(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 40

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் ஆகஸ்ட் 1990.

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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அரசாணை எண்.
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அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 19-3-1892

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

20 Sheets
(1 Chapter)

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

924/1

READ—the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 18th November 1891, No. 656.

Read—the following letter from W. DUMERGUE, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 29th August 1891, Ref. on C. No. 3473—P. 91:—

I have the honour to submit the following report on my recent inspection of the Laccadive Islands attached to Malabar, and of Minicoy.

2. The British India Steam Navigation Company's Steamer *Kistna*, which had been chartered by Government for the occasion, arrived at Calicut on the 15th January 1891 and having, in accordance with instructions of Government, arranged with the Collector of South Canara to convey Mr. Cowie, the Head Assistant Collector of that district, to Amenidivi, I proceeded on the 17th January, accompanied by Dr. Beech, the District Medical officer, Mr. Hunt, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, North Malabar, and a police escort, to Mangalore. We reached Mangalore on the 19th January and sailed on the evening of the same day with Mr. Cowie for Amenidivi, arriving there on the 20th January. Mr. Cowie then disembarked and the *Kistna* resuming her voyage anchored off Androth on the 21st January. The order in which the islands were visited was Androth, Kalpeni, Kavarathi, Agathi, Suhelipar and Minicoy, but between Kavarathi, where the inspection occupied no less than 16 days, and Agathi, it was found necessary to put back to Mangalore for fresh provisions, and this opportunity was taken of calling for Mr. Cowie at Amenidivi. Finally the *Kistna* left Minicoy on the 14th, and returned to Calicut on the 15th March.

3. The topographical and physical features of the islands have been so fully described by Sir William Robinson in 1848, by Mr. Thomas in 1858, and by Mr. Winterbotham and other officers who have visited them from time to time since 1876, that there is nothing left for me to add on this subject. I propose, therefore, to confine myself to an account of the financial and administrative measures which I found it necessary to adopt in each island and at the end of this report to offer such general remarks as appear to be necessary.

4. The *Kistna* as already stated, arrived at Androth on the 21st January and the inspection of the cowle lands, scrutiny of various registers and disposal of complaints and petitions occupied me ten days. The trees standing on one hundred and fifty-six plots of pandaram or Crown lands, granted on cowle by Mr. Brodie in 1880, were now counted for the first time. In 16 cases remissions, amounting in all to 5 tulams and 70 palams of coir, equivalent to Rs. 8-8-9, were sanctioned in consequence of trees having passed bearing, but in the remaining cases there was a general increase in the tax. Six new cowles were issued for lands hitherto left unoccupied; the whole of the Crown lands being thus disposed of and seventeen items of lands which had been assigned on cowle by the amin in 1887, but leased out on annual rents in 1888, were put up to auction, with the result that in all the seventeen cases the rent was enhanced. The annual lease of the Kacheri park, which had for many years been enjoyed by the amin on a rental of Rs. 60, was also put up to auction and knocked down for Rs. 251. A complete register of all pandaram lands containing particulars of existing trees, names of occupants and term of rent was prepared, and showed an increase of Rs. 352 in the revenue.

5. I regret to report that the leaf disease which did such extensive damage in Kalpeni and Androth in 1876 and which was described by Mr. Winterbotham in paragraph

13 of his letter embodied in Government Order, dated 2nd July 1877, No. 416, Political, has again made its appearance in Androth. The present outbreak was first observed, the islanders told me, about three years ago, and the fact that it was not brought to notice earlier is significant of their general apathy. Even now I doubt if any representation would have been made if I had not by chance wandered off the beaten paths in pursuit of curlew and golden plover and asked why some trees looked sickly and blighted. An examination of such trees showed that 3,253 were affected, that 302 were totally destroyed and that the disease at present prevails only on the eastern side of the island. As, on the former occasion, an insect was said to be the root of the evil, and I must venture to differ from the theory that this is not the case. It appeared to me that the first outward and visible sign of the disease is a kind of scurf which covers first the mid rib of the leaf at its junction with the trunk and gradually spreads over its segments. But in almost every leaf I examined I found under the scurf a black insect or beetle—very minute, it is true, but still distinctly visible if the scurf is carefully removed. It further appeared to me that swarms of black-ants do not infest the trees until the disease is fairly well established, because they were absent in cases where it was only incipient and this fact bears out Mr. Winterbotham's opinion that they are attracted by the blight or scurf. However, I can only place my observations on record and leave it to experts to decide what the true origin of the disease is and whether it can be prevented or cured. In the hope that some remedy may be discovered, I secured, as well as I could, specimens of diseased leaves in bottles and sent them to the Superintendent, Central Museum, Madras. They have now, Mr. Thurston informs me, been forwarded to Calcutta for examination. If no satisfactory conclusion is arrived at, the failure must be attributed to my imperfect attempt at preserving the specimens, but the disease endangers the private and public finances of the island so greatly that it demands serious attention.

Note.—Since the above remarks were written, Mr. Thurston has forwarded to me a letter from the Superintendent, Indian Museum, Calcutta. A copy of the letter forms appendix I.

6. The amin's criminal register disclosed sixty cases filed during the year, and it is satisfactory to note that none of these were cases of grave crime. Thirty-seven cases had been disposed of and twenty-three were still pending. Of these twenty-three, eight had been reserved for the officer visiting the island, and the amin stated that the rest were unimportant and could be disposed of in two days. Considering that three of these cases had been pending for more than six months, there was no valid excuse for the delay.

7. On the civil and miscellaneous register there were 136 petitions, of which 48 were still pending and more than half of these were applications for copies. At first the amin's gumastah stated that copies had been withheld because it was certain that copying fees would not be paid, but when it was pointed out to him that he was not authorised to charge fees, he withdrew this excuse and was not prepared with any other. Some of the applications had been pending for ten months, and copies were, of course, ordered to be made without further delay. At the same time, however, it appeared reasonable that the copyist should be remunerated for his labour and a scale of fees with rules calculated to ensure the grant of copies within a reasonable time was laid down and subsequently made applicable to all the other islands as well.

8. The final census was taken on the 24th January, and the detailed results for Androth and the other islands are embodied in appendix II to this report. It will be sufficient here to remark that the total population of Androth is now 3,320 against 2,599 in 1880, 2,629 in 1876 and 2,576 in 1848. Considering the number of the population, the register of vital statistics, which showed 54 births and 35 deaths in the year, cannot be regarded as trustworthy and the gumastah who seemed throughout imbued with the idea that his whole duty in life was contemplation, except when his own interests were concerned, admitted that he entered only such cases as were reported to him casually.

9. The number of petitions which I had to dispose of on the island, including those presented during my visit and those received on the mainland, was ninety-three. Many of these related to disputes concerning the possession of, and succession to,

924/2

property, moveable and immoveable; others disclosed reluctance on the part of tenants to perform customary service as sailors for their landlords; some, and these bore many signatures, were directed against the amin, charging him with tyranny, bribery and extortion, and a few were filed by the amin himself against sundry islanders. It will be remembered that in 1889 trouble arose in the island when it was found necessary to deport two members of one of the leading families to Calicut as a punishment for opposition to the amin, and the inquiries then made proved that the hand of almost every man in Androth was against the hand of the amin. On that occasion the amin had plausible grounds for complaint, but now, in his anxiety to bring his enemies more completely under his footstool, he was sufficiently ill-advised to make accusation which he could not substantiate and, in the end, what he was pleased to call lawful authority proved to be unlawful persecution. Thus, for instance, he charged Abusala Koya and others with having refused to pay the fines he had inflicted on them for trespass, but a scrutiny of the records showed that not only had a copy of the complaint been refused when applied for by the accused, but also that sentence had been passed without a particle of evidence having been recorded. Again, the amin desired that one Tanga Koya should be punished for disobedience to a summons and asserted most positively that the man had never appeared before him. Unfortunately for the truth of this assertion, a deposition taken by the amin from the said Tanga Koya on the 2nd June 1890 was found on the record.

10. In addition to these and other indications that the amin was not a man of such unswerving integrity as he was at infinite pains to profess, I found that orders which had been issued by Mr. Twigg for the timbers of a boat, abandoned by the *Mahableshwar* some years ago, to be used as a ceiling for the cutcherry had not been carried out. Popular rumour, which the amin ascribed to hostility, said the timbers had been used for the repairs of the amin's own house. It was, of course, impossible to identify the wood, but the fact remained that the amin had disobeyed orders and that the timbers, except a few pieces which were quite useless, had disappeared. The ceiling in question was estimated to cost Rs. 40 and this amount was deducted from the pay due to the amin.

11. Previous accounts of the amin's conduct and capabilities had naturally impressed me in his favour, and I went to Androth fully prepared to give him all necessary support. One of my first acts on arrival was to harangue the assembled council of elders on the depravity of those who arrayed themselves against the local representative of the Government and to threaten all implicated with the direst penalties if they continued stiff-necked and perverse. It may, however, be well supposed that after the instances which I have given, and others, of the amin's own depravity, my faith was considerably shaken, but nevertheless I refused to entertain vague allegations of general misconduct. Matters were finally brought to a climax by a definite charge which I put to the proof and on which it was conclusively established, after full and formal inquiry, that the amin Syed Mahomed Koya had, on the 5th February 1888, exacted an illegal gratification of Rs. 15 from one Komaleth Ahamed Koya as the fee for an order in his favour regarding a certain boat-shed. With this and other evidence on record against the amin, there could no longer be any doubt that the anarchy to which the island had been reduced was due entirely to his vicious and tyrannical administration, and he was therefore dismissed. At the same time it was found necessary to dismiss the gumastah who was the amin's nephew and who, having been appointed on probation, had not only neglected the duties of the office, but was also found to have connived at and actively assisted in the malpractices of which his uncle was guilty.

12. It was then incumbent on me to appoint a new amin, and on consulting the elders of the people I found that they were all, with the exception of the late amin's brother, in favour of Kunnangaleth Cheria Koya. This Cheria Koya and his uncle Yusuf Kanakkapalla Koya were the political *detenus* to whom I have already alluded and it would therefore appear at first sight that neither of them was eligible for the post in question. But after having frequently conversed with Cheria Koya during his banishment at Calicut and watched his demeanour on the island, I formed the opinion that he is not only possessed of more than ordinary intelligence, but is also singularly

inoffensive. It was found in 1889 that he was numbered among the opposition and his temporary removal appeared advisable in the interests of peace, but there is not the slightest doubt that the particular case which led to his deportation was in reality a flagrant attempt at usurpation of property on the part of the late amin under colour of executing an order issued by the Sub-Collector. There is certainly no one else in the island fitted for the post, and under all these circumstances I appointed Cheria Koya to be the amin. But taking into consideration his want of experience, I deemed it advisable that he should accompany me for the rest of my voyage in order that he might compare notes with the inhabitants of the other islands and be initiated in the mysteries of official regulations and routine. He applied himself assiduously to accounts and registers and his tour will, I trust, be the means of introducing a new industry into Androth in the shape of mâs fishing. At Minicoy, where he himself drew a comparison between the energy of the inhabitants and the sloth prevailing on his own island, he was not only fascinated by the sport, but also appreciated the profit and accordingly brought away with him a Minicovite maistry who is to teach him and his compatriots how to build a mâs boat and to catch and preserve the fish.

13. There was no one in the island whom I could select for the post of gumastah, but on returning to Calicut a Muhammadan named Saiyid Ummar, who knows Malayalam and Hindustani and a moderate amount of English and who seemed to be fairly respectable, expressed his willingness to accept this post. He was therefore appointed and has gone to Androth with the amin Cheria Koya.

14. Kalpeni was reached on the 1st February and here there was comparatively little to be done. All the pandaram lands, except the "totams" or garden lands which were leased out on annual rents for the cultivation of sweet potatoes, ragi and other products, are held on cowle and were inspected. Three plots for which cowles were granted in 1882 had only been partially planted and the holders were warned that unless they fulfilled the conditions of their tenure within a year, the cowles would be cancelled. The islet of Cheriam, which is connected with Kalpeni by a coral reef passable at low water, is still covered with brushwood and screw pine and the few trees it contains are miserable specimens of cocoanut palm. It is altogether a barren and unprofitable possession. On the other hand, the islets of Tilakkam and Pitti which lie to the south-west of Kalpeni and were granted on cowle in 1881 are tolerably fertile and have been well planted up, but the terrific violence of the sea during the monsoon may be imagined from the fact that although Tilakkam is protected by a double rampart of coral reefs, full-grown trees are yearly levelled to the ground by the breakers.

15. A single register had been maintained for civil, criminal and miscellaneous petitions, of which only thirty-two in all had been presented during the year. Out of 14 civil cases, 12, and out of 16 criminal cases, 14, had been disposed of. Punishment in the form of a fine of four annas had been inflicted in one case alone and the rest had all been amicably settled.

16. The census of the island was taken on the 3rd February and the total population was recorded as 1,317 against 1,137 in 1880, 1,029 in 1876 and 1,642 in 1848. I am unable to find any explanation for the decrease between 1848 and 1876, but the figures for the subsequent years show a steady increase. The birth and death register appeared to have been more carefully kept than at Androth, and 41 births and 42 deaths were entered for 1890. The high rate of mortality was due to the prevalence of a kind of fever said to be infectious and attended with cough in the months of October, November and December, and out of the whole number that died 24 were children under 10 years of age. It is stated that a similar outbreak occurred in 1885, but with greater severity. Whether the disease was influenza or not is beyond my province to decide.

