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.

Order No. 924 W dt 19 March 1892.

The question of blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and other islands referred to in para 6 will be taken up 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 of Govt.

(sd) O.V.B.

S. S. To Chief

No. 1.

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

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.
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.
21 15 10	677 13 4	..	..	..	..	91 10 19	2,850 9 1
0 11 20	17 9 2	..	..	..	..	3 19 20	119 9 2
6 10 0	202 6 7	..	..	..	..	28 11 5	894 15 2
0 0 1	0 0 10	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	0 6 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	32 16 14	1,456 8 0
266 12 11	10,640 3 5	..	..	..	..	1,247 16 27	49,792 4 5
3 17 7	111 13 11	..	..	..	..	13 15 18	399 2 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 19	19 5 0
0 2 0	2 14 4	..	..	..	..	0 8 5	11 13 6
299 8 21	11,652 13 7	..	..	..	..	1,419 7 23	55,544 10 0
9 16 16	535 13 0	..	..	..	..	11 14 10	638 13 8
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0
..	12,188 10 7	..	..	..	..	..	56,280 15 8
		Number.				Number.	
..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1	..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1
..	240 0 0	..	1,108 6 5	..	..	..	3,770 10 4
..	..	..	1,171 0 0	..	..	..	1,829 10 0
..	..	..	768 0 0	..	..	..	768 0 0
..	..	..	142 8 0	..	..	..	142 8 0
..	..	..	1,446 9 3	..	124 12 8	..	1,592 0 5
..	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
..	12,428 10 7	..	6,567 2 9	..	5,374 12 8	..	71,564 7 6

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.						
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
	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1
II. Cowries	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	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	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	..	..	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

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

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Revenue from monopoly articles.						
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) ..	..	..	..	..	..	8 1 0
V. Rents	..	1,354 14 0	..	1,232 4 8	..	96 9 0
IV. Fines	..	192 4 0	..	..	..	
VII. Sundries—						
Poll tax	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tax on mâs. boats	..	..	..	..	..	..
,, on vessels sailing to Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	53 4 0
Other sundries	..	48 15 2	..	63 12 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

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.
23 4 15	836 12 8	..	..	..	..	85 6 13	3,071 10 2
2 11 0	91 12 10	..	..	..	..	14 13 15	528 5 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	19 3 14	690 4 10
297 17 3	9,385 15 8	..	..	..	..	1,197 8 19	37,733 15 10
7 5 21	216 6 8	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,801 4 0
330 18 11	10,530 15 10	..	..	..	..	1,377 5 7	43,825 8 8
7 5 15	375 3 3	..	..	..	..	8 5 20	427 3 8
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	32 0 0
..	10,906 3 1	..	..	..	..	..	44,284 12 4
		NO.				NO.	
..	..	56,535	1,149 6 9	..	..	56,535	1,149 6 9
..	714 2 11	..	1,082 0 0	..	..	..	4,391 6 7
..	6 8 0	..	20 8 0	..	..	..	315 13 0
..	..	..	52 4 0	..	..	..	52 4 0
..	..	..	34 4 10	..	..	..	34 4 10
..	..	..	61 8 0	..	..	..	61 8 0
..	..	..	204 13 11	..	136 11 3	..	507 8 4
..	720 10 11	..	2,604 13 6	..	136 11 3	..	6,512 3 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
..	11,626 14 0	..	2,604 13 6	..	35,386 11 3	..	86,046 15 10

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.						
I. Coir—						
First class	17 7 19	554 3 3	..	..	7 17 7	248 3 2
Second class	214 5 12	5,679 10 2	334 8 18	8,741 5 8	463 9 13	11,072 12 8
Third class	7 19 19	159 3 1	34 5 3	682 13 3	11 2 15	222 0 5
	239 12 22	6,393 0 6	368 13 21	9,424 2 11	482 9 7	11,543 0 3
II. Cowries	0 11 24	20 1 0	0 1 1	1 12 0	0 7 8	14 14 6
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 8	..	..	..
Total charges on account of monopoly articles ..	..	6,413 1 6	..	9,425 14 11	..	11,557 14 9
Miscellaneous charges.						
IV. Cocoanuts (numbers) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Godown rent and other sea-custom charges	..	..	..	..	..	..
VI. Establishment charges—						
(*a*) Salary	..	564 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	304 2 1
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	4 4 6	..	4 0 0	..	4 2 0
VII. Charges on account of visit to islands—						
(*a*) Purchase of rice for payment of boats, coolies, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	150 8 8
(*b*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	60 0 0	..	53 0 0	..	..
(*c*) Stationery and other charges	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9
	..	65 6 9	..	58 6 9	..	155 15 5
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Sundries	..	0 14 0	..	0 14 4	..	264 13 4
Total of miscellaneous charges ..	..	634 9 3	..	519 5 1	..	729 0 10
Special payments.						
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1300 in reduction of peshkash Rs. 15,000-0-11	..	..	..	..	..	..
XI. Repayment of loans	..	..	..	..	..	..
XII. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peshkash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	7,047 10 9	..	9,945 4 9	..	12,286 15 7

No. II.

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

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.
..	..	..	..	..	..	25 4 26	802 6 5
335 7 3	7,992 0 7	..	..	..	..	1,347 10 18	33,485 13 1
7 5 21	145 13 10	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,209 14 7
342 12 24	8,137 14 5	..	..	..	..	1,433 8 18	35,498 2 1
7 15 15	268 11 6	..	..	..	..	8 15 20	305 7 0
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	..
..	8,406 9 11	..	..	..	..	..	35,803 9 1
		NO.				NO.	
..	..	52,045	104 1 5	..	..	52,045	104 1 5
..	..	..	..	..	198 2 11	..	198 2 11
..	570 0 0	..	509 5 11	..	801 1 6	..	3,204 9 6
..	3 5 0	..	..	..	46 11 10	..	62 7 4
..	150 8 8	..	150 8 8	..	..	..	451 10 0
..	..	..	..	..	155 0 0	..	268 0 0
..	5 6 8	..	5 6 9	..	..	..	27 1 8
..	155 15 4	..	155 15 5	..	155 0 0	..	746 11 8
..	..	..	..	..	727 2 10	..	727 2 10
..	214 0 0	..	175 2 3	..	601 0 1	..	1,256 12 0
..	943 4 4	..	944 9 0	..	2,529 3 2	..	6,299 15 8
..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
..	..	..	..	..	30,473 4 4	..	30,473 4 4
..	..	..	..	..	8,220 2 9	..	8,220 2 9
..	..	..	..	..	43,943 7 1	..	43,943 7 1
..	9,349 14 3	..	944 9 0	..	46,472 10 3	..	86,046 15 10

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. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1298. Amount or value.	Fasli 1299. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1299. Amount or value.	Fasli 1300. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1300. Amount or value.
	cds. ..	Rs. ..	cds. ..	Rs. ..	cds. ..	Rs. ..
Opening balance						
Receipts.						
1. Coir—						
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 16⅓	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 .. .. } Minicoy ..		581		768		52
8. Tax on mas boats .. .. }	..	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. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1298. Amount or value.	Fasli 1299. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1299. Amount or value.	Fasli 1300. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1300. Amount or value.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.	cds.	Rs.	cds.	Rs.	cds.	Rs.
1. Coir	1,261	29,070	1,380	36,158	1,433	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.						
	No.		No.		No.	
4. Cocoanuts	80,676	171	55,871	111	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
Total ..	..	35,382	..	42,371	..	42,164
10. Special payments—						
Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1298 in deduction of peshkash of Rupees 15,000-0-11 for the year	..	5,250	..	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 2⅛lb. 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.

Receipts.

Items.	Fasli 1298. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1298. Amount or value.	Fasli 1299. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1299. Amount or value.	Fasli 1300. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1300. Amount or value.
	cds.	rs.	cds.	rs.	cds.	rs.
Opening balance	..	..	..	..	..	..
Receipts.						
1. Coir—						
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 20¼	97	0 0 8	32
Miscellaneous revenue.						
4. Rents	..	4,041	..	3,770	..	4,391
5. Fines	..	194	..	1,830	..	316
6. Cocoanuts	No. 80,676	1,074	No. 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. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1298. Amount or value.	Fasli 1299. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1299. Amount or value.	Fasli 1300. Weight or quantity.	Fasli 1300. Amount or value.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.	cds.	rs.	cds.	rs.	cds.	rs.
1. Coir	1,261	29,070	1,380	36,158	1,433	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.	No.		No.		No.	
4. Cocoanuts	80,676	171	55,871	111	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
Total ..	..	35,382	..	42,371	..	42,164
10. Special payments—						
Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1298 in deduction of peshkash of Rupees 15,000-0-11 for the year	..	5,250	..	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 2⅖lb. 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.)

