laccadive Islands.**

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting report of Mr. Cowie, Acting Head Assistant Collector of South Canara, on his visit to the Aminidivi group of the — in 1891.

No. 1356 W d/29 April 92

Communicated to the Supty. Engineer IV circle for information in continuation of G.O. 924 W d/19 March 92, a copy of which will now be communicated to the Rev: Department with reference to the proposal for a clearing an opening into the Amini lagoon.

1st ovts
DW

20 Sc. IV circle
Rev: Dept.