17. The number of petitions set down for hearing was 46; but these were all of a very trivial nature and the friction between landlords and tenants which prevails to some extent at the other islands is still absent from Kalpeni. Hence although the amin would certainly not be a daring pilot in extremity, nevertheless the policy of *laissez faire laissezaller* which he has pursued during the 50 years he has been in

office under the Cannanore Raja and under Government, is not without its advantages in the contentment of the peaceful and prosperous, if somewhat sluggish, people over whom he is placed in authority.

18. Kavarathi, with its intricate tenures of cowle lands has, before now, demanded a considerable share of attention, and on the present occasion the difficulties were augmented by the state of almost rabid fury to which the amin had succeeded in reducing the islanders. While the Captain of the *Kistna* was cautiously finding an anchorage among the coral reefs, where one cast of the lead showed 5 fathoms of water and the next no bottom at 20 fathoms, the amin, with a crew of small boys in one boat, and his chief opponents who manned another, rowed towards the steamer. The latter naturally won, and scrambling up the ship's side began vociferating their complaints before they had fairly reached the deck. They were pacified by assurances of full inquiry and the same afternoon I landed with the office establishment and records. The passage was one of difficulty not free from danger and for the next three days communication with the steamer was cut off, one boat that tried to cross the reef being swamped.

19. Adopting the course I had followed at Androth and Kalpeni, I proceeded to examine the general state and administration of the island before investigating specific complaints. The most noticeable features of Kavarathi at the outset which struck me were the inferior quality, as compared with Androth and Kalpeni, of the soil and its products, of which the cocoanut palm is chief, and the large area of land lying waste. For the first Nature alone is responsible and there is no remedy, but the second is due to the conditions under which Crown land has hitherto been assigned for cultivation. Those conditions are well suited to islands where the soil is fertile, but it appeared to me from the beginning that in Kavarathi where the palms take much longer in arriving at maturity and decay far sooner than is usual elsewhere, some relaxation of the rules was necessary to protect not only the islanders from poverty, but also the Government from a diminution of revenue. This subject has already attracted attention and in paragraph 19 of his report, dated 15th April 1878, No. 70, printed with Government Order, dated 23rd February 1880, No. 72, Mr. Winterbotham stated that on account of the barrenness of the trees he was unable to secure tenants for the plots numbered Kal Valappu 55 E., Valia Valappu plot 5 and Ali Mussa's Valappu plot 5 in the map. In these there are 146 trees classed by him as in bearing, the produce of which would be gathered by the amin and might be reckoned as worth about Rs. 22 a year. A number of trees which were immature in 1878 must have come into bearing since then, but with all that I found that these plots contained only 78 bearing trees. Thus nearly half the number of trees which were productive twelve years ago have perished or become barren, while nothing has been done to replace them, and this instance may be taken as a fair sample of the condition in which the Crown lands known as padhipadhi are at present.

20. The Crown lands in Kavarathi fall under the denominations — the idiakkal, the nattagam and the padhi-padhi. The idiakkal and nattagam lands are divided into plots which are leased out on a rental of 15 palams (= $4\frac{1}{5}$ pounds) of coir per tree. These are fully occupied and the system did not appear to require any change. The padhi-padhi lands including the swantam pandaram which had hitherto been under the direct management of the amin are so called because according to the old tenure half the rental of each tree, here estimated at 20 palams of coir a year, was collected by the State and half was retained by the lessee. It should be explained in this connection that cocoanut palms are known as tais, kilis, marams, phalams and aphalams according to their various stages of growth. A "tai" is a seedling; a "kili" a sapling; a "maram" a fully developed tree; a "phalam" a tree in bearing, and an aphalam one that is past bearing. Under the padhi-padhi system various trees at various stages of growth in one and the same plot belong to various individuals and a confusion of conflicting claims was the inevitable result. Moreover, the reduction in the rent, noted above, had been offered as an inducement to the islanders to plant up the lands, but had almost entirely failed in its object. A reference to paragraph 17 of Mr. Winterbotham's report printed with the Board's Proceedings (Land Revenue), dated 11th June 1889, No. 401, will show that the padhi-padhi

system has been condemned from the time of Sir William Robinson's visit in 1848 and that attempts have been made to abolish it. But the instructions issued in 1878 appear to have been misunderstood, and it will be seen from the description I have given that the evils of the system were found to be as great as ever. Accordingly, with a view to substitute gradually the cocoanut palm for the screw pine, I offered to grant the padhi-padhi and swantam pandaram lands on cowles to the holders of the largest number of "tais," "kilis" and "marams" in each plot. Compensation was to be paid by the cowledar to the holders of the "tais," "kilis" and "marams" and the lessees of the productive trees were to be allowed to enjoy the produce of such trees till they went out of bearing, but were not to plant new trees in a plot assigned on cowle to another. Lands thus held on cowle were to be free of assessment for 20 years, at the end of which period a rent of 10 palams of coir was to be paid for each tree in bearing and the condition of the cowle was that each plot was to be fully planted up in 5 years. These terms, I am glad to say, were accepted and the result is that all the Crown lands for which, hitherto, no tenant could be found, are now occupied with a certainty, if the conditions of tenure are duly enforced, of being rendered productive instead of lying waste. The terms undoubtedly appear liberal, but these alone were practicable, and considering the terms on which cowles are granted on the mainland, as well as the sterility of the soil at Kavarathi, I do not think they are too liberal. Under these circumstances, therefore, I trust that the arrangement will meet with approval.

21. Two registers, one of civil and the other of criminal cases, had been maintained by the amin for the year 1890 and the former showed that out of 120 suits all but 14 had been disposed of. But of 96 criminal cases which had also been decided, there were 24 cases of mischief, 12 of theft, 3 of assault, 11 of trespass, 1 of contempt of court, 3 of non-attendance at the hauling up of "odams," 1 of escape from jail, 1 of obstructing the launch of an "odam" and 2 of importation of articles not mentioned in the manifest. Some of these cases came up to me in appeal and inquiry proved that where the accused was hostile to the amin, the punishment inflicted was savagely out of proportion to the offence. Many of the judgments had been written not by the amin, but by his gumastah; in two cases the original sentence had been erased and a warning substituted, and in one case the amin had forged the signature of some of the elders. The register of applications for copies of records contained 66 entries and copies had been granted only in 33 cases. The amin's excuse for delay with regard to the rest was that the applicants had not furnished paper, but this was shown to be false.

22. The final census of the island was taken on the 8th February and according to this the total population is 2,126 against 1,979 in 1880, 2,016 in 1876 and 2,060 in 1848. The registration of vital statistics had been carried on satisfactorily by the amin's gumastah and showed that there had been 70 deaths and 51 births during 1890.

23. The total number of petitions disposed of by me was 141. Most of them related to complaints of tresspass, to claims for restitution of dowry after divorce, to the division of property and to disputes between landlords and tenants in the matter of service to be rendered by the latter in sailing the vessels belonging to the former. Many of the complaints regarding property were directed against the amin, and the extent of his unpopularity in the island was shown by the fact that in more than one case a charge of rape was added to the other counts in the indictment. This charge was not substantiated, but the investigation of it left no doubt that the amin's conduct had justly exasperated the feelings of the islanders in a tender point. The irregularities he had committed under pretence of administering justice amounted to cruelty and oppression and finally, when his accounts were scrutinized, a defalcation of Rs 768 was discovered. A criminal prosecution and deportation to the mainland were promptly threatened, but before I left Kavarathi the amin contrived to borrow the money necessary to avert this fate. He had been appointed on probation in 1887, and the various offences of which he had been proved guilty rendered his removal from office compulsory. In succession to him I appointed one Tanga Koya who is the leading man in the island, and being descended from one of the Arab priests who

924/4

originally converted the islanders to the faith of Islam, is regarded with veneration not only in Kavarathi, but also in other islands where he is not unfrequently called upon to act as arbitrator in disputes.

24. After leaving Kavarathi, conveying Mr. Cowie to Mangalore and taking in provisions, the course of the *Kistna* was directed to Agathi. There the administration of the amin, notwithstanding his inability to read or write, and in spite of the opposition offered by his predecessor, who was dismissed, is most satisfactory in discretion, vigour and impartiality. Unfortunately the amin Kasmi Koya has been threatened with paralysis, but this did not prevent him from skilfully harpooning, on the way to Bungaram, one of the reefs attached to Agathi, an enormous skate which towed the boat some distance before it was finally secured.

25. The trees standing on the Crown lands, of which the area is small and the quality poor, were counted and the result was a net increase of 3 tulams and 43 palams (= 96½ pounds) of coir. The cowles granted for five survey plots were cancelled, as the cowledars had failed to fulfil the conditions and, as no one would take up the lands, they were left in charge of the amin, who was instructed to plant them up on behalf of Government, keeping accounts of receipts and expenditure. This was the only arrangement possible and, as a matter of fact, the cultivation of the cocoanut is of less account in Agathi than in the other islands, because the trees are less remunerative. Hence the inhabitants devote more attention to other means of livelihood and derive considerable profit from the manufacture and sale of the hats or caps worn by the Cingalese. Each of these fetches from Rs. 9 to Rs. 12, and the manufacture of each occupies a man or boy about a fortnight.

26. The islets of Bungaram, Tinnakara and Parli which are enclosed by an extensive reef, about 5 miles to the north of Agathi and Kalpitti, which is connected by a reef with Agathi on the south, were duly inspected. Parli is very diminutive, and in Bungaram and Tinnakara the screw pine is as luxuriant as ever. All these four islands were held on an annual rental of Rs. 1,000 by the ex-amin and I found that the existing cocoanut trees were rapidly going out of bearing, while reproduction was entirely neglected. The screw pine jungle is far too formidable to be attacked by a tenant with a short lease, and I accordingly rented Bungaram, Tinnakara and Parli to the amin for 20 years on payment of Rs. 1,100 a year and on condition that 500 trees are planted every year. Kalpitti I rented out separately to one A. Kutti Koya for the same period on payment of Rs. 100 per annum and subject to the condition that 250 trees are yearly planted. It will be observed that by this arrangement the annual rental has been increased by Rs. 200, while provision has been made for converting the islets into a permanent source of profit instead of permitting them to relapse into barrenness.

27. Under Mr. Logan's orders a fee of 2 annas was charged on every fishing boat visiting the three northern islets and this measure was intended to protect the lessee against theft of produce. The islanders, however, complained of the impost as a great grievance and, with the consent of the new lessee, I suspended it on condition that a free pass is obtained from the amin for each boat and that each boat is subjected on its return to the main island to examination by the amin or his authorised agent. At the same time I informed the islanders that if the concession is abused, the fee will be reimposed and doubled.

28. On the way to Bungaram we passed near the wreck of the *Mahableshwar* lying in 3 fathoms of water. The iron rails and Portland cement which had formed part of the vessel's cargo were distinctly visible and the cement had petrified into the shape of the casks which had held it, though the casks themselves had disappeared. This wreckage was sold 3 years ago to a man from Mangalore, but until he consents to pay the islanders reasonable wages for diving, it is likely to remain where it is as a playground for fishes.

29. In this connection it may be noted that about 2 months before my arrival at Agathi a number of railway sleepers had been cast up by the sea and a still larger number was found at Suhelipar. These have been disposed of in due course, but they bore no mark by which the vessel which carried them could be traced.

30. The census of the island was taken on the 25th February. The total population was 1,354 against 1,264 in 1880, 1,290 in 1876 and 1,545 in 1848. It was also found that there were 171 strangers temporarily resident in the island. Twenty-seven births and seventeen deaths had been registered during the year and though the death-rate seems to be below the average, the register appeared to have been properly maintained. One remarkable point with regard to these vital statistics is the number of venerable patriarchs on the island who have retained all the vigour of athletic youth. Generally speaking these islanders appeared to me to excel in physique the inhabitants of Androth, Kalpeni and very decidedly Kavarathi and to be inferior only to the men of Minicoy.

31. There were 42 cases entered on the amin's criminal register. None of these were of a serious nature and all had been disposed of satisfactorily. As an instance of the amin's impartiality to which I have already referred, it may be noted that he fined his own son smartly for disobedience of summons. In the civil register there were 23 cases on file and among them was included by mistake a case of theft. The accused had been fined Rs. 5 by the amin and had refused to pay; then he had been fined Rs. 10 for contempt and remained recalcitrant. Hence, the case was left for my disposal, with the consequence that the fines already imposed were exacted and an additional fine of Rs. 15 inflicted for mutiny against the amin and, therefore, indirectly against the Government. Only 8 applications for copies of records had been made during the year, and of these 7 had been complied with, while the copy in the remaining case was ready for delivery.

32. The number of appeals and miscellaneous petitions presented to me was only thirty-one, and most of these related to ordinary questions of possession, divorce and partition. Some, however, contained complaints against the amin and inquiry proved that they were false and malicious. I fined a malcontent Rs. 25 and discovering that some of the elders including the ex-amin had banded themselves together to destroy the amin's authority by foul means, removed their names from the list of Karanavars. Before I left the island the amin obtained leave for 6 months in order that he might place himself under medical treatment in Madras, but he has not availed himself of it yet.

33. It may be interesting, as a matter of natural history, if I here record the fact that on two of the evenings spent at Agathi an overpowering fish-like odour mingled with reminiscences of stale seaweed and acetic acid was blown from the sea. The islanders said it was caused by shoals of some kind of black fish at a great distance. This latter circumstance was fortunate, as otherwise the *Kistna* would have been compelled to weigh anchor and retreat at full speed.