J. F. PRICE,
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.

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.

Order No. 924 W dy 19 March 1892

The question of blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and other islands referred to in para 6 will be taken up 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 of Govt.

(sd) O.V.B.

S. E. IV Smith

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—second class ..	22 8 0	697 8 3	22 17 3	711 10 3	24 10 6	763 9 3
Balance of last year's stock—third class ..	..	..	2 0 0	60 0 0	1 8 0	42 0 0
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
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7
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
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
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
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..
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
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	..	..	1 2 23	62 3 9
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0	..	..
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2
Miscellaneous revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	1,223 6 0	..	585 0 0
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	50 10 0	..	..
VII. Sundries—						
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Tax on mâs boats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..	9 0 6	..	11 0 0
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0
Receipts other than ordinary.						
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248 1 2

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.

Order No. 924 Dated 19 March 1892

The question of blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and other islands referred to in para 6 will be taken up 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 of Govt.

(sd) O.V.B.

J. S. Thuraisamy

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—second class ..	22 8 0	697 8 3	22 17 3	711 10 3	24 10 6	763 9 3
Balance of last year's stock—third class ..	..	..	2 0 0	60 0 0	1 8 0	42 0 0
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
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7
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
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
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
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..
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
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	..	..	1 2 23	62 3 9
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0	..	..
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2
Miscellaneous revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	1,223 6 0	..	..
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	50 10 0	..	585 0 0
VII. Sundries—						
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Tax on mâs boats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..	9 0 6	..	11 0 0
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0
Receipts other than ordinary.						
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248 1 2

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

POLITICAL.

Order No. 924 W dy 19 March 1892

The question of blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and other islands referred to in para 6 will be taken up 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 of Govt.

(sd) O.V.B.

Issued

Reed. 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.

S. S. Tu Smith

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

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		
1876	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.
1877	223,219	
1878	1,215	
1879	434,132	
1880	653,294	
1881	249,236	
1882	56,888	The decrease is attributed to unfavorable season (*vide* Government Order, No. 374, dated 14th May 1883).
1883	152,907	
1884	919,977	
.. ..	439,852	
Average ..	364,179	
1885	32,000	The decrease is suspected to be due to the dishonesty of amin Ali Malikhan 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	83,303	
Average ..	144,972	

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.			Imports.			Remarks.
	Description of article.	Quantity.		Description of article.	Quantity.		
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.	80,000	
	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	
				Dhôll	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 mas boats.	Tax on vessels sailing to Bengal.	Sundries.	Total.	Compensation for Aminidivi 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
1. Agathi .. { Fasli 1299.	Rs. 11,205	Rs. 41	Rs. ..	Rs. 11,246	Rs. ..	Rs. 1,199	Rs. 23	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. 1,222	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. ..	Rs. 12,468	The collections of fasli 1300 are exclusive of Rs. 5,034-9-11 due from Messrs. D. Manecki 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	..	.. 8	585	..	..	..	11	596	..	..	..	..	18,248	
,, 1300.	14,930	19	..	14,949	..	96	..	..	..	..	53	167	..	..	..	..	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	30,000	..	5,250	5,375	
,, 1300.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137	137	5,250	..	..	35,250	35,387	
Total .. { Fasli 1299.	55,545	639	97	56,281	1,931	3,770	1,830	768	142	(*e*) 62	1,592	10,033	5,250	30,000	..	5,250	71,564	
,, 1300.	43,826	427	32	44,285	1,149	4,391	316	(*a*) 52	(*b*) 34	300	507	6,512	5,250	..	..	35,250	86,047	
Receipts in Fasli 1298 ..	67,351	150	83	67,584	1,074	4,041	194	581	40		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.

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 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. 35,804 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

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. *Miscelluneous 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 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. 35,804 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
Agathi .. Fasli 1299 ..	RS. 7,278	RS. 12	RS. ..	RS. 7,290	RS. 517	RS. ..	RS. ..	RS. ..
" 1300 ..	6,393	20	..	6,413	568	65	..	..
Kavarathi .. Fasli 1299 ..	10,490	..	41	10,531	466	..	..	..
" 1300 ..	9,424	2	..	9,426	466	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

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 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. 35,804 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	..	..	..	..	..	9,946
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	6,300	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	5 8 0
(4) Remuneration given to the Minicoy amin for selling rice	33 9 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

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

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Revenue from monopoly articles.						
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
Balance of last year's stock—third class ..	..	..	2 0 0	60 0 0	1 8 0	42 0 0
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
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7
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
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
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
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..
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
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	.. 0 0 20½	.. 97 8 0	1 2 23	62 3 9
III. Tortoise shell	..	..			..	..
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2
Miscellaneous revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	.. 1,223 6 0	..	.. 585 0 0
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	50 10 0	..	
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	..	..	..
VII. Sundries—						..
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	11 0 0
2. Tax on mâs boats ..	..	..	..	9 0 6	..	
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..			
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0
Receipts other than ordinary.						
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248 1 2

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

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

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,

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

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,

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

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

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,

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

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 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 (= 96$\frac{1}{5}$ 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,

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

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,

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

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

POLITICAL.

Issued

Read. *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.

Order No. 924 W 4/19-3

The question of blas
a passage into the lagoon
at Androth and other islan
referred to in para 6 will be
taken up 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 locali
-ties with the Collector for the
purpose of making an examin
-ation. A preliminary report
should thereupon be submitted
for the consideration of Govt.

(Sd) Illegible

S. E IV Circle
Political Dept.

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

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,

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

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,

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 coccanut 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

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 (= 96⅕ 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,

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

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

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

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	The decrease is attributed to unfavorable season (*vide* Government Order, No. 374, dated 14th May 1883).
1882	152,907	
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 Malikhan 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	83,303	
Average ..	144,972	

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.			IMPORTS.			Remarks.
	Description of article.	Quantity.		Description of article.	Quantity.		
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.	80,000	
	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	
				Dholl	Maunds.	41	
				Sugar	Cwts.	20	
				Ghee	Maunds.	3	

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	The decrease is attributed to unfavorable season (*vide* Government Order, No. 374, dated 14th May 1883).
1882	152,907	
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 Malikhan 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	83,303	
Average ..	144,972	

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.			Imports.			Remarks.
	Description of article.	Quantity.		Description of article.	Quantity.		
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.	80,000	
	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 mas 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	
Mainland ..	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.

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 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. 35,804 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.					Grand Total.
	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.	
						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	6,300	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	5	8	0
(4) Remuneration given to the Minicoy amin for selling rice	33	9	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 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.

—		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	..	..	..	..	..	9,946
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	6,300	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	5	8	0
(4) Remuneration given to the Minicoy amin for selling rice	33	9	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 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

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—second class ..	22 8 0	697 8 3	22 17 3	711 10 3	24 10 6	763 9 3
Balance of last year's stock—third class ..	..	..	2 0 0	60 0 0	1 8 0	42 0 0
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
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7
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
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
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
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..
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
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	..	..	1 2 23	62 3 9
III. Tortoise-shell	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0	..	..
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2
Miscellaneous revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	1,223 6 0	..	..
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	50 10 0	..	585 0 0
VII. Sundries—						
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Tax on mâs boats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..	9 0 6	..	11 0 0
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0
Receipts other than ordinary.						
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248 1 2

No. 1.