34. From Agathi the *Kistna* proceeded to Suhelipar which consists in reality of two islets about 5 miles apart. Neither of these is inhabited and both are held by two Kavarathi islanders on an annual rental of Rs. 435 and on the condition that 500 cocoanut trees are planted every year. The lessees visit Suhelipar every year for the purpose not only of collecting cocoanuts, but also of catching turtle and fish with which the sea there literally swarms. In illustration of this fact, I may, perhaps, be permitted to mention that the result of fishing with hand lines off the steamer for about two hours in the evening was the capture of 30 fish (chiefly red perch) weighing from 2 to 10 pounds.

35. On inspection of the islands I found that some attempt had been made to plant trees in accordance with the condition of the lease, but, as might be expected in the absence of constant attention, was abortive. The soil appeared to me excellent, but in one of the islands there is no drinking water and in the other there is only one well, which affords a scanty supply. Here lies the chief obstacle to colonization, but if it could be overcome these islets would form a flourishing settlement. The lessees were anxious to renew their lease, but as Mr. Winterbotham had recorded a note to the effect that the men of Minicoy wished to establish a station at Suhelipar for mâs fishing, I declined to make any arrangement until I had ascertained what terms could be secured at Minicoy, and requested the lessees to come and see me at Calicut. But unfortunately at Minicoy the idea of renting Suhelipar was repudiated and as I left Calicut for a tour through the district almost immediately on my return,

924/5

I was unable to make any fresh agreement with the present lessees, one of whom I saw as I was starting for the railway station. Matters must therefore remain exactly as they are until the islands are revisited.

36. Minicoy now alone remained to be visited and the *Kistna's* anchor was dropped off the reef on the western side of the island on the 6th March. Here I anticipated more trouble than elsewhere, but, as will be seen hereafter, this anticipation was not realised. Setting my establishment to work on checking the registers and accounts, I devoted the first two days after arrival to making acquaintance with the people and the island. Difficulty of communication with the people has been considered the chief impediment in the administration of Minicoy, but with the utmost respect for my predecessors, I must express my opinion that the difficulty is far less substantial than is supposed. It is true that the Minicovites are ignorant of Malayalam, but so far from knowing only a few broken words of Hindustani, some of them talk that language fluently, and a few can read and write it. Minicoy is said to be governed by women and although the inhabitants are most orthodox followers of the Prophet, the women are not "Gosha." Hence I deemed it my duty to discover the views entertained by the ladies of Minicoy on the domestic policy of the island and with the help of a Hindustani interpreter found my task was easy. The troubles which have of late years befallen Minicoy and the officers visiting it have been too fully discussed to require repetition here, and all I need say is that the women of Minicoy united in ascribing them to the tyranny, rapacity and mendacity of the amin Ali Malikhan. The truth of these accusations was subsequently established by the records of the amin's stewardship.

37. The fiscal system of Minicoy differs from that of the Laccadives in the absence of monopolies and in the fact that with the exception of a very few plots all the land belongs to the Crown. The State derives its revenue from—

(1) Cocoanuts from the Crown lands kept under its own management.
(2) Rent on Crown lands leased to tenants.
(3) Poll-tax.
(4) Tax on vessels trading with Bengal.
(5) Tax on fishing boats.

The last two are taxes on industry and although they are light the question of substituting a less objectionable mode of taxation should, I think, be considered when a suitable opportunity arises. Of all the sources of revenue, the most important, and those principally under the control of the amin, are the cocoanuts from and rent of Crown lands. These lands consist of the South Pandaram managed directly by the State through the amin and of the Valiapattam, the Attiripattam or village sites and the Dandus or gardens rented to tenants.

38. The amin was appointed in December 1884 and it will be seen from the statement (appendix III) showing the number of nuts brought to account from 1875, the year in which the islands were attached, to 1890, that the yearly average of 364,179 nuts obtained from 1875 to 1884 declined to 144,972 between 1885 and 1890. The former average includes one very bad year, when only 1,218 nuts were collected and if the average of the six years preceding 1885 is taken, it will be found to be 402,025. The decrease during this amin's term of office has been attributed to the ravages of rats and this theory was apparently started by the amin himself. But giving the rats all possible credit in the matter, it seems to me utterly incredible that they should have increased and multiplied to such a remarkable extent or developed such remarkable energy as to effect such a remarkable reduction in the produce of these trees. As a matter of fact, no mention of rats was made by the islanders until I questioned them and then they scoffed at the idea that the rats were the cause of the great and sudden decrease in the cocoanut crop. The reason they assigned was very different. They stated that the amin made a practice of sending his people into the South Pandaram to collect the fallen cocoanuts on the day before the one appointed for the monthly gathering and that he had lately despatched a vessel laden with 50,000 cocoanuts to the Maldives. Considering the hostility of the islanders towards the amin, their statements had of course to be received with caution, but were ultimately corroborated by the irregularities in the amin's accounts. I found three sets

of accounts maintained for the collection of nuts. One was prepared by the gumastah showing the particulars of collection and sale; another was kept by the amin himself in Mahl, in the form of a daily register and again all the transactions were entered or supposed to be entered by the gumastah in a daily register written in Malayalam. Although these accounts should tally with each other, it transpired from the amin's own register that 19,386 nuts had been collected on the 14th December 1890, but there was no corresponding entry in the regular register maintained by the gumastah in Malayalam. Many other irregularities were discovered and finally in addition to the nuts mentioned above, there appeared in the store a deficiency of 578 nuts which the amin was compelled to disgorge.

39. With regard to the Valiapattam lands, the state of things was equally unsatisfactory. A register of these lands was prepared by Mr. Twigg in 1889, and a vernacular copy furnished to the amin for guidance. The total demand according to this register is Rs. 639–2–0 and the amin stated verbally that he had collected up to date Rs. 423–4–0, but no entry to this effect appeared in the accounts and the amin was unable to define the lands in respect of which the collection had been made. Again 22 plots of Valiapattam lands which were not leased in 1889 had been left in charge of the amin who was at the same time ordered to keep accounts of receipts and expenditure. No such accounts had been kept and the amin declared that he had been able to collect only 600 nuts from one plot only and only in December and January. But the islanders said that these plots used to yield between 40,000 and 50,000 nuts a year and Mr. Twigg's register showed 1,411 bearing trees. Taking the average yield of a tree even at 50 nuts a year, the number which ought to have been brought to account was 70,000 in round numbers and it is as clear on this point that the amin was guilty of fraud and falsehood as it is that the islanders were innocent of exaggeration.

40. Of the village sites and garden lands, no register had been prepared and no account had been kept of the demand and collection although strict orders had been issued on these points in 1889. One plot of village site land was held by the amin's wife on an yearly rent of Rs. 2–12–0, but when the lease was put up to auction, it fetched Rs. 20–8–0. As with regard to the items of revenue already noticed, so with regard to the poll-tax, tax on fishing boats and the tax on vessels trading with Bengal, no registers had been prepared.

41. The adjustment of the amin's accounts further showed that he had drawn pay for his establishment (the gumastah being his son) for two months in excess. Precisely the same arrangement had been detected in the adjustment of accounts for 1888 and the amin was then duly warned. Moreover, it was found in the adjustment of accounts for 1889 that the amin had withheld Rs. 500 due to the State and it appeared subsequently that he had used this money for private trade in rice. It was now discovered that in defiance of orders he had repaid only Rs. 100, and the remainder was therefore levied under threat of a criminal prosecution. Various other acts of rascality, with which I do not think it necessary to burden the report, were proved against the amin and he was finally dismissed on an indictment containing seventeen charges and his son, the gumastah, was also dismissed.

42. After his dismissal the ladies of the island were summoned to attend my court and were asked to name his successor. They said, however, that they preferred leaving the matter to me. There was undoubtedly only one man in the island of sufficient position and influence to occupy the post of amin and this was Dom Malikhan, the brother of Ali Malikhan, a former amin. Of late Dom Malikhan has been in bad odour, apparently because he is the richest man in the island, because he is supposed to be hostile to free trade and because he has not rendered active assistance in clearing jungle. The possession of riches, however, is not yet regarded as a crime or a disqualification, and there is absolutely nothing on record to indicate that Dom Malikhan has ever directly or indirectly opposed either free trade or the clearance of the jungle. When, under these circumstances, I suggested that Dom Malikhan should be amin, the female parliament expressed unanimous approbation and I made the appointment accordingly. Dom Malikhan was himself absent from Minicoy, but his wife assured me he would eventually accept the post and her prophecy has been

924/6

fufilled. As, however, Dom Malikkan is frequently away from the island on trading excursions, I arranged that, during his absence, business shall be transacted in his name by his son-in-law, Mussa Malikhan, and this arrangement has also been acquiesced in. Finally, I reinstated as gumastah Gulam Kadir who was removed from Minicoy on the representation made by the late amin. That Gulam Kadir is the late amin's enemy is undoubtedly true, but considering the facts which have now come to light, this is a strong point in Gulam Kadir's favour. Having made these arrangements, I left detailed instructions for the administration of the island, the collection of revenue and the management of the Crown lands, and I trust that, when Minicoy is next visited, the result will be found satisfactory.

43. A combined register had been opened for criminal and civil cases and was unintelligible in its details. Only one charge of a serious offence had been recorded and this had been withdrawn. The offender in this case was not an islander, but the ward cooly attached to the Medical establishment, and had threatened to stab the compounder with a hunting knife. I convicted him of an offence under section 506, Indian Penal Code, and to prevent such offences, hitherto unknown in the island, from becoming fashionable, sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for two years. This sentence has been reduced by the Court of Session to one year and the records have now been called for by the High Court, apparently to form ground for a decision on the question of jurisdiction.

44. The tidal observatory is now complete and its operations are in progress. Orders were issued for the erection of a house for the Superintendent who undertook that the expenses shall be paid by his department.

45. The final census was taken on the 8th and 9th March and showed the total population to be 3,730 against 3,195 in 1880 and 2,800 in 1876. As bearing on the policy which is hereafter to be observed with regard to Minicoy, it is important to note that out of a total population of 1,788 men and boys, 451 men were absent on voyages to different parts of the world.

46. In considering this policy, the points to which attention has especially been drawn (*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 11th June 1889, No. 401) are the breaking up of Dom Malikhan's monopoly of the rice trade and the reclamation of the jungles, and it seems to have been decided that the monopoly must be broken down and that the jungle must be cleared. The so-called monopoly has been condemned chiefly because, as far as I am able to understand the question, the poorer classes have to work from morning to night, and because Dom Malikhan, having the food-supply entirely in his own hands, can dictate his own terms of barter. It has also been reported that, as Dom Malikhan is master of the situation, the rice which he barters for coir, cocoanuts and fish, is not only inferior, but actually unwholesome. But some officers, including myself who have examined the rice at Dom Malikhan's shop, have found that it is of the same quality as that consumed by the poorer classes on the mainland and that, as on the mainland, a better quality is kept for those who can or will afford it. Why a superior state of things should be expected at Minicoy is difficult to understand. As for the poorer classes having to work from morning to night, this is unfortunately not peculiar to Minicoy, but is and until Utopia is discovered, will be the common lot of the poorer classes all over the world. In the next place the representation of Dom Malikhan as a rapacious tyrant dictating his own terms of barter is contained in Mr. Winterbotham's letter to the Board, dated 1st November 1888, No. 4057 R., printed with Board's Proceedings (Land Revenue), dated 20th March 1889, No. 208, but on this point I would invite attention to paragraphs 40 and 41 of his report, dated 9th September 1889, No. 2877, Public, printed with Government Order, dated 18th December 1889, No. 665, Political. Therein Mr. Winterbotham states that "it is only fair to Dom Malikhan to say that his prices will probably defy foreign competition" and that "I confess that I think we have underrated his expenses, the difficulties with which he had to contend and the extent to which his prices have been kept down by fear of lynch law." Considering the views which had previously been expressed, which had been enforced by the deportation of some islanders, and in consequence of which even Dom Malikhan's own deportation had been suggested, I do not think that any stronger arguments than the passage

under reference could be found against the theory that Dom Malikhan's trade itself is the curse of Minicoy. Another point which has been raised in this connection is the opposition which appeared to have been offered on the island to free trade, but no one is better qualified to speak on this point than the Cutch merchant who was induced to transfer part of his trade to Minicoy, and he assured me personally that he had encountered opposition from no one except the amin himself. This fact throws a new light on the circumstance that one of the charges against the amin's enemies who were deported in 1889 was that they were the opponents of free trade. An additional proof that the islanders themselves present no obstacles to free trade is to be found in the presence at Minicoy of some petty traders from Cannanore, not under the auspices of the Collector, but on their own responsibility. Having disposed of their wares by free trade, they asked me to give them a free passage to the mainland, and this I would have done had they not enticed away a Minicoy woman and attempted to smuggle her on board—a proceeding which I could not countenance. After Mr. Winterbotham's declaration on the subject, it is difficult to see what benefit free trade (granting that it does not exist at present) would confer on Minicoy, so far as the food-supply is concerned. The only result of direct interference on behalf of Government in sending a merchant from the mainland was to leave the islanders starving for three days until Dom Malikhan returned from an expedition to the Maldives, and I would strongly deprecate a repetition of the experiment. The only way in which Government can effectually and safely interfere is, as Mr. Twigg puts it, "to play the merchant itself," but I submit that the present system is not attended with such evils as to justify this new departure. The theory of exorbitant prices is demolished by Mr. Winterbotham himself and the theory of starvation is equally destroyed by the physique of the islanders which has excited the admiration of nearly every officer who has visited Minicoy. But apart from such arguments, I think that the facts I have recorded prove conclusively that trade with Minicoy is already free and that the only impediment to its expansion is the isolated position of the island. This cannot be changed to order, but if trade with Minicoy can be made profitable, it may be regarded as certain that traders will embark on it, as did the petty merchants of Cannanore mentioned above. Reform is undoubtedly required in many directions, but has been retarded by the anomalous position which Government has hitherto held with regard to Minicoy and the Southern Laccadives, and I submit that the development of free trade instead of being forced on prematurely should be allowed to follow in the train of future progress and civilization.