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

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.
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.
21 15 10	677 13 4	..	..	..	..	91 10 19	2,850 9 1
0 11 20	17 9 2	..	..	..	..	3 19 20	119 9 2
6 10 0	202 6 7	..	..	..	..	28 11 5	894 15 2
0 0 1	0 0 10	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	0 6 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	32 16 14	1,456 8 0
266 12 11	10,640 3 5	..	..	..	..	1,247 16 27	49,792 4 5
3 17 7	111 13 11	..	..	..	..	13 15 18	399 2 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 19	19 5 0
0 2 0	2 14 4	..	..	..	..	0 8 5	11 13 6
299 8 21	11,652 13 7	..	..	..	..	1,419 7 23	55,544 10 0
9 16 16	535 13 0	..	..	..	..	11 14 10	638 13 8
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0
..	12,188 10 7	..	..	..	..	..	56,280 15 8
		Number.				Number.	
..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1	..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1
..	240 0 0	..	1,108 6 5	..	..	..	3,770 10 4
..	..	..	1,171 0 0	..	..	..	1,829 10 0
..	..	..	768 0 0	..	..	..	768 0 0
..	..	..	142 8 0	..	..	..	142 8 0
..	..	..	1,446 9 3	..	124 12 8	..	1,592 0 5
..	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
..	12,428 10 7	..	6,567 2 9	..	5,374 12 8	..	71,564 7 6

Enclosure

Statement A showing the receipts on account of the Laccadive Islands

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	21 15 10	677 13 4	..	..	..	..	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	0 11 20	17 9 2	..	..	..	..	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	6 10 0	202 6 7	..	..	..	..	28 11 5	894 15 2
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7	0 0 1	0 0 10	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	0 6 10
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	..	..	..	..	..	..	32 16 14	1,456 8 0
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	266 12 11	10,640 3 5	..	..	..	..	1,247 16 27	49,792 4 5
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	3 17 7	111 13 11	..	..	..	..	13 15 18	399 2 10
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 19	19 5 0
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 3 5	4 9 8	0 3 0	4 5 6	0 2 0	2 14 4	..	..	..	..	0 5 5	11 13 6
Total ..	283 14 25	11,205 7 7	386 15 11	15,096 7 5	449 8 22	17,589 13 5	299 8 21	11,652 13 7	..	..	..	..	1,419 7 23	55,544 10 0
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	..	..	1 2 23	62 3 9	9 16 16	535 13 0	..	..	..	..	11 14 10	638 13 8
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2	..	12,188 10 7	..	..	..	..	..	56,280 15 8
Miscellaneous revenue.									Number.				Number.	
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1	..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	1,223 6 0	..	..	..	240 0 0	..	1,108 6 5	..	..	..	3,770 10 4
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	50 10 0	..	585 0 0	..	..	..	1,171 0 0	..	..	..	1,829 10 0
VII. Sundries—														
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	768 0 0	..	..	..	768 0 0
2. Tax on más boats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142 8 0	..	..	..	142 8 0
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..	9 0 6	..	11 0 0	..	..	..	1,446 9 3	..	124 12 8	..	1,592 0 5
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0	..	240 0 0	..	6,567 2 9	..	124 12 8	..	10,033 7 10
Receipts other than ordinary.														
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248	..	12,428 10 7	..	6,567 2 9	..	5,374 12 8	..	71,564 7 6

No. 1.

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

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
	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1
II. Cowries	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	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	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	..	..	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

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

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.						
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
	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1
II. Cowries	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	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	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	..	..	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

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

Enclosure

Statement B showing the charges on account of the Laccadive Islands

No. 2.

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

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	30 6 15	999 12 1	1 0 19	34 1 8	1 9 8	48 4 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	32 16 14	1,082 2 8
Second class	227 2 18	6,267 2 7	374 13 16	10,350 6 3	441 10 8	10,953 10 6	289 16 26	7,217 8 6	..	..	..	..	1,333 3 12	34,788 11 10
Third class	0 10 13	10 14 6	5 1 1	105 5 1	4 6 25	90 8 8	3 17 7	80 8 4	..	..	..	..	13 15 18	287 4 7
	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1	293 14 5	7,298 0 10	..	..	..	..	1,379 15 16	36,158 3 1
II. Cowries	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0	9 13 12	349 2 0	..	..	..	..	11 11 6	407 0 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 20½	41 0 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	..	7,647 2 10	..	..	..	..	..	36,606 3 1
Miscellaneous charges.														
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..			NO.				NO.	
V. Godown rent and other Sea Customs charges	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55,871	111 0 3	..	..	55,871	111 0 3
VI. Establishment charges—														
(*a*) Salary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137 13 1	..	137 13 1
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10	..	774 0 0	..	546 0 0	..	707 14 0	..	3,397 0 10
	..	..	..	9 13 0	..	6 15 0	..	3 3 6	..	49 10 0	..	23 14 3	..	93 7 9
VII. Charges on account of visits to islands—														
(*a*) Rations for Policemen	..	..	..	..	..	24 13 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 13 10
(*b*) Value of medicines..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52 15 0	..	..	..	52 15 0
(*c*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	24 2 0	..	..	..	70 8 0	..	..	..	94 10 0
(*d*) Pay of Mahl Interpreter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 8 0	..	..	..	8 8 0
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	48 15 10	..	..	..	131 15 0	..	..	..	180 14 10
IX. Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	529 11 8	..	529 11 8
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	178 2 7	..	1,136 10 0	..	1,314 12 7
Total of Miscellaneous charges ..	..	517 0 0	..	465 13 0	..	452 1 8	..	777 3 6	..	1,016 11 10	..	2,535 15 0	..	5,764 13 0
Special payments.														
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1299 in reduction of peishcush Rs. 15,000-0-11 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
XI. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peishcush ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,943 7 5	..	23,943 7 5
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29,193 7 5	..	29,193 7 5
Grand Total ..	..	7,806 9 2	..	10,996 10 0	..	11,590 11 9	..	8,424 6 4	..	1,016 11 10	..	34,729 6 5	..	71,564 7 6

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
	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1
II. Cowries	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	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	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	..	..	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

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

ENCLOSURE

STATEMENT A showing the receipts on account of the Laccadive Islands

No. I.

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

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.		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.	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 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	23 4 15	836 12 8	..	..	..	..	85 6 13	3,071 10 2
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	2 11 0	91 12 10	..	..	..	..	14 13 15	528 5 10
Portion of current year's stock sold within the year—first class ..	13 5 19	478 3 7	..	..	5 17 23	212 1 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	19 3 14	690 4 10
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	297 17 3	9,385 15 8	..	..	..	..	1,197 8 19	37,733 15 10
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	7 5 21	216 6 8	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,801 4 0
	215 7 4	6,852 9 11	362 16 7	11,512 5 6	468 3 13	14,929 9 5	330 18 11	10,530 15 10	..	..	..	..	1,377 5 7	43,825 8 8
II. Cowries	0 11 24	30 9 0	0 1 1	2 10 10	0 7 8	18 12 7	7 5 15	375 3 3	..	..	..	..	8 5 20	427 3 8
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 8	32 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	32 0 0
Total, revenue from monopoly articles	..	6,883 2 11	..	11,547 0 4	..	14,948 6 0	..	10,906 3 1	..	..	..	..	..	44,284 12 4
Miscellaneous Revenue.									NO.				NO.	
IV. Cocoanuts (number) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56,535	1,149 6 9	..	..	56,535	1,149 6 9
V. Rents	..	1,354 14 0	..	1,232 4 8	..	..	..	714 2 11	..	1,082 0 0	..	..	..	4,391 6 7
IV. Fines	..	192 4 0	..	..	..	8 1 0	..	6 8 0	..	20 8 0	..	..	..	315 13 0
VII. Sundries—						96 9 0								
Poll tax	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52 4 0	..	..	..	52 4 0
Tax on mâs. boats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34 4 10	..	..	..	34 4 10
,, on vessels sailing to Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61 8 0	..	..	..	61 8 0
Other sundries	..	48 15 2	..	63 12 0	..	53 4 0	..	..	..	204 13 11	..	136 11 3	..	507 8 4
Total of miscellaneous revenue ..	..	1,596 1 2	..	1,296 0 8	..	157 14 0	..	720 10 11	..	2,604 13 6	..	136 11 3	..	6,512 3 6
Receipts other than ordinary.														
VIII. Compensation due to Sultan Ali Rajah for Amindivi Islands and credited towards arrears of peshkash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
IX. Loans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,000 0 0	..	30,000 0 0
Total of receipts other than ordinary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35,250 0 0	..	35,250 0 0
Grand Total ..	..	8,479 4 1	..	12,843 1 0	..	15,106 4 0	..	11,626 14 0	..	2,604 13 6	..	35,386 11 3	..	86,046 15 10

Enclosure

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

No. II.