47. The second great change which has been declared necessary in Minicoy is the reclamation of the jungles in order "both to improve the sanitary condition of the island and to divert a portion of the population from a seafaring life to cultivation of the soil." From the stress which has been laid on this subject, I expected to find a greater portion of Minicoy a howling wilderness of screw pine which has been said to "embrace about two-thirds of the Big South Pandaram," but, as a matter of fact, this description is less applicable to any part of Minicoy than to many parts of Androth, Kavarathi and Agathi. Without doubt there is an abundance of screw pine, but equally without doubt there is an abundance of cocoanut trees growing in and towering above the jungle. Mr. Winterbotham himself estimates the number of palms in the South Pandaram at a hundred thousand or more, and if, as has been supposed, they were steadily going out of bearing, while none were coming on to replace them, a steady decrease in the number of nuts would surely be the consequence. But the statement given in appendix III, showing the annual collections of nuts for many years, proves that this is not the case. Trees of course are going out of bearing, but the fact is that it has always been regarded as a part of the amin's duty to plant new ones and an inspection of the South Pandaram left no doubt in my mind that the former amin, Dom Malikhan's brother, had discharged this duty as faithfully as the amin, whom I have dismissed, had neglected it conspicuously. The reluctance of the islanders to clear the jungle has been condemned as "pig-headed obstinacy," but with all deference to the opinion of officers who have had far more experience than I have enjoyed, I am bound to say that the obstinacy is not altogether unreasonable. No mention was made on the occasion of my visit of

gnq/7

goblins or devils, but I was assured that, owing to the shallowness of the soil, the screw pine is absolutely necessary for the protection of young palms until they are strong enough to resist the heat of the sun. That there is truth in this assertion was proved by a comparison of young trees of about the same age, some of which had been planted in shade and some in a clearing. The former were fresh and vigorous and the latter sickly and stunted. But a still more cogent proof is afforded by the fact that a clearance of jungle which was effected a few years ago and considered a bright augury for the future of Minicoy has resulted in a barren blinding waste of white sand. Six thousand seedlings were planted therein, but it now contains infinitely fewer and far inferior saplings than will be found in any plot of the same extent within the jungle. On this ground alone it appears to me that a wholesale clearance of the jungle is anything but desirable, and I further submit that, as regards the sanitary condition of the island, the unhealthiness of the jungle has yet to be proved. It is true that the Civil Apothecary who accompanied the expedition to the island in 1887 stated that the dense screw pine jungle afforded materials for marsh miasma, but another Apothecary, in 1889, pointed out that only three cases of malarial miasma had come under his notice, that only two of them had apparently been contracted on the island itself and that the strong sea breeze convey the emanations from the jungle not to the inhabited portion of the island, but to the eastern sea. In this difference of opinion facts must come to the rescue and these are that the light-house-keepers who live surrounded with jungle but at a distance from the pits in which coir is soaked, do not complain of ill-health, while such cases of fever as have occurred have been restricted to the village where there is no jungle in the immediate vicinity but where coir pits abound. The inference is that the coir pits and not the jungles are the origin of malarial evil as they certainly are of the plague of mosquitoes, and with the assistance of Cheria Koya, the new Androth amin, I instructed the islanders how to make coir pits in salt water at the edge of the lagoon instead of in fresh water near their houses. If this plan is adopted there is no doubt that the sanitary condition of the island will improve, but the conclusion which I could draw at present is that the necessity for clearing the jungle in the interests of sanitation has not been established.

48. With regard to the rival advantages of a seafaring life and cultivation of the soil, I have already indicated what the nature of the soil is when the jungle is cleared, and the gradual abandonment of the so-called gardens, which are really paddy flats and were evidently made at the cost of enormous labour by previous generations, shows that importation has been found more profitable than cultivation. On the other hand, Mr. Winterbotham has most clearly pointed out in paragraph 37 of his letter printed with Government Order, dated 18th December 1889, No. 665, Political, that the supply of cocoanut trees is already ample; while the Board in paragraph 2 (*c*) of its Proceedings (Land Revenue), dated 11th June 1889, No. 401, has recognized the fact that the capacity of the island for producing sufficient food-supply for its inhabitants is utterly inadequate. I would therefore, under these circumstances, most respectfully ask why a part of the population should be diverted against their will from a seafaring life which gives the men constant employment and is healthy and remunerative to cultivation of a barren soil under conditions which would tend to make sluggards of the men and bring men, women and children really near the starvation of which at present they show no signs. The women have already as much coir to manufacture as they can manage, and deducting the number of men who go down to the sea in ships, the remainder left in the island is only sufficient to furnish crews for the mâs boats. Mâs fishing is carried on every day of the year except Fridays and during the height of the monsoon; and the ordinary take for each boat is 200 to 300 fish a day. In paragraph 40 of his report referred to above, Mr. Winterbotham points out that an island "nina" of rice worth one anna and a half exchanges for 8 skins of coir or 8 cocoanuts or 8 pieces of smoked mâs * fish, that the profits on coir and cocoanuts are infinitesimal and that the profits of mâs fish amount to about 400 per cent. The computation has reference to the Calicut market alone and the islanders informed me that their smoked fish fetches far higher prices at Singapore and certain other places with which they

* (Boneta).

Note.—Mâs fish weigh from 7 to 14 pounds and each fish is cut up into two or four pieces according to size.

trade than it does in Malabar. Taking all these facts into consideration, I would submit that there is as little justification for attempting the transformation of Minicoy sailors into agriculturists as there would be for attempting the conversion of Yarmouth fishermen into ploughboys.

49. Considering the importance which has been attached to the reclamation of the jungle, I trust that no apology is necessary for placing before the Board and Government the other side of the question, even though the discussion has made this tedious report more tedious still and there is yet one point which I would bring to notice. This is that when the islanders were ordered to exterminate most of the screw pine, no substitute was offered them and the alarm which they felt at the prospect of their limited resources being still further curtailed accounts in a great measure for their reluctance to carry out the instructions given. Now, however, they have expressed not only their willingness, but also their wish to remove some of the superfluous screw pine if some more useful tree is given them in its place. Many trees which would supply fuel and timber could, I think, be introduced with great advantage and the first exotic which I would suggest for experiment not only in Minicoy, but also in the Laccadives, is the casuarina. If the experiment is successful, the casuarina would not only in a few years be valuable as firewood and for building materials, but would also, planted in belts on the shore, protect the cocoanut trees by breaking the force of the wind and, in course of time, increase the area of each island by reclamations from the sea.

50. In reporting on the circumstance of each island individually, I have endeavoured to confine myself to the weightier matters of the law without taking tithe of mint and cummine, but there still remain for consideration a few points common to all or nearly all the islands. The financial position of the islands will be dealt with in the annual administration report, but in appendix IV of this report will be found a statement of exports and imports during the year 1890, and will, I trust, be useful in showing the present capabilities and requirements of each island.

51. Vaccination was carried on by the Apothecary who accompanied the expedition under the supervision of the District Medical officer with considerable success, but I must leave the details of this and kindred subjects and the inspection of the leper settlement at Minicoy to be dealt with by Dr. Beech himself.

52. At Minicoy there were no complaints except as regards the late amin, but at the Laccadives the universal complaint was that coir is always put in the second class. The old reply was given that, if they brought first-class coir, they would be paid first-class prices, but while on this subject I would suggest the introduction of a hand-power spinning-jenny into Androth as an experiment. In all the islands eye diseases are very prevalent and are ascribed by the islanders themselves to the irritation caused by the particles of hand-twisted coir flying into the eyes. In improving the length and quality of the coir, it seems to me that the spinning-jenny would prove advantageous to the Government as well as to the islanders. Another representation made at Androth, Kalpeni and Kavarathi was the desirability of blasting a passage into the lagoons. At Androth this is not only desirable, but necessary, as the present entrance is dangerous and two "odams" were wrecked on it last year. The extent of blasting required here would be small, but at Kavarathi and Kalpeni it is far too great to be undertaken at present.

53. Education is still very backward and at the time of my visit schools existed only at Kalpeni, Kavarathi and Agathi with 11, 20 and 14 boys on the rolls, respectively. Attendance was least unsatisfactory at Kavarathi and most unsatisfactory at Agathi where the charms and profits of hat-making outweigh those of education. But in all the islands except Agathi a great desire was expressed for tuition in English and Hindustani and I strongly support Mr. Winterbotham's opinion that Hindustani would be far more useful to the islanders than Malayalam. Malayalam will not carry them beyond Malabar, which is already overcrowded, while with a knowledge of Hindustani all India at least lies before them. I have not yet been able to make any improved arrangements for Kalpeni, Kavarathi and Agathi, but the new gumastah whom I have appointed for Androth has, as stated already, undertaken to teach Hindustani as well as Malayalam on a total salary of Rs. 25 a month and Minicoy is still more fortunate in that the Hospital compounder, Ibrahim Khan, who

924/8

has been well educated and bears an excellent character, is able to teach English, Hindustani and Malayalam. He has been appointed schoolmaster in addition to his other duties on a salary of Rs. 20 a month with a promise of result grants, and considering the benefits which are likely to accrue, I trust that my action will meet with approval.

54. The questions of continuing the monopoly and of the settlement have already been temporarily decided and it appears to me that any further discussion of them in this report is unnecessary as the islands are still merely under attachment. The two questions are, however, inseparably connected with each other and at present the islanders are strongly opposed to any change. They are also resolved never again to submit themselves to the rule of Sultan Ali Rajah of Cannanore.

55. In conclusion, I would remark that whatever system of administration may be adopted eventually, no system can be carried out satisfactorily unless the Collector of Malabar or the Collectors of Malabar and South Canara are provided with the means of visiting the islands at frequent intervals in person or by deputy. On the one hand the occasional loan of the steamer provided for the pearl fisheries has led to a very perfunctory discharge of the duties connected with the islands and it will be found on almost every such occasions that work had to be left undone because the steamer could not be detained; on the other hand, the expenditure incurred in chartering a steamer from the British India Company for one trip alone would almost be sufficient to buy a steam yacht, and I submit, for consideration, a rough specification, prepared with the assistance of the Chief Engineer of the *Kistna*, of a vessel which would be admirably suited to the purposes required. The vessel should be of 150 or 200 tons burden, copper-bottomed, double bottom fore and aft, ballast tanks forming the double bottom; light draught 5 feet, deep draught 10 feet; bunker capacity for 1,000 miles to steam 8 or 9 knots; two masts with fore and aft sails; light fore deck forward; room on deck for three European passengers, two officers and two engineers forward and ten crew aft. Engine room and deck stores complete. If I am correctly informed a steamer of this description would be built by Messrs. Fleming and Ferguson, Engineers and Shipbuilders, Paisley, whose speciality is engines of small compass and great power, at a cost of under £4,000 and when not required for the inspection of the islands would be useful for a variety of other objects. Thus for instance there is a complaint in the Forest Department that little revenue is derived from teak saplings in Malabar and the steamer I have described could well be utilized for conveying these saplings and other timber to places where the market is brisk. Again, it will be seen from the island administration report that the prices realized for coir at Calicut are depressed and one cause certainly is lack of competition. If as I have suggested the quality of the coir is improved, better markets might be found at Calcutta and Bombay. In this case the steamer would be most useful in helping to increase the revenue derived from the islands. At the same time, in addition to the original outlay, the expenses of officering, manning and maintaining the steamer must be taken into account, but there can be no doubt that constant communication with the islands is absolutely essential for their proper administration and ultimate development.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. C. COTES, Esq., to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, Madras, dated Indian Museum, Calcutta, 15th May 1891.

Your letter, dated 5th instant, on the subject of a disease attacking cocoanut trees in the Laccadive Islands.

The specimens have safely arrived and I find the leaves thickly beset with coccid scale insect which would be quite sufficient to account for the injury reported.

I have not succeeded in identifying the species to which the scale insect belongs, so have sent on some of the specimens to New Zealand to Mr. Maskell who has made a special study of the coccidæ and will probably be able to identify the species.

Areca catechu palms in the Bombay Presidency have lately been suffering seriously from attack of the coccid *chionaspis aspidistræ*, but, as far as I can make out, the Laccadive insect belongs to a very distinct species.

The most successful method of destroying scale insects is generally agreed to consist in spraying them with kerosine and soap emulsions, but I am not in a position to say to what extent

this treatment is practicable in the present case. Details of the treatment will be found in a note on *Insecticide* which appeared in 1888 as No. 2 of my *Notes on Economic Entomology*, copies of which were forwarded to you at the time of publication. I propose to publish the interesting note you have sent to me in the periodical *Indian Museum Notes*, of which copies are regularly sent to you as they appear.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

STATEMENT showing the results of the census of the population and of cattle of the islands attached to the Malabar district taken at different times (including the latest one of the year 1891).

Islands.	Population as per census of 1848.			Population as per census of 1876.			Population as per census of 1880.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Androth	..	..	2,576	1,243	1,386	2,629	1,273	1,326	2,599
2. Kalpeni	..	..	1,642	482	547	1,029	540	597	1,137
3. Kavarathi	..	..	2,060	992	1,024	2,016	972	1,007	1,979
4. Agathi	..	..	1,545	624	666	1,290	594	670	1,264
5. Minicoy	Not visited.		..	1,238	1,562	2,800	1,429	1,766	3,195
Total ..	..	..	..	4,579	5,185	9,764	4,808	5,366	10,174

Islands.	Population as per census of 1891.			Total births in 1890.	Total deaths in 1890.	Cattle census of 1891.			
	Male.	Female.	Total.			Cows.	Calves.	Bulls.	Goats.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1. Androth	1,658	1,662	3,320	54	35	212	22	24	468
2. Kalpeni	665	652	1,317	41	42	143	20	9	267
3. Kavarathi	1,090	1,036	2,126	70	51	77	18	16	327
4. Agathi	668	686	1,354	27	17	73	23	8	175
5. Minicoy	1,788	1,942	3,730	16	19	7	5	2	25
Total ..	5,869	5,978	11,847	208	164	512	88	59	1,262

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

STATEMENT showing the number of cocoanuts sent over from Minicoy from 1875, the year in which the islands were attached, up to the end of 1890.

Year.	Number of cocoanuts.	Remarks.
1875	511,076	These figures are taken from the administration reports for the several years. The particulars of collection for 1890 were obtained while the Collector was on the island.
1876	223,219	
1877	1,215	
1878	434,132	
1879	653,294	
1880	249,236	
1881	56,888	
1882	152,907	The decrease is attributed to unfavorable season (*vide* Government Order, No. 374, dated 14th May 1883).
1883	919,977	
1884	439,852	
Average ..	364,179	
1885	32,000	The decrease is suspected to be due to the dishonesty of amin Ali Majikhan appointed in December 1884 (*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd November 1886, No. 2401, paragraph 12 of the letter.
1886	226,408	
1887	306,612	
1888	80,544	
1889	140,964	
1890	83,363	
Average ..	144,972	

924/9

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

STATEMENT showing the exports and imports of the islands for the year 1890, prepared from the manifests on the islands.

Name of island.	Exports. Description of article.	Exports. Quantity.		Imports. Description of article.	Imports. Quantity.		Remarks.
Androth ..	Cocoanuts	No.	469,800	Rice	Cwts.	3,941	The figures under imports do not include particulars of seven manifests from Mangalore which are written in Canarese.
	Coir	Tulams.	9,667	Salt	Maunds.	293	
	Copra	,,	6,112	Kerosine-oil ..	Gallons.	152	
	Cowries	Seer.	262	Earthen pots ..	No.	6,500	
	Vinegar	Pots.	6	Colored clothes ..	Bundles.	1	
	Jaggery	Tulams.	6,756	Areca-nuts	,,	1	
	Sweet-potatoes ..	,,	230	Condiments	,,	1	
	Ragi	Seers.	1,000	Tobacco	,,	1	
	Varagu	,,	400				
	Fish-oil	Tulams.	63				
	Yam	,,	104				
Kalpeni ..	Cocoanuts	No.	810,900	Rice	Bags.	1,032	
	Coir	Tulams.	6,513	Salt	,,	98	
	Jaggery	Pots.	717	Areca-nuts	No.	498,000	
	Copra	Tulams.	191	Tobacco	Tulams.	64	
	Sweet-potatoes ..	,,	70	Earthen pots ..	No.	1,450	
	Varagu	Seers.	375	Colored clothes ..	Bundles.	1	
	Ragi	,,	270	Condiments ..	,,	1	
	Peas	,,	200	Cows	No.	4	
	Vinegar	Pots.	3				
	Fish-oil	,,	25				
	Dried fish	Bundles.	11				
	Plantains	,,	34				
	Cowries	Seers.	1,335				
Kavarathi.	Cocoanuts	No.	192,330	Rice	Bags.	1,165	
	Coir	Tulams.	7,970	Peas	,,	26	
	Jaggery	Pots.	34,760	Earthen pots ..	No.	20,000	
	Copra	Tulams.	3,544	Tobacco	Bundles.	166	
	Vinegar	Pots.	48	Clothes	,,	152	
	Fish-oil	,,	197	Timber, sawn ..	Pieces.	157	
				Areca-nuts	Bags.	258	
				Salt	,,	11	
				Goats	No.	15	
				Cows	,,	13	
				Bulls	,,	11	
				Bengal-gram ..	Bags.	2	
				Condiments ..	Bundles.	437	
Agathi ..	Coir	Tulams.	5,338	Rice	Bags.	596	
	Cocoanuts	No.	17,300	Tobacco	Bundles.	185	
	Copra	Bundles.	1,482	Salt	Bags.	10	
	Jaggery	Pots.	970	Cows	No.	7	
	Dried fish	Bales.	37	Condiments ..	Bundles.	30	
	Shark fins	Bundles.	5	Earthen pots ..	No.	4,300	
	Cowries	,,	18	Clothes	Pieces.	380	
	Vinegar	Pots.	19	Bronze vessels ..	No.	2	
				China jars	,,	30	
				Kerosine-oil ..	Tins.	8	
				Ragi	Bags.	2	
Minicoy ..	Cocoanuts	No.	121,218	Rice	Bags.	2,453	
	Do. small ..	Bags.	44	Kerosine-oil ..	Gallons.	2,116	
	Coir	Bales.	53,813	Paddy	Bags.	129	
	Mâs fish	No.	650	Condiments ..	,,	101	
	Do.	Bags.	898	Dates	,,	46	
	Do. small pieces ..	Bundles.	146	Tobacco	Bundles.	2	
	Jaggery	Pots.	1,658	Areca-nuts	No.	30,000	
	Vinegar	,,	148	Bulls	,,	14	
	Copra	Bags.	16	Ragi	Mudas.	30	
	Alva	Baskets.	1,114	Beaten rice ..	,,	72	
	Coir	Bundles.	100	Earthenware ..	No.	2,110	
	Shark fins	,,	1	Linseed-oil	Gallons.	72	
				Rosin	Cwts.	7	
				Tar	Tins.	2	
				Oholl	Maunds.	41	
				Sugar	Cwts.	20	
				Ghee	Maunds.	3	

READ—the following letter from J. W. F. DUMERGUE, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 29th August 1891, Ref. on C. No. 3474—P-91 :—

In my letter of this day's date, Ref. on C. No. 3473—P-91, I have dealt fully with various measures which have been, or are proposed to be, carried out in connection with the administration of the Laccadive Islands, and it only remains for me to report on the financial result of their management for fasli 1299 and for fasli 1300 which has just closed. For convenience, the transactions of the two years have been incorporated in one report.

2. *Receipts.*—The revenue of the islands was, as usual, derived from—

(*a*) The sale of monopoly articles consisting of coir, cowries and tortoise-shell.
(*b*) The rents and produce of pandaram (crown) lands.
(*c*) Fines and miscellaneous items.
(*d*) Poll-tax in Minicoy.
(*e*) Tax on fishing boats in Minicoy.
(*f*) Tax on Minicoy vessels trading with Bengal.

The receipts from each of the above sources are exhibited in the subjoined statement:—

Islands.	Gross receipts from sale of monopoly articles.				Miscellaneous revenue.								Receipts other than ordinary.				Grand Total.	Remarks.
	Coir.	Cowries.	Tortoise-shell.	Total.	Cocoanuts.	Rents in cash.	Fines.	Poll-tax.	Tax on mus boats.	Tax on vessels sailing to Bengal.	Sundries.	Total.	Compensation for Amindivi islands received and credited on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	Temporary loans from Government.	Miscellaneous.	Total.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	
1. Agathi .. { Fasli 1299.	11,205	41	..	11,246	..	1,199	23	..	..	..	..	1,222	..	..	..	..	12,468	The collections of fasli 1300 are exclusive of Rs. 5,034-9-11 due from Messrs. D. Maneckji and Co. on account of coir purchased by them and on which the usual interest of 6 per cent. has been charged. The coir sold is left in the Sea Custom House owing to the closing of ports on account of the monsoon.
,, 1300.	6,853	30	..	6,883	..	1,355	192	..	..	..	49	1,596	..	..	..	..	8,479	
2. Kavarathi { Fasli 1299.	15,097	..	97	15,194	..	1,223	51	..	..	..	9	1,283	..	..	..	..	16,477	
,, 1300.	11,512	3	32	11,547	..	1,232	..	..	..	..	64	1,296	..	..	..	..	12,843	
3. Androth.. { Fasli 1299.	17,590	62	..	17,652	..	..	585	..	..	..	11	596	..	..	..	..	18,248	
,, 1300.	14,930	19	..	14,949	..	8	96	..	..	..	53	157	..	..	..	..	15,106	
4. Kalpeni .. { Fasli 1299.	11,653	536	..	12,189	..	240	..	..	..	..	..	240	..	..	..	..	12,429	
,, 1300.	10,531	375	..	10,906	..	714	7	..	..	..	..	721	..	..	..	..	11,627	
5. Minicoy.. { Fasli 1299.	..	..	..	..	1,931	1,108	1,171	768	142	..	1,447	6,567	..	..	..	..	6,567	
,, 1300.	..	..	..	..	1,149	1,082	21	52	34	62	204	2,605	..	..	..	..	2,605	
Ma nland .. { Fasli 1299.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	125	5,250	..	..	5,250	5,375	
,, 1300.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137	137	5,250	30,000	..	35,250	35,387	
Total .. { Fasli 1299.	55,545	639	97	56,281	1,931	3,770	1,830	768	142	..	1,592	10,033	5,250	..	..	5,250	71,564	
,, 1300.	43,826	427	32	44,285	1,149	4,391	316	(*a*) 52	(*b*) 34	(*c*) 62	507	6,512	5,250	30,000	..	35,250	86,047	
Receipts in Fasli 1298 ..	67,351	150	83	67,584	1,074	4,041	194	581	40	300	477	6,707	5,250	..	..	5,250	79,541	

(*a*) The decrease under poll-tax in fasli 1300 is owing to the non-recovery of the full demand due for that year, the islanders having refused to pay the tax at the enhanced commutation rate fixed by the amin without authority. The collection at the recognized rate has been ordered to be made.
(*b*) and (*c*) The collections under these heads were not complete when the Collector visited the island.

924/10

3. *Coir.*—This item constitutes by far the most important source of revenue on the islands, and the quantities thereof imported during the last six years are given in the following statement:—

Islands.	Quantity in candies of 560 lb.							Increase or decrease as compared with the average.	
	Fasli 1295.	Fasli 1296.	Fasli 1297.	Fasli 1298.	Average.	Fasli 1299.	Fasli 1300.	Fasli 1299.	Fasli 1300.
	cds.	cds.	cds.	cds.	cds.	cds.	cds.	cds.	cds.
1. Agathi	295	192	284	213	246	258	240	+ 12	— 6
2. Kavarathi	458	304	356	344	365	381	369	+ 16	+ 4
3. Androth	583	419	487	434	481	447	482	— 34	+ 1
4. Kalpeni	278	251	265	270	266	294	342	+ 28	+ 76
5. Minicoy	10	..	1	..	3	..	..	— 3	— 3
Total ..	1,624	1,166	1,393	1,261	1,361	1,380	1,433	+ 19	+ 72

It will be observed that the total imports during faslis 1299 and 1300 exhibited a slight increase as compared with the average of the previous four years, as well as with the imports of fasli 1298; but owing to the comparatively low prices which ruled in the coir market as well as to the non-recovery within the year of the value of about 156 candies amounting to Rs. 5,034-9-11, the collection of fasli 1300 were less than those of the preceding year by Rs. 11,719. The average prices realized in fasli 1300 were Rs. 32 per candy as against Rs. 39 in the previous year.

4. The large difference between the collections of fasli 1298 and the subsequent years is merely nominal, being due to there having been in fasli 1298 a large stock of unsold coir appertaining to fasli 1297 as explained in paragraph 6 of Mr. Winterbotham's report on Government Order, dated 28th May 1890, No. 275, Political. Such suggestions as I am able to make on this point will be found in my report on the inspection of the islands.

5. *Cowries.*—The income from the sale of cowries amounted to Rs. 427 in fasli 1300 and to Rs. 639 in fasli 1299 as against Rs. 150 in the preceding year. This revenue is comparatively insignificant except in Kalpeni, where, owing to facilities afforded by large shoals, collections are greater than elsewhere.

6. *Tortoise-shell.*—This item appears only against Kavarathi where in fasli 1300 Rs. 32 were realized as against Rs. 97 in fasli 1299 and Rs. 150 in fasli 1298.