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	335 7 3	7,992 0 7	..	..	..	..	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	7 5 21	145 13 10	..	..	..	..	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	342 12 24	8,137 14 5	..	..	..	..	1,433 8·18	35,498 2 1
II. Cowries	0 11 24	20 1 0	0 1 1	1 12 0	0 7 8	14 14 6	7 15 15	268 11 6	..	..	..	..	8 15 20	305 7 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	..
Total charges on account of monopoly articles ..	..	6,413 1 6	..	9,425 14 11	..	11,557 14 9	..	8,406 9 11	..	..	..	..	..	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—														
(*a*) Salary	..	564 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	304 2 1	..	570 0 0	..	509 5 11	..	801 1 6	..	3,204 9 6
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	4 4 6	..	4 0 0	..	4 2 0	..	3 5 0	..	..	..	46 11 10	..	62 7 4
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	..	..	..	451 10 0
(*b*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	60 0 0	..	53 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155 0 0	..	268 0 0
(*c*) Stationery and other charges	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 8	..	5 6 9	..	..	..	27 1 8
	..	65 6 9	..	58 6 9	..	155 15 5	..	155 15 4	..	155 15 5	..	155 0 0	..	746 11 8
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	727 2 10	..	727 2 10
IX. Sundries	..	0 14 0	..	0 14 4	..	264 13 4	..	214 0 0	..	175 2 3	..	601 0 1	..	1,256 12 0
Total of miscellaneous charges ..	..	634 9 3	..	519 5 1	..	729 0 10	..	943 4 4	..	944 9 0	..	2,529 3 2	..	6,299 15 8
Special payments.														
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1300 in reduction of peshkash Rs. 15,000–0–11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
XI. Repayment of loans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,473 4 4	..	30,473 4 4
XII. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peshkash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,220 2 9	..	8,220 2 9
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,943 7 1	..	43,943 7 1
Grand Total ..	..	7,047 10 9	..	9,945 4 9	..	12,286 15 7	..	9,349 14 3	..	944 9 0	..	46,472 10 3	..	86,046 15 10

Enclosure

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

No. II.

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	335 7 3	7,992 0 7	..	..	..	..	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	7 5 21	145 13 10	..	..	..	..	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	342 12 24	8,137 14 5	..	..	..	..	1,433 8 18	35,498 2 1
II. Cowries	0 11 24	20 1 0	0 1 1	1 12 0	0 7 8	14 14 6	7 15 15	268 11 6	..	..	..	..	8 15 20	305 7 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	..
Total charges on account of monopoly articles ..	..	6,413 1 6	..	9,425 14 11	..	11,557 14 9	..	8,406 9 11	..	..	..	..	..	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—														
(*a*) Salary	..	564 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	304 2 1	..	570 0 0	..	509 5 11	..	801 1 6	..	3,204 9 6
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	4 4 6	..	4 0 0	..	4 2 0	..	3 5 0	..	..	..	46 11 10	..	62 7 4
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	..	..	..	451 10 0
(*b*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	60 0 0	..	53 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155 0 0	..	268 0 0
(*c*) Stationery and other charges	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 8	..	5 6 9	..	..	..	27 1 8
	..	65 6 9	..	58 6 9	..	155 15 5	..	155 15 4	..	155 15 5	..	155 0 0	..	746 11 8
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	727 2 10	..	727 2 10
IX. Sundries	..	0 14 0	..	0 14 4	..	264 13 4	..	214 0 0	..	175 2 3	..	601 0 1	..	1,256 12 0
Total of miscellaneous charges ..	..	634 9 3	..	519 5 1	..	729 0 10	..	943 4 4	..	944 9 0	..	2,529 3 2	..	6,299 15 8
Special payments.														
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1300 in reduction of peshkash Rs. 15,000-0-11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
XI. Repayment of loans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,473 4 4	..	30,473 4 4
XII. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peshkash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,220 2 9	..	8,220 2 9
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,943 7 1	..	43,943 7 1
Grand Total ..	..	7,047 10 9	..	9,945 4 9	..	12,286 15 7	..	9,349 14 3	..	944 9 0	..	46,472 10 3	..	86,046 15 10

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.

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.)

J. F. PRICE,
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.

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.

Order No. 924 W 4/19-3-92

the question of blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and other islands referred to in para 6 will be taken up 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 of Govt.

(Sd) D.B.

S. E. IV Circle
Political Dept.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

READ—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., Collector of Kistna, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Vinukonda, 10th February 1892, Extra No. 159:—

I have the honour to report to the Board on the state of those parts of the Kistna district which are suffering from the effects of the unfavorable season and to give the results of my tour through the affected portions of the Palnád and Vinukonda taluks as promised in my endorsement, No. 9151, dated 22nd December 1891—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 27, dated 13th January 1892. I was accompanied throughout by the General Deputy Collector M.R.Ry. P. Pundarikakshudu and the Tashildar of the taluk under inspection and by the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty.

2. The Palnad taluk lies isolated at the extreme north-west of the district. It forms an irregular oblong between 50 and 60 miles long from east to west and from 20 to 30 broad from north to south. It is bounded on the north and west by the river Kistna and on the south by the hills of Márkápur in Kurnool and by the continuation of the same range which divides it from the taluk of Vinukonda. The western portion is mainly hill and jungle. Numerous hill streams and water-courses run through the taluk to the Kistna, and it thus possesses natural facilities for irrigation of a most exceptional character which have been entirely neglected during our rule owing to the distant and isolated character of the country. G.O., No. 363 I, Public Works, dated 30th June 1890, contains a list of six schemes of irrigation, new and old, for this taluk which I have inspected, and I take this opportunity of placing on record seven others which I have visited during my recent tour and which should be inspected by the Special Assistant Engineer in this district.

(1) The restoration of two ruined tanks at Patagangulágunta 3 miles south-west of Srigiripad to store up the water of the Pulichintapayivagu with a catchment basin of over 30 square miles. The irrigating capacity of a square mile of catchment basin may be roughly taken to be 40 acres.

(2) A dam across the Chandravagu in a gorge to the west of Srigiripad to irrigated lands in Gottipalla. Catchment basin 15 to 18 square miles.

(3) A dam to store the water of the Vedimangalamvagu in Veludurti at its passage through a low ridge near Veerabadrapuram. Catchment basin about 15 square miles.

(4) A dam to store the Vedimangalamvagu at Manchikollu catchment basin about 44 square miles.

(5) Restoration of a ruined tank at Gangavaram a mile below Guruzala. The Dandivagu has here a catchment basin of about 60 to 70 square miles. Another ruined tank above this at Jangameshwarapuram was mentioned in the Government Order above quoted, and I am having an estimate made by the Local Fund Supervisor for its repair if possible by the Revenue department.

(6) Restoration of a ruined tank on the main branch of the same stream higher up at Tsarlagudipad. The bed is much silted up, and the bund must be raised if tank is to be restored.

(7) A supply channel a mile or two in length from the Vedimangalamvagu to the tank at Rentachintala. This is a minor work which, I hope, to get executed by the Revenue department.

3. The revenue of the Palnád taluk is Rs. 3,06,704, of which only Rs. 15,515 is derived from irrigation. The chief products are cotton, castors, cholum, sazza and varagu.

4. Prices in January stood as follows:—

—	Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee.		
	Average of 1889—91.	Scarcity rate.	Present rate, January 1892.
Paddy	25·74	..	18·
Rice	12·6	11·2	9·
Cholum	22·59	14·7	14·4
Sazza	23·18	15·4	15·3
Varagu	26·26	..	Not procurable.

5. The rainfall of last year was 17·07 inches as compared with an average of 29½ inches as follows:—

	1891.	Average of five years.
January	...	...
February	...	...
March	...	...
April	0·2	...
May	...	...
June	0·7	..
July	6·07	...
August	2·25	...
September	5 5	...
October	2 35	...
November	...	...
December	...	...
	17·07	29·6

The rainfall was thus 12½ inches below the average as shown by the rain-gauge at Dachepalle. It was, however, most unequally distributed. The eastern part of the taluk has done fairly well, a few villages indeed better than usual. Other parts have had an almost entire failure of every crop. I entered the taluk from Vinukonda through the Kambhalkanama pass at the village of Obaleshanapalle where the villagers met me in excellent spirits and assured me, what farmers seldom admit, that they had excellent harvests. Six miles to the east comes a village where 2 annas is a favorable estimate for the outturn of every crop of the season.

6. At every halting place were deputations of ryots from the distressed villages requesting remission of the dry assessment or at least its suspension, while no such plea was put forward from the more fortunate localities. Without troubling the Board with details, I may say that the distressed villages form two groups—one of six villages south-east of Tummerkode and a second of twelve villages running from Guruzala, the future head-quarters of the taluk south-east of Julakallu at the foot of the hills. There is also a single village at the extreme west, Gangalagunta, which received no rain, while its neighbours fared moderately well. In these villages the area of entirely withered crop is excessive, rising to above a half of the cultivated area, while the outturn of such crop as eared is exceedingly low, varying from 2 to 4 annas.