7. *Miscellaneous Revenue.*—The collections under this head amounted Rs. 6,512 in fasli 1300 as against Rs. 10,033 in 1299 and Rs. 6,707 in 1298. The large collections appearing under "fines" are due to the penalties enforced in fasli 1299 by Mr. Winterbotham on certain islanders of Minicoy and by Mr. Twigg at Androth. The other items save "sundries" are self-explanatory and call for no remarks:—

8. *Sundries.*—The various collections included under "sundries" are as noted below:—

	Fasli 1299. Rs. A. P.	Fasli 1300. Rs. A. P.
(1) Fees collected at Agathi for fishing at Bungaram shoals	0 10 0	1 10 0
(2) Sale-proceeds of timber recovered from the sea at Kavarathi	9 0 6	63 12 0
(3) Sale-proceeds of planks, &c., recovered from the sea at Agathi	...	47 5 2
(4) Sale-proceeds of a boat recovered from the sea at Androth	...	40 0 0
(5) Quit-rent on sites occupied by boat-sheds on pandaram lands at Androth	11 0 0	10 4 0
(6) Value of a tree permitted to be cut from the Kacheri Park at Androth	...	3 0 0
(7) Value of 100 bags of rice sent over to Minicoy for sale	1,024 3 10	..
(8) Sale-proceeds of rice left by the Sub-Collector for clearing jungle at Minicoy ...	283 2 0	...

	Fasli 1299. Rs. A. P.	Fasli 1300. Rs. A. P.
(9) Value of rice purchased by the Collector at Minicoy for his private use out of the quantity left by the Sub-Collector ..	7 10 0	...
(10) Value of rice brought back by the Sub-Collector from Androth in December 1889 and sold at Calicut	8 0 0	...
(11) Sale-proceeds of unexpended stock of rice taken over to the islands by the Collector in January 1891	...	119 15 0
(12) Amount paid to certain ship-wrecked men of Amini island, but subsequently recouped from Provincial revenue	35 8 0	...
(13) Portion of advance made to the hospital assistant and compounder who proceeded to Minicoy and recovered from them by monthly instalments	14 10 8	127 12 10
(14) Pay of the island establishment on the mainland refunded to the treasury	...	8 14 5
(15) Earnings of Minicoy detenus	59 0 0	...
(16) Value of jaggery brought from Minicoy ...	139 3 5	84 14 11
Total ...	1,592 0 5	507 8 4

The amount shown under item 15 is the value of toy boats, &c., made by the Minicoy detenus during their detention on the mainland under the orders of Government, dated 18th December 1889, No. 665. The amount was repaid to them under Mr. Winterbotham's orders and was utilized by them for the purchase of cloths and other articles.

9. *Charges.*—The direct charges incidental to the administration of the islands consist chiefly of payment of prices for the monopoly articles and the cost of the establishments maintained on the islands and on the mainland. Petty charges connected with the periodical expeditions to the islands are also debited to the island funds, and the balance left after meeting the necessary expenditure is credited towards the liquidation of peshkash arrears. None of the items require any explanation except those following under the head "Sundries," the details of which are furnished below. The monopoly prices paid during fasli 1300 were Rs. 35,8 04 as against Rs. 36,606 in fasli 1299 and Rs. 29,228 in fasli 1298 and are detailed in the subjoined statement—

—		Price paid for monopoly articles.				Establishment and miscellaneous charges.			
		Coir.	Cowries.	Tortoise-shell.	Total.	Establishment and contingent charges.	Charges on account of visits to islands.	Freight on cocoanuts.	Sea Custom charges.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Agathi ..	Fasli 1299 ..	7,278	12	..	7,290	517	..	..	..
	,, 1300 ..	6,393	20	..	6,413	568	65	..	..
Kavarathi ..	Fasli 1299 ..	10,490	..	41	10,531	466	..	..	..
	,, 1300 ..	9,424	2	..	9,426	460	59	..	..
Androth ..	Fasli 1299 ..	11,092	46	..	11,138	403	49	..	..
	,, 1300 ..	11,543	15	..	11,558	308	156	..	..
Kalpeni ..	Fasli 1299 ..	7,298	349	..	7,647	777	..	..	..
	,, 1300 ..	8,138	269	..	8,407	573	156	..	..
Minicoy ..	Fasli 1299 ..	..	..	..	..	596	132	111	..
	,, 1300 ..	..	..	..	..	509	156	104	..
Mainland ..	Fasli 1299 ..	..	..	..	..	732	..	..	138
	,, 1300 ..	..	..	..	..	848	155	..	198
Total ..	Fasli 1299 ..	36,158	407	41	36,606	3,491	181	111	138
	,, 1300 ..	35,498	306	..	35,804	3,267	747	104	198
Expenditure in fasli 1298 ..		29,070	132	26	29,228	2,945	1,226	171	297

—	Establishment and miscellaneous charges—*cont.*			Special charges.					
	Municipal tax paid on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	Sundries.	Total.	Compensation for Amindivi islands paid and adjusted towards peshkash arrears.	Repayment of temporary loans from Government.	Amount paid in liquidation of peshkash arrears.		Total.	Grand Total.
						Principal.	Interest.		
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Agathi .. { Fasli 1299 ..	..	..	517	..	..	..	..	..	7,806
" 1300 ..	..	1	634	..	..	..	..	..	7,047
Kavarathi .. { Fasli 1299 ..	..	..	466	..	..	..	..	..	10,997
" 1300 ..	..	1	520	..	..	..	..	..	9,948
Androth .. { Fasli 1299 ..	..	..	452	..	..	..	..	..	11,590
" 1300 ..	..	265	729	..	..	..	..	..	12,287
Kalpeni .. { Fasli 1299 ..	..	..	777	..	..	..	..	..	8,424
" 1300 ..	..	214	943	..	..	..	..	..	9,350
Minicoy .. { Fasli 1299 ..	..	178	1,017	..	..	..	..	..	1,017
" 1300 ..	..	175	944	..	..	..	..	..	944
Mainland .. { Fasli 1299 ..	530	1,136	2,536	5,250	..	21,343	2,600	29,193	31,729
" 1300 ..	727	601	2,529	5,250	30,473	6,315	1,905	43,943	46,472
Total .. { Fasli 1299 ..	530	1,314	5,765	5,250	..	21,343	2,600	29,193	71,564
" 1300 ..	727	1,257	6,309	5,250	30,473	6,315	1,905	43,943	86,047
Expenditure in fasli 1298 ..	772	743	6,154	5,250	..	33,296	5,613	44,159	79,541

10. *Sundries.*—The various charges included under "sundries" are as noted below :—

	Fasli 1299.			Fasli 1300.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
(1) Freight for bringing articles received in exchange for 100 bags of rice sold on the Minicoy island	83	9	7	...		
(2) Freight for exporting 100 bags of rice	50	0	0	...		
(3) Do. for bringing mâs fish and jaggery ...	11	0	0	...		
(4) Remuneration given to the Minicoy amin for selling rice	33	9	0	5	8	0
(5) Earnings of Minicoy *detenus* at Calicut paid to them from time to time	59	0	0	...		
(6) Payment to certain shipwrecked men of Ameni island attached to South Canara district ...	35	8	0	...		
(7) Advance made to the hospital and compounder deputed for duty on the Minicoy island ...	250	0	0	320	0	0
(8) Charges incurred on the island of Minicoy on account of the medical staff employed there under orders of Government	...			148	2	3
(9) Allowance to Minicoy *detenus*	486	2	0	187	0	0
(10) Do. to Androth do.	16	0	0	94	0	1
(11) Refund ordered by the High Court of fines levied by the Sub-Collector in December 1889 at Androth	290	0	0	251	8	0
(12) Dieting charges of prisoners at Agathi ...	...			0	14	0
(13) Salvage paid for recovering wrecks at Kavarathi.	...			0	14	4
(14) Do. do. at Androth ..	...			13	5	4
(15) Repair of Minicoy amin's cutcherry ...	...			7	0	0
(16) Customary expenses incurred at Minicoy ...	...			14	8	0
(17) Construction of a cutcherry and a school-house at Kalpeni and the value of excess coir refunded to the amin of that island	...			214	0	0
Total ...	1,314	12	7	1,256	12	0

11. *Peishcush account.*—Subjoined is a statement showing the arrears of peishcush due from Sultan Ali Rajah of Cannanore at the commencement of fasli 1299 and the

924/12

amounts paid in liquidation thereof up to the end of fasli 1300. The arrears have been charged with interest at the usual rate of 6 per cent. and all available balances have, at the end of each year, been utilized in the reduction of arrears in accordance with the Board's instructions contained in their Proceedings printed with G.O., dated 28th May 1890, No. 275, Political. The balance outstanding on 1st July 1891 amounts to Rs. 35,185–10–0 :—

Particulars.	Amount of arrears.	Amount of interest at 6 per cent. per annum.	Surplus income.	Remarks.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Amount of arrears on 1st July 1889 (*i.e.*, beginning of fasli 1299) as per G.O., dated 28th May 1890, No. 275, Political.	43,343 7 11	2,600 9 9	..	Interest for fasli 1299.
Surplus income available for crediting towards arrears of peishcush on 1st July 1890.	..	..	23,943 7 5	
Balance to be deducted from principal after paying interest.	21,342 13 8	..	..	
Balance of principal ..	22,000 10 3	..	..	
Peishcush for fasli 1299	9,750 0 11	..	..	
Total arrears on 1st July 1890 ..	31,750 11 2	1,905 0 8	..	Interest for fasli 1300.
Surplus income available for crediting towards arrears of peishcush on 1st July 1891.	..	..	8,220 2 9	
Balance to be deducted from principal after paying interest.	6,315 2 1	..	..	
Balance of principal ..	25,435 9 1	..	..	
Peishcush for fasli 1300	9,750 0 11	..	..	
Total arrears on 1st July 1891 ..	35,185 10 0	..	..	

12. *Loans from Government.*—The following loans to the aggregate amount of Rs. 30,000 were taken from Government as a temporary measure and were all repaid before the end of the year. The loans carried interest at 6 per cent. (Rs. 473–4–4) in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1890, No. 175 (Land Revenue):—

Date of loan.	Amount of loan.	Interest.	Total.	Date of repayment.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
2nd July 1890	1,000 0 0	6 12 5	1,006 12 5	12th August 1890.
19th December 1890	1,000 0 0	27 12 9	1,027 12 9	5th June 1891.
8th January 1891	9,000 0 0	221 6 10	9,221 6 10	Do.
19th February 1891	2,000 0 0	35 9 5	2,035 9 5	Do.
24th March 1891	10,000 0 0	121 5 11	10,121 5 11	Do.
14th April 1891	7,000 0 0	60 5 0	7,060 5 0	Do.
Total ..	30,000 0 0	473 4 4	30,473 4 4	

13. *Visit to the islands.*—During the period under review Messrs. Winterbotham and Twigg and myself visited the islands. Mr. Winterbotham's report has been recorded in G.O., No. 665, dated 18th December 1889, and the one furnished by Mr. Twigg in G.O., dated 27th March 1890, No. 173, Political.

14. *Financial results.*—The financial result of the administration of the islands may be gauged by the amount of surplus revenue which has been rendered available for payment of peishcush arrears and these were cleared in fasli 1299 to the extent of Rs. 23,943–7–5 and in fasli 1300 to the extent of Rs. 8220–2–9. The decrease in the surplus revenue of fasli 1300 appears at first sight to be startling; but such variations are usual, as will be seen from a comparison of the previous years' figures. Fluctuations in the coir market and the possibility of non-recovery within the year of the full prices of coir sold late in the season tend to disturb the equilibrium of the island finance and must always be borne in mind in estimating the relative results of the island administration.

15. The usual statements of receipts and charges are enclosed.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT A showing the receipts on account of the Laccadive Islands from 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890 (fasli 1299).

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.		Kalpeni.		Minicoy.		Mainland.		Total.	
	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Revenue from monopoly articles.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
I. Coir—														
Balance of last year's stock—second class ..	22 8 0	697 8 3	22 17 3	711 10 3	24 10 6	763 9 3	91 10 19	2,850 9 1						
Balance of last year's stock—third class ..	..	..	2 0 0	60 0 0	1 8 0	42 0 0	3 19 20	119 9 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—second class	6 15 5	216 7 4	7 10 0	233 8 9	7 16 0	242 8 6	21 15 10	677 13 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7	0 11 20	17 9 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portion of current year's stock—first class ..	30 6 15	1,345 10 3	1 0 19	45 14 1	1 9 8	64 15 8	28 11 5	894 15 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portion of current year's stock—second class ..	223 6 1	8,911 6 3	348 3 7	13,894 4 2	409 15 8	16,346 6 7	0 0 8	0 6 10	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portion of current year's stock—third class ..	0 10 13	15 2 6	5 1 1	146 5 1	4 6 25	125 13 4	6 10 0	202 6 7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..	0 0 1	0 0 10	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 3 5	4 9 8	0 3 0	4 5 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	283 14 25	11,205 7 7	386 15 11	15,096 7 5	449 8 22	17,589 13 5	266 12 11	10,640 3 5	..	..	..	..	..	..
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	0 0 20½	97 8 0	1 2 23	62 3 9	3 17 7	111 13 11	..	..	..	..	..	..
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 2 0	2 14 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2	299 8 21	11,652 13 7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous revenue.							9 16 16	535 13 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	1,223 6 0	..	585 0 0	..	12,188 10 7	..	..	..	..	..	..
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	50 10 0	..	..			Number.				Number.	
VII. Sundries—														
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	11 0 0	..	240 0 0	1,32,847	1,930 11 1	..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1
2. Tax on mâs boats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,108 6 5	..	..	..	3,770 10 4
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..	9 0 6	..	..	..	..	..	1,171 0 0	..	..	..	1,829 10 0
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0	..	..	..	768 0 0	..	..	..	768 0 0
Receipts other than ordinary.							..	..	..	142 8 0	..	..	..	142 8 0
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,446 9 3	..	124 12 8	..	1,592 0 5
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248 1 2	..	240 0 0	..	6,567 2 9	..	124 12 8	..	10,033 7 10
							..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
							..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
							..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
							..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
							..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
							..	..	..	..	..	5,374 12 8	..	71,564 7 6
							..	12,428 10 7	..	6,567 2 9	..			