7. In these 19 villages, the names of which follow, I have informed the ryots that, subject to the sanction of the Board, the collection of the fourth instalment of dry kist

will be suspended from March till November next, and I beg that the Board will be pleased to sanction this course. The amount is Rs. 17,127. The total dry assessment of each village is here given:—

	Rs.
1. Matukumalle	1,267
2. Passerlapad	1,776
3. Palvay	4,140
4. Khambampad	3,580
5. Rentachintala	3,934
6. Rayavaram	3,579
7. Guruzala	13,090
8. Budavada	1,167
9. Gogulapad	2,025
10. Senkarapuram Siddehoye	4,041
11. Peddakodamagulla	4,048
12. Chinnakodamagulla	1,900
13 Chintapalle	3,911
14. Julakallu	5,116
15. Petasannigulla	3,453
16. Karempudi	2,643
17. Oppicherla	4,247
18. Narmalapadu	3,707
19. Gangulagunta	883
	68,507

8. The condition of the people is good, and none, except Pariahs, Chucklers, Muhammadans and a scanty few of the Telagas, were ready to accept road work. About 500 of the last-named classes were at work as coolies on the Tummerkodu-Guruzala road and the number had risen on 5th February to 1,115. On the 12th February it had fallen to 926. A special grant of Rs. 5,000 has been made for this road and Rs. 8,000 more will bring it to completion. A new road from Guruzala to Karempudi and Julakallu, branching thence to Nekarikal and Pidugurala, altogether 20 miles long, is about to be constructed, the survey has been completed and the estimate is almost ready. Work will be begun upon it at once. Rs. 1,000 have been placed at the Local Fund Engineer's disposal and will be supplemented by Rs. 9,000 more till the end of March, which can be met from savings and transfers from other works. Rs. 30,000 more can be spent on this road from 1st April to the early rains in June, and allotments will be made as may be necessary. In addition to this work, which will be of real and permanent advantage to the taluk, three of the hill passes through the reserved forest (Kambhal, Kakerala and Dowpalle Kanamas) will be improved for cart traffic by the Forest department out of allotments amounting to Rs. 1,100 made by the Taluk Board. The sum to be expended on roads may, therefore, amount to Rs. 54,100 which will provide work for 2,500 coolies—men, women and children—for five months at an average of 2 annas each per day. All work is being done on contract and by measurement, and I should deprecate a resort to daily wages at present. A cooly can earn 3 annas per day at stone breaking by a good day's work. Some told me they were earning 3 annas, others said they made only 2 annas.

9. *Water-supply and wells.*—Wells are running dry everywhere and but few tanks or pools have any water at all. Allotments, amounting to Rs 2,800, have been made from Local Funds for 13 wells. An estimate for the restoration of the Jungameshwarapuram tank and the improvement of Guruzala dependent on it, is nearly completed by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small as noted in paragraph 2 (5) above. Work No. (7) will also be estimated for.

10. *Other works.*—A chuttram, rest-house and hospital are to be built at Guruzala, the new head-quarters of the taluk, and a school house at Dachepalle, and these buildings will be pushed on. I beg that the Board will move Government to begin the construction of the new taluk cutcherry at Guruzala for the same reason. A similar request will be made (paragraphs 22, 25 and 29) for the public buildings at Vinukonda, Narasaraopet and Bápatla.

11. The prospects for cattle are depressing. The last cattle census gave 215,133 as the total number in the taluk. Of green fodder there is almost none; of dry the insufficient quantity may be judged by the failure of crops. In Dáchepalle which is not one of the distressed villages, I was told of a ryot selling for Rs. 25 with many laments, a bull worth Rs. 100 to a merchant from the delta. He had no confidence he could keep it alive till next rains. At the same time I must say that at present all the cattle I saw were well-to-do and well fed. But many have been sent to the Nizam's Dominions and to the delta for pasture.

12. Personal appeals for permission to procure pasture for cattle in the reserved forests were more numerous than applications for a suspension of revenue collection. In none of the forests that I have visited in these parts is there now any grass at all, but the forest system is already beginning, as the ryots themselves acknowledge, to produce a beneficial effect, and a large growth of yepi (*Hardwickia binata*) and jana (*Grewia Asiatica*) leaves is available for pasturing cattle. The standing rule is a fee of one anna for a head-load of leaves, but as a bullock will consume a head-load in a day, a ryot owning 100 head of cattle would require the daily attendance of 100 men to fetch leaves for them. A reduction of the fee to 3 pies per head-load, which I ordered a month or two ago, was valueless for the same reason.

13. After several days' travel through the forests and discussions with the ryots, the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector, the District Forest-officer Mr. Alwar Chetty has worked out with me a method of meeting the needs of the people with a minimum of damage to the forests.

14. Under the great stress of universal failure of grass pasturage apart from farm produce, the object is to keep the cattle alive till next rains, when their owners will be in a position to pay fees and maintain the forest revenue once more, which they cannot do if the cattle die. All permits, therefore, under the arrangements I have now made, will be free.

15. The reserved forests are divided into blocks of a size capable of supervision by a suitable forest staff and two blocks are assigned to each village or set of villages—one block to be used for pasturage from now till the end of March and the other from the end of March till the rains.

16. The chief cause of damage in the forests is the destruction of saplings and boughs of the yepi by axe and by breakage in order to place the leaves within reach of the cattle. This must be by some effectual means prevented. The holder of the permit will therefore be required to provide himself with a "dhoty" or long stick with a hook at the end. This is strong enough to clip off the twigs and leaves, but not strong enough to cut or break a bough, and we hope by this simple means to solve the difficulty of providing fodder without serious injury to the trees during the present drought. The villagers are held responsible for the exclusion of axes for the preservation of the trees from damage and for immediate and joint help in extinguishing fire, and in cases of default all permits will be cancelled and the block absolutely closed to the whole village. The villagers have been made to understand these conditions which are also printed on the permits, and their co-operation may, I think, be fully relied on.

17. I pass now to the *Vinukonda taluk* which lies due south of Palnád but cut off from it by the range of hill and jungle already referred to. The rainfall * of the season, though extremely defective (15·53 inches against an average of 30·7 for the past 5 years or 28·25 for the past 4 years), has been so well distributed that, though the wet crops have almost entirely failed, the dry crops in most villages have harvested moderately well and grain and dry fodder have been stored. No general suspension of revenue collections is

Rainfall—1891.					Ins.
June	...	...	...	...	1·63
July	...	...	...	...	4·24
August	...	...	...	...	1·29
September	...	...	...	...	4·55
October	...	...	...	...	3·66
November	...	...	..	...	0·16
December	...	...	...	...	...
			Total	...	15·53

required. Only two or three villages are in a thoroughly poor condition. One of these (Gandiganamala) lies on a plateau to the extreme north-west, adjoining the pass into Palnád and is inhabited by a colony of lambadies. Another village on the same plateau (Remidicherla) requires special arrangements for providing work. The lambadies will find work on two of the passes mentioned in paragraph 8 (see also paragraph 20 below). A fourth village (Putsamutla) to the extreme south of the taluk in which crops have extensively failed will receive consideration by postponement of coercive process where the Deputy Collector is satisfied of inability to pay.

18. Green fodder for the cattle is everywhere wanting and the arrangements for forest pasturage already described have been made here also to the great relief of the ryots.

19. *Water-supply* is scanty in numerous villages and Local fund allotments amounting to over Rs. 1,663 for wells have been made.

20. In this taluk, as in Palnád, the poorer classes, many of whom belong to the American Baptist Mission, are in need of employment. For these, besides the sinking and improvement of wells already referred to, there will be repairs of 11 minor tanks under the Public Works Department with sanctioned allotments amounting to Rs. 4,200.

21. In the isolated north-west plateau already referred to, work is required for the poorer classes of Remidicherla, Gandiganamala and Ravalapuram. In Remidicherla there are three connected tanks breached in the great cyclone of 1864 and never repaired since. They irrigated an area of 73 acres. There used to be numerous irrigation wells in the village, but with the breaching of the tanks the sub-soil springs sank out of reach and they are abandoned, and there was only one well even for drinking water at the time of my visit. On inspection I found the sluices of the tanks in fair order and nothing wanted but the closing of breaches, raising and revetting of portions of banks and provision for a waste weir over hard ground. During my halt the Forest Ranger Ananada Row (qualified for Public Works Department Supervisor) took and recorded levels and sections and assisted the Tahsildar to pepare estimates which were checked by the Local Fund Supervisor Mr. Small (formerly on tank restoration work) who had marched through the pass from Palnad to meet me. The estimate amounted to Rs. 2,100 and under the special circumstances of the case I ordered the work to be put in hand at once out of minor irrigation funds and I beg the Board's approval of my action. The estimate is enclosed. An estimate for the repair of the Ipur tank, a considerable work, is with the Superintending Engineer and that for the restoration of Dondapad tank, amounting to more than a lakh of rupees, is now before the Government, and I trust it may be passed and an allotment provided at once.

22. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Vinukonda and I beg that Government may be asked to allow the work to be begun as an additional source of employment (see paragraphs 10 and 23).

23. Other irrigation works in this taluk, some of which have already been approved by the Superintending Engineer, await estimates for construction or restoration and will afford abundant work if promptly taken in hand. Others are projects which require investigation. The chief of these are an anicut across the large river Gundlakamma at Andugulapad. Restorations of ruined tanks at Gandiganamala in the extreme north-west, at Peddakancherla (doubtful) and Tirupurapuram in the south, and at Muppala in the north-east. All these but the last I have seen and consider them deserving of professional investigation.

24. A new road 16 miles long is being surveyed from Vinukonda to Kopparapad, and can be put in hand if it should be found necessary. Among petty works is the improvement of a pass north of Vinukonda by the Forest Department at a cost of Rs. 100 out of Local Funds.

25. *Narsaraopet taluk.*—This taluk has also been affected in the south and west parts by the drought of the past year. Its rainfall * was 11·88 inches against an average of 31·88 inches. The early crop of jonna turned out fairly well, the estimate of the 10 worst villages of the taluk averaging 10 annas. The later crops fared worse and 59 out of 93 villages averaged only a 4-anna crop. I summoned the Tahsildar to meet me and the Deputy Collector at Vinukonda, and found no difficulty in deciding that no relief in the form of a general suspension of revenue collection was necessary, though care will have to be exercised to avoid extreme measures for enforcing payment in the case of the poorer ryots. Water-supply, as far as wells for drinking-water are concerned, is somewhat more favorable than in the other two taluks. Rs. 2,670 have been allotted for wells.

1891.	Ins.
June	0·35
July	4·25
August	2·18
September	2·82
October	2·18
November	0·10
December	...
Total ...	11·88

26. For the poorer classes in this taluk, many of whom are represented by Roman Catholic and Baptist Missionaries, work is required, and for this purpose the road from Sattenapalle to Narsaraopet, about 16 miles for which estimate is completed, will be begun at once and allotments provided as may be necessary.

27. I beg that Government may be moved to order the immediate erection of the three sanctioned public buildings at Narsaraopet, the taluk cutcherry, the District Munsif's court and the Deputy Collector's office. They are greatly needed and they will afford a large amount of work to the labouring and artisan classes.

28. The other affected taluks of this district are Sattenapalle and Bápatla, and to discuss their condition the Sub-Collector Mr. Wedderburn met me at Vinukonda.

29. Sattenapalle taluk may be disposed of with the remark that only four villages are affected. These have been inspected by Mr. Wedderburn who finds no special arrangements needed.

30. Bápatla taluk has fared worse, but of course only the upland villages. These in number under 20 all lie north of the Kommamur canal and to the west of the taluk adjoining the Nellore district and Narsaraopet. There has been extensive failure of dry crops and also of water-supply. Mr. Wedderburn has visited nearly all these villages and is satisfied that for the great majority of the ryots there is no lack, not merely of food but of means to pay the revenue demands. He finds here what is common throughout the affected tracts, not so much a danger of present scarcity of food as the fear that the past season of drought may be followed by one still worse, and that the year Nandana will prove a year of famine as it did in its cycle sixty years ago. On the whole, therefore, no suspension of revenue collection can be recommended, but the Sub-Collector will continue his observations during the jamabandi of the taluk which he is about to begin, and I will not fail to address the Board again should occasion require.

31. A new taluk cutcherry has been sanctioned for Bápatla and I beg that its construction may be commenced to add to the available work.

32. The water-supply of the uplands of Bápatla is bad and unfortunately the sub-soil springs are so brackish that little can be done for improvement. Mr. Wedderburn is however arranging for local fund allotments wherever they can be usefully employed.

33. Mr. Wedderburn was surprised at the comparatively prosperous condition of the pariahs and chucklers of these villages. They are in the habit of moving into the delta every year for the harvest, and in this way acquire means of subsistence to supplement those of their own homes. Throughout the delta there will be from the 1st March a large demand for labour by the Public Works Department in widening and deepening the irrigation canals; so much work indeed is there to do that the canals are being closed a month earlier than usual. Employment in abundance for ordinary

coolies is therefore available till the beginning of June. It is a question however whether the work will suffice for all demands if there is a large influx of laborers from the Nellore district.

34. In conclusion I beg the sanction of the Board and of Government to the following proposals:—

(1) The suspension till November of the fourth instalment of dry assessment in nineteen villages of Palnád amounting to Rs. 17,127 (paragraph 7).

(2) The repair of the Remidicherla tanks in Vinukonda at a cost of Rs. 2,100. The work is in progress and the amount can be provided at present by transfer within the district (paragraph 21).

(3) The sanction of the Dondapad tank estimate in Vinukonda, now before Government in the Irrigation Branch of Public Works Department, and an allotment for the present and for next official year (paragraph 21).

(4) Sanction for the continuance of expenditure from Provincial funds on the cutcherries, court and office at Guruzala (Palnád), Vinukonda, Narsaraopet and Bápatla (paragraphs 10, 22, 27, 31).

(5) The investigation of the various irrigation projects I have mentioned by the Special Assistant Engineer under the orders of the Superintending Engineer.

Resolution—dated 4th March 1892, No 163.

Mr. Arundel's report on the condition of the parts of his district which have suffered during the past season, will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The area in any way affected lies in the four southern taluks of his district, in which the rainfall of the year has been as follows compared with the averages of the previous 20 years. At all these stations rain during the first four months of the year is rare.

Station.		May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total for year.
Palnád ..	Average	1·7	3·4	3·8	5·4	6 6	4·4	2·6	·4	29·0
	1891 ..	..	·7	6·1	2·3	5·5	2·4	..	..	17·1
Vinukonda ..	Average	1·6	2·7	3·1	4·0	4·5	6·5	3·4	·8	27·3
	1891 ..	·3	1·6	4·2	1·3	4·6	3·7	·2	..	17·7
Narsaraopet ..	Average	2·0	3·5	4·1	4·4	5·3	6·1	3·3	·3	30·2
	1891 ..	..	·4	4·3	2·2	2·8	2·2	·1	..	12.4
Bápatla ..	Average	2·0	3·6	4·2	6·9	6·3	8·1	4·4	·5	36·9
	1891 ..	·1	1·6	3·5	5·1	4·7	1·9	·1	..	19·2

* In Bápatla, it is only the upland villages, west of the Commamur canal, that are affected at all and in Narsaraopet the early crops did well, but in 59 villages out of 93 the late crop was very poor. In Vinukonda, though the rainfall was very light, it was well distributed and it is only in a few villages on the western border, adjoining the Palnád, and in one on the south, adjoining the affected area in Nellore, that any special arrangements will be necessary. In Palnád, the situation is much worse. In 19 villages, comprising two groups, and one isolated village near the Márkápur frontier, more than half the crop withered and the remainder only yielded from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ crop. It does not appear that the people in any part of these taluks are very sorely pressed, or that relief on a large scale will be required. Even in the Palnád, there are a good many villages where the crops have been good.

3. In the affected villages of Palnád, the Collector urges that the instalment of revenue due in March next (Rs. 17,127) may be suspended until November. In no other part does Mr. Arundel consider that any special concessions of this character are required, but he states that the collection of the land revenue should not be pressed in the case of the poorer ryots. His proposals meet with the approval of the Commissioner.

4. Prices are and have been for some time very high in all the affected taluks and that of cholum in Palnád is still above the scarcity rate fixed for the district as shown below:—

—	1891-92. Average for December.	1891-92. Average for January.	1891-92. February, 27th.	February. Normal.	February. Last famine.	1891-92. Average for December.	1891-92. Average for January.	1891-92. February, 27th.	February. Normal.	February. Last famine.
	Rice.					*Cholum.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	7·6	9·0	9·0	13·4	8·2	12·7	13·9	13·9	21·4	10·1
Palnád { Dachepalle	8·8	9·0		14·1	9·2	14·1	13·9		19·6	11·0
Vinukonda	9·7	9·8	9·5	13·5	9·9	15·2	14·8	15·7	25·7	10·9
Narsaraopet	..	..	10·3	14·1	9·7	16·4	15·1	16·7	22·2	11·3
Sattenapalle	9·5	9·1	9·5	14·5	10·8	17·2	15·4	15·4	27·0	12·8
Scarcity rates ..	11·2					14·7				
	Cumbu.					*Ragi.*				
Palnád { Tumurukodu	11·1	12·6	..	21·7	9·3	14·7	16·3	..	26·2	11·0
Palnád { Dachepalle	..	13·4		20·0	10·0	..	..		..	..
Vinukonda	14·3	14·1	14·2	20·6	9·7	15·8	16·0	14·7	36·0	10·5
Narsaraopet	15·7	13·8	14·5	20·1	10·4	..	..	..	24·6	12·6
Sattenapalle	16·8	15·3	15·8	24·2	11·8	..	..	..	26·8	13·4
Scarcity rates ..	15·4					16·6			27·1	

5. To provide employment for those in need of it, who are chiefly Pariahs and Muhammadans, the Local Fund Board is constructing two new roads, which will be of permanent benefit to the Palnád taluk, and three of the hill passes into the taluk are also being improved with Local funds. At present all work is being done by contract and the coolies are earning liberal wages. Allotments of Local funds have also been made for clearing out the drinking-water wells where required, and estimates are being prepared for some irrigation works in the locality. Mr. Arundel also directs renewed attention to the irrigational facilities of the taluk and mentions some projects which he considers worthy of investigation, in addition to those mentioned in his letter disposed of in G.O., dated 30th June 1890, No. 363 I. The Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be called to his suggestions.

6. To provide employment for the people in the three isolated villages of Vinukonda, Mr. Arundel has put in hand the repair of a tank at a cost of Rs. 2,100 from Minor Irrigation funds. The estimate will be referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for examination. He also urges that the repairs of the Ipur and Dondapad tanks may be put in hand at an early date, and the Commissioner requests that the attention of the Public Works Department may be drawn to the matter.

7. In Narsaraopet, the Collector is starting the construction of a road, 16 miles long, to provide employment. For the remaining areas he does not propose anything beyond the immediate erection of new public offices at Bápatla at the same time as those proposed for Palnád, Vinukonda and Narsaraopet, which he considers will afford a good deal of employment for both skilled and unskilled labour. The commencement of these buildings will give useful and much needed employment if Provincial funds are available.

8. The reserved forests have been generally thrown open for grazing and the careful arrangements made for their protection are described in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the Collector's letter.

9. The Collector does not mention whether it will be possible to encourage the sinking of wells by the aid of loans and so far no loans have been granted for the purpose in the district. His attention will be drawn to the matter with a request that all Divisional officers may be instructed to use every endeavour to push forward this work, so valuable to the ryots and also a means of affording employment to considerable numbers of people.

PRO...

... requested to report monthly, until further notice, on the ...reas in his district. His reports should reach the Board by ...

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

X Copy attache

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Kistna.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with estimate.
" Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1892.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

1892, No. 163.

ffected taluks
e district as

Printed March 10th.

Proceedings, 4th March 1892, *No.* 163.

E.I
PW 2580/92

Submitting, with remarks, for the information of Government, report from the Collector of *Kistna* on the *condition of the affected areas* in his district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read* Proceedings of the Board of

* Copy attached.

Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records & Agriculture) dated 4th March 1892. No. 163.

Order thereon 17th March 1892. No. 260.

Recorded.

2. The Board's instructions in paras 9 and of its Proceedings as also the collector's acti in having thrown open the Reserved forest for grazing purposes, subject to certain restrictions, are approved.

3. The collector's recommendation Clause 1 of para 3 4 of his letter is sanc-tioned and his proposals in Clauses (3) and (5) will be considered in the Public works Department.

/True Extract/

Rajamundry

Asst Secretary to Govt

To the Comrs of R.S. L.R & all Rs:
" P. W. Dept. — (W)
" " " (I)
" Comrs of L. R.

P. W. CURRENT No. 2980

Govt. of {1892 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Public works
Secretary (T)

Dated
Recd. 18-3-92

Encl. 1

Mis. G.O. 17 March 1892, No. 260

SUBJECT.

Recording with remarks
& Submitting with
remarks for the information
of Govt., report from the Collr
of Kistna on the condition
of the affected ~~area~~ areas in
his district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From Captain B. CREAGH, H.M.'s I.M., Officiating Presidency Port Officer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 15th January 1892, No. 1390-17-G.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the consideration and orders of Government, the budget estimates of the Port and Marine Funds of this Presidency for the official year 1892–93 and the revised estimates for the current year, together with Appendices A to F, which are as follows :—

Appendix A.—An abstract statement arranged according to districts of receipts and charges of the several Port and Marine Funds, showing in one view the actuals of the past year, the revised estimate of the current year, and the budget estimate of the ensuing year.

Appendix B.—Statement showing the actual Port dues collections and detailed particulars of General, Light-house and Public Works charges for 1892–93, compared with the actuals of the past year and the revised estimate of the current year.

Appendix C.—Statement showing the financial position of the several Port and Marine Funds for the three years 1890–91 to 1892–93, including adjustments on account of loans, interest, &c.

Appendix D.—Statement showing particulars of loan and interest account of the Madras port from 1890–91 to 1892–93.

Appendix E.—Statement showing particulars of loan from Madras outstanding against the District Port Funds in the years 1890–91 to 1892–93.

Appendix F.—Statement showing particulars of public works to be executed from Port Funds during 1892–93.

2. The estimates in question were prepared in accordance with the instructions of Government contained in paragraph 17 of their order, No. 85, Marine, dated 5th March 1890, and the figures in the column of actuals for 1890–91 under the several detailed heads of receipts and charges were reconciled with the accounts for that year submitted to Government with my letter, No. 1243-392-G., dated 15th October 1891, and reviewed in G.O., No. 496, Marine, dated 10th November 1891. The grants for the current year under the several detailed heads, both for receipts and charges, specified in the column of "Budget Estimate, 1891–92," are those sanctioned by Government in their orders, Nos. 211 and 430, Financial, dated 26th March and 10th June 1891, respectively.

3. The revised estimates for the current year of the several Port and Marine Funds which have been incorporated, as desired in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, with the same statement which contains the budget estimate of those funds for the ensuing year, will first be dealt with.

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

The total receipts under this head of account, as per revised estimate now framed, amount to Rs. 3,20,795, against the estimated receipt for the year, viz., Rs. 3,24,330 or Rs. 3,25,000 in round numbers; the decrease of Rs. 3,535 arising by a fall in general receipts, miscellaneous receipts and fees amounting to Rs. 6,775, which was, however, supplemented by an increase in interest on Government securities to the

P. W. CURRENT No. 2980

Govt. of {1892 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The Public works
Secy (T)

Dated
Recd. 15-3-92 } Encl. 1

Mis. G.O. 17 March 1892 No. 260

SUBJECT.

Recording with remarks
& O/ Submitting with
remarks for the information
Govt., report from the Collr
Krishna on the condition
of the affected areas in
his district.

5TH MARCH 1892, No. 273, FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From Captain B. CREAGH, H.M.'s I.M., Officiating Presidency Port Officer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 15th January 1892, No. 1390-17-G.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the consideration and orders of Government, the budget estimates of the Port and Marine Funds of this Presidency for the official year 1892–93 and the revised estimates for the current year, together with Appendices A to F, which are as follows :—

Appendix A.—An abstract statement arranged according to districts of receipts and charges of the several Port and Marine Funds, showing in one view the actuals of the past year, the revised estimate of the current year, and the budget estimate of the ensuing year.

Appendix B.—Statement showing the actual Port dues collections and detailed particulars of General, Light-house and Public Works charges for 1892–93, compared with the actuals of the past year and the revised estimate of the current year.

Appendix C.—Statement showing the financial position of the several Port and Marine Funds for the three years 1890–91 to 1892–93, including adjustments on account of loans, interest, &c.

Appendix D.—Statement showing particulars of loan and interest account of the Madras port from 1890–91 to 1892–93.

Appendix E.—Statement showing particulars of loan from Madras outstanding against the District Port Funds in the years 1890–91 to 1892–93.

Appendix F.—Statement showing particulars of public works to be executed from Port Funds during 1892–93.