92 G / 13

ENCLOSURE

STATEMENT B showing the charges on account of the Laccadive Islands

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.	
	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Charges on account of monopoly articles.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
I. Coir—						
First class	30 6 15	999 12 1	1 0 19	34 1 8	1 9 8	48 4 11
Second class	227 2 18	6,267 2 7	374 13 16	10,350 6 3	441 10 8	10,953 10 6
Third class	0 10 13	10 14 6	5 1 1	105 5 1	4 6 25	90 8 8
II. Cowries	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1
III. Tortoise shell	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0
	..	..	0 0 20½	41 0 0	..	..
Total charges on account of monopoly articles	..	7,289 9 2	..	10,530 13 0	..	11,138 10 1
Miscellaneous charges.						
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Godown rent and other Sea Customs charges	..	..	..	..	..	..
VI. Establishment charges—						
(*a*) Salary	..	..	..	..	..	..
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10
	..	..	..	9 13 0	..	6 15 0
VII. Charges on account of visits to islands—						
(*a*) Rations for Policemen	..	..	..	..	..	24 13 10
(*b*) Value of medicines	..	..	..	..	..	..
(*c*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	24 2 0
(*d*) Pay of Mahl Interpreter	..	..	..	..	..	..
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	48 15 10
IX. Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of Miscellaneous charges	..	517 0 0	..	465 13 0	..	452 1 8
Special payments.						
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1299 in reduction of peishcush Rs. 15,000–0–11	..	..	..	..	..	..
XI. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peishcush	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of special payments	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	..	7,806 9 2	..	10,996 10 0	..	11,590 11 9

924/14

No. 2.

from 1st July 1889 to 30th June 1890 (fasli 1299).

Kalpeni.		Minicoy.		Mainland.		Total.	
Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
..	..	..	..	..	..	32 16 14	1,082 2 8
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,333 3 12	34,788 11 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	13 15 18	287 4 7
289 16 26	7,217 8 6	..	..	..	..		
3 17 7	80 8 4	..	..	..	..		
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,379 15 16	36,158 3 1
..	..	..	..	..	..	11 11 6	407 0 0
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 20½	41 0 0
293 14 5	7,298 0 10	..	..	..	..		
9 13 12	349 2 0	..	..	..	..		
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,606 3 1
..	7,647 2 10	..	..	..	..		
						NO. 55,871	111 0 3
..	..	NO. 55,871	111 0 3	..	137 13 1	..	137 13 1
..	..	..	..	..	707 14 0	..	3,397 0 10
..	..	..	546 0 0	..	23 14 3	..	93 7 9
..	774 0 0	..	49 10 0	..			
..	3 3 6	..	..	..	..	..	24 13 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52 15 0
..	..	..	52 15 0	..	..	..	94 10 0
..	..	..	70 8 0	..	..	..	8 8 0
..	..	..	8 8 0	..	..		
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	180 14 10
..	..	..	131 15 0	..	529 11 8	..	529 11 8
..	..	..	..	..	1,136 10 0	..	1,314 12 7
..	..	..	178 2 7	..			
..	..	..	..	..	2,535 15 0	..	5,764 13 0
..	777 3 6	..	1,016 11 10	..			
				..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
..	..	..	..	..	23,943 7 5	..	23,943 7 5
..	..	..	..	..	29,193 7 5	..	29,193 7 5
..	..	..	..	..	31,729 6 5	..	71,564 7 6
..	8,424 6 4	..	1,016 11 10	..			

ENCLOSURE

STATEMENT A showing the receipts on account of the Laccadive Islands

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.	
	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity. or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight	Amount or value.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Revenue from monopoly articles.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
I. Coir—						
Balance of last year's stock sold in the current year—second class ..	3 16 17	137 4 3	26 10 9	954 9 3	31 15 0	1,143 0 0
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—second class	1 0 5	36 5 2	5 0 10	180 10 3	6 2 0	219 9 7
Portion of current year's stock sold within the year—first class ..	13 5 19	478 3 7	..	..	5 17 23	212 1 3
Portion of current year's stock sold within the year—second class ..	189 5 0	5,963 11 3	297 0 13	9,359 13 4	413 6 3	13,024 7 7
Portion of current year's stock sold within the year—third class ..	7 19 19	237 1 8	34 5 3	1,017 4 8	11 2 15	330 7 0
	215 7 4	6,852 9 11	362 16 7	11,512 5 6	468 3 13	14,929 9 5
II. Cowries	0 11 24	30 9 0	0 1 1	2 10 10	0 7 8	18 12 7
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 8	32 0 0	..	..
Total, revenue from monopoly articles	..	6,883 2 11	..	11,547 0 4	..	14,948 6 0
Miscellaneous Revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts (number) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,354 14 0	..	1,232 4 8	..	8 1 0
VI. Fines	..	192 4 0	..	..	..	96 9 0
VII. Sundries—						
Poll tax	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tax on mâs. boats	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, on vessels sailing to Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other sundries	..	48 15 2	..	63 12 0	..	53 4 0
Total of miscellaneous revenue ..	..	1,596 1 2	..	1,296 0 8	..	157 14 0
Receipts other than ordinary.						
VIII. Compensation due to Sultan Ali Rajah for Amindivi Islands and credited towards arrears of peshkash	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Loans	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	8,479 4 1	..	12,843 1 0	..	15,106 4 0

924/15

No. I.

from 1st July 1890 to 30th June 1891 (fasli 1300).

Kalpeni.		Mi icoy.		Mainland.		Total.	
Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
						85 6 13	3,071 10 2
23 4 15	836 12 8	..	..	..	..	14 13 15	528 5 10
2 11 0	91 12 10	..	..	..	..	19 3 14	690 4 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	1,197 8 19	37,733 15 10
297 17 3	9,385 15 8	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,801 4 0
7 5 21	216 6 8	..	..	..	..	1,377 5 7	43,825 8 8
330 18 11	10,530 15 10	..	..	..	..	8 5 20	427 3 8
						0 0 8	32 0 0
7 5 15	375 3 3	..	..	..	..		44,284 12 4
..	10,906 3 1	..	..	..	..	86. 56,535	1,149 6 9
		no. 56,535	1,149 6 9	..	..	..	4,391 6 7
			1,082 0 0	..	..	..	315 13 0
..	..	..	20 8 0	..	..	..	52 4 0
..	714 2 11	..		..	..	..	34 4 10
..	6 8 0	..	52 4 0	..	..	..	61 8 0
..	..	..	34 4 10	..	..	..	507 8 4
..	..	..	61 8 0	..	136 11 3	..	
..	..	..	204 13 11	..		..	
..	..	..		..	136 11 3	..	6,512 3 6
..	720 10 11	..	2,604 13 6	..			
				..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
				..	30,000 0 0	..	30,000 0 0
..	..	..	..	..			
..	..	..	..	..	35,250 0 0	..	35,250 0 0
..	..	..	..	..	35,386 11 3	..	86,046 15 10
..	11,626 14 0	..	2,604 13 6	..			

ENCLOSURE

STATEMENT B showing the charges on account of the Laccadive Islands from 1st July 1890 to 30th June 1891 (fasli 1300).

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.		Kalpeni.		Minicoy.		Mainland.		Total.	
	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.	Quantity or weight.	Cost or charges.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Charges on account of monopoly articles.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
I. Coir—														
First class	17 7 19	554 3 3	..	..	7 17 7	248 3 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 4 26	802 6 5
Second class	214 5 12	5,679 10 2	334 8 18	8,741 5 8	463 9 13	11,072 12 8	1,347 10 18	33,485 13 1	..	..	..	..	1,347 10 18	33,485 13 1
Third class	7 19 19	159 3 1	34 5 3	682 13 3	11 2 15	222 0 5	60 13 2	1,209 14 7	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,209 14 7
	239 12 22	6,393 0 6	368 13 21	9,424 2 11	482 9 7	11,543 0 3	335 7 3	7,992 0 7	..	..	..	..	1,433 8 18	35,498 2 1
II. Cowries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 5 21	145 13 10	..	..	..	..	8 15 20	305 7 0
III. Tortoise shell	0 11 24	20 1 0	0 1 1	1 12 0	0 7 8	14 14 6	342 12 24	8,137 14 5	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	..
	..	..	0 0 8	..	..	..	7 15 15	268 11 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total charges on account of monopoly articles ..	..	6,413 1 6	..	9,425 14 11	..	11,557 14 9	..	8,406 9 11	..	..	..	..	1,433 8 18	35,803 9 1
Miscellaneous charges.									NO.				NO.	
IV. Cocoanuts (numbers) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..			52,045	104 1 5	..	..	52,045	104 1 5
V. Godown rent and other sea-custom charges	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	198 2 11	..	198 2 11
VI. Establishment charges—							..	..	..	..	..	801 1 6	..	3,204 9 6
(*a*) Salary	..	564 0 0	..	..	..	304 2 1	..	570 0 0	..	509 5 11	..	46 11 10	..	62 7 4
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	4 4 6	..	4 0 0	..	4 2 0	..	3 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	451 10 0
VII. Charges on account of visit to islands—														
(*a*) Purchase of rice for payment of boats, coolies, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	150 8 8	..	150 8 8	..	150 8 8	..	155 0 0	..	268 0 0
(*b*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	60 0 0	..	53 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27 1 8
(*c*) Stationery and other charges	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 8	..	5 6 9	..	155 0 0	..	746 11 8
	..	65 6 9	..	58 6 9	..	155 15 5	..	155 15 4	..	155 15 5	..	727 2 10	..	727 2 10
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	601 0 1	..	1,256 12 0
IX. Sundries	..	0 14 0	..	0 14 4	..	264 13 4	..	214 0 0	..	175 2 3	..	2,529 3 2	..	6,299 15 8
Total of miscellaneous charges ..	..	634 9 3	..	519 5 1	..	729 0 10	..	943 4 4	..	944 9 0	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
Special payments.												30,473 4 4		30,473 4 4
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1300 in reduction of peshkash Rs. 15,000-0-11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,220 2 9	..	8,220 2 9
XI. Repayment of loans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,943 7 1	..	43,943 7 1
XII. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peshkash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46,472 10 3	..	86,046 15 10
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,349 14 3	..	944 9 0	..			
Grand Total ..	..	7,047 10 9	..	9,945 4 9	..	12,286 15 7								

924/16

Resolution—dated 18th November 1891, No. 656.

The first letter read above contains Mr. Dumergue's very interesting report of his visit to the Laccadive islands and to Minicoy. With the second he forwards the financial statements connected with the administration of these islands for faslis 1299 and 1300. These papers will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. Mr. Dumergue has gone thoroughly into the circumstances of each island and has redressed such grievances as were brought before him, among other things dismissing the amins of Androth, Kavarathi and Minicoy for oppression and fraud.

3. He has besides introduced a few improvements into the administration of these islands which are noticed below:—

(*a*) The sharing system under which the "padhi-padhi" crown lands in Kavarathi have been hitherto managed being found unacceptable to the islanders, the Collector has now substituted for it a system of cowles granted free of assessment for twenty years, but subject to the condition that the several plots assigned to the cowledars should be fully planted up with cocoanut trees in five years, and that at the end of the cowle period, a rent of 10 "palams" of coir should be paid for each tree in bearing. This arrangement was accepted by the islanders, and all the lands have accordingly been occupied by them. The Collector requests that his action may be approved, and the Board supports it.

(*b*) The annual lease of the four islets—Bangaram, Tinnakara, Parli and Kalpithi—attached to the island of Agathi being found too short to encourage any attempt to replace dying trees was changed to one of twenty years, subject to the condition that the lessee should plant a given number of trees annually.

(*c*) A desire being expressed by the islanders to learn English and Hindustani as being of wider use than Malayalam, the Collector has arranged for the teaching of Hindustani in addition to Malayalam in Androth and for the teaching of English also in Minicoy. In the former the work has been entrusted to the newly-appointed gumastah on a total salary of Rs. 25 a month, and in the latter, the hospital compounder has agreed to teach the boys for a sum of Rs. 20 a month. The latter has also been promised result grants. These arrangements commend themselves to the Board. The Collector intends to place on a better footing the education of boys at Kalpeni, Kavarathi and Agathi, where schools do exist, but where the attendance has not been very satisfactory.

4. In his letters disposed of in Board's Proceedings, dated 20th March 1889, No. 208, and 11th June 1889, No. 401, Mr. Winterbotham reported that the rice trade with Minicoy was entirely in the hands of one Dom Malikhan, who was, in consequence, able to charge monopoly prices, and that the food-supply was also insufficient, and he therefore suggested that this monopoly should be destroyed, and that merchants from the mainland should be encouraged to trade with the islands. Later on, however, in his report printed in Government Order, dated 18th December 1889, No. 665, he said that it was only fair to Dom Malikhan to say that his prices would probably defy foreign competition, and that in the opinions previously expressed, he had under-rated Dom Malikhan's expenses, the difficulties he had to contend against, and the extent to which his prices had been kept down by the fear of local lynch-law. The matter was accordingly left over to be specially reported on, on the occasion of the next visit of inspection; and the Collector now refers to it, in his paragraph 46; the conclusion he has come to is that there is no need for Government to interfere in the matter at all, and that short of such interference, no good can be done. The matter may accordingly be left over for the present, though, as Dom Malikhan's position has now been further strengthened by his being appointed amin of Minicoy, the matter should not be lost sight of by future inspecting officers.

5. In the Proceedings quoted in the previous paragraph, it had further been decided that the screw-pine jungle on this island should be cleared and the land reclaimed for cultivation. In his present report, however (paragraph 47), the Collector points out that owing to the shallowness of the soil, under-growth of some sort is absolutely necessary for the protection of the young palms until they are strong enough

to resist the heat of the sun, and that unless some substitute for the existing screw-pine is provided it is inadvisable to insist on the clearing away of the jungle. He gives facts in support of his opinion, and the Board thinks that it may be accepted. The under-growth may therefore remain for the present, but the Collector should consult the Conservator of Forests of his Circle in view to send to the island a consignment of cashew-nut, casuarina, korakapalli, babul or such other seeds as may be suited to the conditions of the case for distribution to the islanders to substitute for the useless screw-pine.

6. In paragraph 52, the Collector, for the reasons therein given, recommends the purchase and introduction of a hand-power spinning-jenny into Androth as an experiment. This may be approved, and the Collector should take the necessary steps.

7. In the same paragraph, the Collector draws attention to the desirability and, in the case of Androth, the necessity of blasting passages into the lagoons; the matter is one on which the Board would recommend that the Public Works Department should be consulted; an officer of that department might perhaps be deputed to investigate the subject on the occasion of the next visit.

8. In his concluding paragraph, the Collector pleads that for the proper administration of the islands, he should be provided with the means of visiting them at frequent intervals in person or by deputy, and he recommends the purchase of a special steamer for the purpose; the matter is one for Government to decide on, but it certainly is true that the system of hiring at the rate of Rs. 14,000 a month is too costly, and that it is extremely inconvenient to have to depend on, or rather to interfere with the proper use of the steamer purchased specially for the Tinnevelly Pearl fisheries. On the other hand, a new steamer will be costly and is not likely to be of very much use, apart from the occasional visits to the islands. On the whole, however, the Board recommends its purchase as a necessary expense. The islands will probably soon be actually British territory, and for proper administration and prompt interference in case of necessity, something more than merely an annual visit is required.

9. In paragraph 5, the Collector reports that the leaf-disease, which did such terrible havoc in Kalpeni and Androth in 1876, has again broken out in the latter island, and that to discover some remedy for its effectual removal, he secured specimens of diseased leaves in bottles and sent them to the Superintendent of the Central Museum, Madras, who forwarded them to the Superintendent of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, for examination. The latter has replied that the leaves are thickly beset with coccid scale insect which would be quite sufficient to account for the injury reported, and that the most successful method of destroying the insects is generally agreed to consist in spraying them with kerosine and soap emulsions. It is obviously impracticable to syringe a jungle of palms with soap suds, and the Board regrets, therefore, that nothing can be done to stop the disease.

10. In paragraph 37, the Collector suggests the abolition, if some financial substitute can be found, of two of the three special Minicoy taxes, that on fishing boats and that on vessels trading with Bengal, the third is the poll-tax. As he says the amount produced is small, for the financial statement shows the figures as follows:—

	Tax on fishing boats.	Tax on vessels trading with Bengal.
	Rs.	Rs.
Fasli 1299	142	...
„ 1300	34	62

And the tax appears to be an undesirable restriction on trade. The Board thinks, therefore, that the tax may be abolished at once without waiting to find a substitute for it. At the same time, the tax does not appear to have been complained of by the islanders.

11. The Board now proceeds to review the financial results of the administration during the past two faslis, 1299 and 1300. The total income from all the islands amounted to Rs. 66,314 in fasli 1299 and Rs. 50,797 in the following fasli, against Rs. 74,292 in fasli 1298. The whole of the income was expended in the respective years as will be seen from the statement annexed.

Receipts.

Items.	FASLI 1298.		FASLI 1299.		FASLI 1300.	
	Weight or quantity.	Amount or value.	Weight or quantity.	Amount or value.	Weight or quantity.	Amount or value.
Opening balance	cds. ..	Rs. ..	cds. ..	Rs. ..	cds. ..	Rs. ..
1. Coir— *Receipts.*						
Balance of last year's stock sold in the current year	991	30,869	95	2,970	85	3,072
Excess found in the above on reweighment	11	359	29	896	15	528
Portion of current year's stock sold in the year	1,166	36,093	1,294	51,648	1,277	40,226
Excess found on do. on reweighment	1	30	1	31	..	..
Total of Coir	2,169	67,351	1,419	55,545	1,377	43,826
2. Cowries	3	150	12	639	8	427
3. Tortoise shells	0 0 16½	83	0 0 20½	97	0 0 8	32
Miscellaneous revenue.						
4. Rents	..	4,041	..	3,770	..	4,391
5. Fines	..	194	..	1,830	..	316
	No.		No.			
6. Cocoanuts	80,676	1,074	132,847	1,931	56,535	1,149
7. Poll-tax		581		768		52
8. Tax on mas boats Minicoy	..	40	..	142	..	34
9. Tax on vessels sailing to Bengal		300		..		62
10 Sundries	..	477	..	1,592	..	508
	..	74,292	..	66,314	..	50,797
Receipts other than ordinary.						
11. Loans from Government	..	..	..	..	..	30,000
12. Compensation for Amindivi islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah and credited towards arrears of peshkash	..	5,250	..	5,250	..	5,250
Grand Total	..	79,541	..	71,564	..	86,047

Charges.

Items.	FASLI 1298.		FASLI 1299.		FASLI 1300.	
	Weight or quantity.	Amount or value.	Weight or quantity.	Amount or value.	Weight or quantity.	Amount or value.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.						
1. Coir	cds. 1,261	Rs. 29,070	cds. 1,380	Rs. 36,158	cds. 1,433	Rs. 35,498
2. Cowries	4	132	12	407	9	306
3. Tortoise shells	0 0 16½	26	0 0 20½	41	0 0 8	..
Total of charges on account of 1 to 3	..	29,228	..	36,606	..	35,804
Miscellaneous charges.						
4. Cocoanuts	No. 80,676	171	No. 55,871	111	No. 52,045	104
5. Godown rent and other Sea Custom House charges	..	297	..	138	..	198
6. Establishment charges— Salary	..	2,886	..	3,419	..	3,267
Travelling allowance, &c.	..	59				
7. Charges on account of periodical visit to the island	..	1,226	..	181	..	747
8. Payment of Municipal tax on account of Sultan Ali Rajah	..	772	..	530	..	727
9. Sundries	..	743	..	1,314	..	1,257
10. Special payments— Total	..	35,382	..	42,371	..	42,164
Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1298 in deduction of peshkash of Rupees 15,000-0-11 for the year	..	5,259	..	5,250	..	5,250
11. Repayment of temporary loans from Government	..	..	..	..	..	30,47
12. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peshkash	..	*33,296 P. 5,613 I.	..	21,343 P. 2,600 I.	..	6,315 P. 1,905 I.
Grand Total	..	79,541	..	71,564	..	86,047

* NOTE.—The figure given in the report for fasli 1298 was Rs. 32,000.

12. *Receipts.*—The several sources of revenue are coir, cowries, tortoise shells, cocoanuts and rents from crown lands. Nearly the whole of the revenue is derived from the first-mentioned article. During the two years, the quantity of coir imported from the islands amounted to 1,380 and 1,433 candies, respectively, against 1,261 candies in fasli 1298. Though the outturn was not less in the years under notice as compared with fasli 1298, the amount realized by the sale of the article fell off considerably. In fasli 1298, the revenue from this source amounted to Rs. 67,350, while in the year under notice it amounted only to Rs. 55,545 and Rs. 43,826, respectively. The decrease was due partly to the low prices obtained for the article in fasli 1300, but chiefly to the absence of a large stock in hand in both the years, for at the commencement of fasli 1298, the quantity of unsold coir of the previous year amounted to a little over 1,000 candies, while in the corresponding period of faslis 1299 and 1300, it amounted only to 124 and 99 candies, respectively. The decrease in fasli 1300 is also accounted for by the fact that the value of about 156 candies of coir sold at the end of the year for Rs. 5,035 was not realized within that year.

The other items of revenue are small, or the variations under them as compared with fasli 1298 are not large and do not call for remark. The amount realized under "fines," however, was considerable in fasli 1299; it was due to the heavy penalties imposed on certain islanders of Minicoy and Androth having been levied in that year. The income from poll-tax was small in fasli 1300 as compared with the two preceding years. This was owing to the non-recovery of the full demand due for that year, the islanders having refused to pay the tax at the enhanced commutation rate fixed by the amin without authority. The Collector has since directed that the collections should be made at the recognized rate.

13. *Charges.*—The bulk of the expenditure occurs in the payment of (*a*) monopoly prices, chiefly of coir; (*b*) of establishment charges; (*c*) of charges on account of periodical visits to the islands; and (*d*) of payment of Municipal tax on account of Sultan Ali Rajah. The expenditure under all heads amounted to Rs. 42,371 and Rs. 42,104 against Rs. 35,382 in fasli 1298. Excluding the charges shown above from the total receipts, the net revenue in each of these years amounted to Rs. 23,943 and Rs. 8,693, respectively, and these sums were paid to Government in part payment of the peshkash and interest due to it. The arrear of peshkash still remaining to be paid was Rs. 35,185 or more than 3½ years' peshkash at the end of the fasli.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Political Department.
" Collecter of Malabar.
" Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, Political.

The Government has read with interest Mr. Dumergue's report of his visit to the Laccadive islands.

2. The Governor in Council trusts that the persons selected by the Collector as Amins of Minicoy, Androth and Kalpeni, in place of those whom he has dismissed, will be found capable of discharging their duties. In the case of the island first named, the appointment of Dom Malikkan must be regarded as an experiment, the results of which only time will show; it is hoped that they will prove to be happy.

3. The system of temporary free grants in Kavarathi, subject to conditions of planting and payment of a rent of 2½lb. of coir on each fertile tree when a period of twenty years has been reached, appears to be well devised, and the Collector's action in introducing the arrangement at once is approved.

4. It is not apparent why the Collector should leave to the Board or Government for decision such a point as the introduction of casuarinas. The Government considers the chief revenue officer of the district competent to dispose of such matters himself, and Mr. Dumergue may introduce as many exotics as he thinks fit. It seems evident, however, that the questions relating to the clearance of jungle and the relative strength of cocoanut trees grown with and without the shade of screwpine must be worked out by degrees, and, while Government agrees in the remarks at the end of paragraph 47, it should not be too hastily concluded that partial or entire clearance of jungle can lead to no useful results.

5. In what Mr. Dumergue observes in paragraph 48 in regard to the transformation of the sailor class into cultivators of the soil the Governor in Council entirely concurs.

6. The proposal to introduce a spinning-jenny into Androth has been dealt with by the Board of Revenue, and the suggestion in respect to blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and possibly other islands will be remitted to the Public Works Department for consideration. The Government awaits Dr. Beech's report on the leper settlement and vaccination. It is presumed that they have been forwarded to the Surgeon-General.

7. Mr. Dumergue's action in appointing one of the gumastahs schoolmaster in addition to his proper duties is approved, and the proposed additional allowance of Rs. 20 to the hospital assistant at Minicoy will be passed. The question of a results grant should be settled by the Director of Public Instruction.

8. With regard to the 55th paragraph of Mr. Dumergue's report, the Government has long recognised the necessity for providing the revenue officers of Malabar and South Canara with the means of visiting the islands at frequent intervals, but until certain questions now under discussion with the higher authorities have been definitely settled, His Excellency the Governor in Council is unable to take any decided steps. Meanwhile, Mr. Dumergue may with advantage obtain fuller information regarding the cost of such a steamer as he describes, together with its probable yearly charge for maintenance.

9. The Government sanctions the removal of the taxes on vessels trading with Bengal and on fishing boats.

10. Full information in respect to the finances of the islands is contained in the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

Fredrick Lee

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.
" Revenue Department,
" Public Works Department, } with reference to paragraph 6.
" Surgeon-General,
" Director of Public Instruction, with reference to paragraph 7.

Exd. A. Raitt,

9 vg / 15

P. W. CURRENT No. 2853

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

POLITICAL.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 29th February 1892, No. 150.

FEBRUARY.

Laccadives.

Passing orders on the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting, with remarks, report on the inspection of the — by the Collector of Malabar, and the financial statements connected with the administration of these islands for Faslis 1299 and 1300.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

924/20

Read the following

Proceedings, Polit. Dept. G.O. No. 150 d/29.ii.92)

The question of
laying a passage
to the lagoons at
Kadmath and other
islands, referred to in
para 6 of the letter from
the Collector, on the occasion
of the Collector's next
visit, of which ample
notice should be
given to the Chief Engineer,
who will then arrange
that an officer shall,
if possible, be deputed
to visit the localities
with the Collector for
the purpose of making
an examination. A
preliminary report
should thereupon be
submitted for the
consideration

Consideration of Gst.

Ovis 8 75
17.1.72

S.E. IV Arild
Pol. dept 19/3