2. The estimates in question were prepared in accordance with the instructions of Government contained in paragraph 17 of their order, No. 85, Marine, dated 5th March 1890, and the figures in the column of actuals for 1890–91 under the several detailed heads of receipts and charges were reconciled with the accounts for that year submitted to Government with my letter, No. 1243-392-G., dated 15th October 1891, and reviewed in G.O., No. 496, Marine, dated 10th November 1891. The grants for the current year under the several detailed heads, both for receipts and charges, specified in the column of "Budget Estimate, 1891–92," are those sanctioned by Government in their orders, Nos. 211 and 430, Financial, dated 26th March and 10th June 1891, respectively.

3. The revised estimates for the current year of the several Port and Marine Funds which have been incorporated, as desired in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, with the same statement which contains the budget estimate of those funds for the ensuing year, will first be dealt with.

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

The total receipts under this head of account, as per revised estimate now framed, amount to Rs. 3,20,795, against the estimated receipt for the year, viz., Rs. 3,24,330 or Rs. 3,25,000 in round numbers; the decrease of Rs. 3,535 arising by a fall in general receipts, miscellaneous receipts and fees amounting to Rs. 6,775, which was, however, supplemented by an increase in interest on Government securities to the

extent of Rs. 3,240. The estimates of the remaining detailed heads of receipts are the same as those estimated in the sanctioned budget, and the rise and fall above noticed will shortly be explained, as under :—

—	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.	Increase or Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
General receipts	225	100	— 125
Miscellaneous receipts	22,760	19,760	— 3,000
Fees	26,250	22,600	— 3,650
Interest	15,280	18,520	+ 3,240
	..	..	— 3,535

General Receipts.—The actual outturn of the past three years, exclusive of special items of receipts, do not give hopes of large receipts being realized under this head during this year. Hence it is proposed that the budgeted sum be reduced from Rs. 225 to 100.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The decrease of Rs. 3,000 arises chiefly in Madras, where the sale-proceeds of surplus stores are not likely to amount to what has been budgeted for. Rs. 5,000 expected to be realized at Madras has been reduced to Rs. 2,000, and hence the decrease.

Fees.—The revised estimate under this head falls short of the budgeted sum by Rs. 3,650, the decrease arising chiefly in Madras where it has been over-estimated, and also in the East Coast districts where the amounts are now fixed with reference to the actual outturns of the past three years.

Interest.—Rs. 3,240, expected to be realized under this head of receipt during the current year more than the estimated receipts, is the interest on additional investments of District Port Fund balances ordered in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, paragraph 11. Interest on the additional investment of Rs. 5,000 of the South Arcot District Port Fund is not anticipated, as in my letter to Government, No. 453 G., dated 7th December 1891, Government securities to the extent of Rs. 8,000, which include the above investment, have been proposed to be sold to enable that district to pay off its debt and to have a small working balance.

The total estimated receipts for 1891–92, as now revised, amounting to Rs. 3,20,795, are set down as Rs. 3,21,000 in round numbers.

CHARGES.

In G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, the sanctioned grant for the current year, *i.e.*, Rs. 3,14,873, is set down in round numbers as Rs. 3,15,000, and the revised estimate now framed amounting to Rs. 2,93,563 falls short of that sum by Rs. 21,310, the decrease being explained as under :—

—	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.	Increase or Decrease.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Share of Lighthouse charges	34,338	42,938	+ 8,600
Personal allowance to Port officers and Conservators ..	10,860	10,740	— 120
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	97,282	69,132	— 28,150
Fees	11,240	9,600	— 1,640
	..	..	— 21,310

Lighthouse Charges.—The increase of Rs. 8,600 in the revised estimate is due to provision on account of cost, &c., of new lights and other apparatus connected therewith for the Gopálpur, Malpé, Cundapur, Cuddalore and Tondi lights, which have been received lately, and the charges for which will appear in the accounts for the current year.

Personal Allowance to Port Officers and Conservators.—The decrease of Rs. 120 is due to the personal allowance of the Port Officer, Mangalore, having been erroneously calculated at Rs. 50 per mensem in the budget estimate for 1891–92, instead of at Rs. 40 per mensem, which has now been correctly set down in the revised estimate.

Contingencies and Miscellaneous.—The decrease of Rs. 28,150 below the sanctioned grant has arisen as follows :—

—	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.	Increase or Decrease.
	RS	RS.	RS.
South Arcot	2,250	1,500	— 750
Tanjore	6,700	2,500	— 4,200
Madura	2,600	22,600	+ 20,000
Tinnevelly	45,750	2,500	— 43,200
	..	..	— 28,150

In the South Arcot and Tanjore districts, charges on account of establishment and contingencies of dredger have been reduced by Rs. 750 and 4,200, respectively, as dredging work in the former district has not been carried out during the current year to an extent anticipated, and charges on account of the same in the latter district amounting to the sum specified are not likely to be incurred during the currency of the year. Such charges, however, if incurred in the latter district in future, will be debited to Landing and Shipping dues, to which head it is properly debitable. In Madura, a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided for payment this year out of the district balance to meet the cost of the Pámban dredger partly, as arranged in G.O., No. 392, Marine, dated 31st August 1891, and this would necessitate its funded capital being sold to that extent. The provision of Rs. 43,400 for the improvements of the pier and the erection of an iron store-shed, which are not likely to be carried out during the current year, has been eliminated, and a small increase of Rs. 200 made in the ordinary contingencies of the Tinnevelly district, and this resulted in a reduction of Rs. 43,200 below the sanctioned grant for the year.

The total estimated charges for 1891–92, as now revised, amount to Rs. 2,93,563 and are set down as Rs. 2,94,000 in round numbers.

The difference between the revised estimate of Port Funds (Act X of 1889) for the Madras port for the current year submitted by the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board (herewith forwarded), and the estimated receipts and charges for that port as entered in the consolidated budget now submitted, is explained below :—

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
As per Chairman's estimate	1,04,534	78,584
„ this office estimate	99,015	79,298
	— 5,519	+ 714

The heads of account in which the difference of Rs. 5,519 in receipts is noticed are—

	RS.
(1) General receipts	— 19
(2) Miscellaneous receipts	— 3,000
(3) Fees	— 2,500
	— 5,519

(1) The fall in General receipts is due to receipts of such a nature not being expected to be actually realized during 1891–92 to such a large extent as has been anticipated in the sanctioned estimate.

(2) Large sales of surplus stores at Madras, as were anticipated, were not made and are not likely to be made before the close of the year. Hence the decrease.

(3) Receipts under this head for the current year have been fixed as Rs. 2,000 with reference to the average of the past three years and the actual outturn of 1890–91.

CHARGES.

Excluding the contribution to the Harbour Trust Board of Rs. 50,000 for 1891–92, the increase of Rs. 714 over the Chairman's estimate occurs in the share of Lighthouse charges, as during this year total charges on that account in the Eastern Group will probably exceed the budget grant by Rs. 3,500. *Vide* estimate of Light-house charges, Appendix B.

An abstract statement showing the revised estimated receipts and charges of Madras and other districts is given below :—

—	Actuals, 1890–91.	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.
Receipts.			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Madras—			
Port Dues	1,00,983	95,000	95,000
Sundry Receipts	3,862	9,534	4,015
Total	1,04,845	1,04,534	99,015
Other Districts—			
Port Dues	1,92,157	1,64,815	1,64,815
Sundry Receipts	50,671	54,981	56,965
Total	2,42,828	2,19,796	2,21,780
Grand Total	3,47,673	3,24,330 or 3,25,000	3,20,795 or 3,21,000
Charges.			
Madras—			
Share of General charges	8,051		
Do. Lighthouse charges	6,684	9,339	9,339
Salary of Deputy Conservator	8,376	6,820	7,534
Personal Allowance to Deputy Conservator	2,100	8,640	8,640
Other Establishments	24,939	2,100	2,100
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	2,76,649	19,438	19,438
Total	3,26,799	32,247	32,247
		78,584	79,298
Other Districts—			
Share of General charges	45,141		
Do. Lighthouse charges	27,781	52,661	52,661
Port Officers and Conservators	37,094	27,518	35,404
Personal Allowance to Post Officers and Conservators	8,640	35,880	35,880
Other Establishments	19,404	8,760	8,640
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	61,364	19,707	19,707
Total	1,99,424	91,763	61,973
		2,36,289	2,14,265
Grand Total	5,26,223	3,14,873 or 3,15,000	2,93,563 or 2,94,000

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

In his revised estimate of Pilotage Fund, Madras, for 1891–92, herewith submitted, the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, has fixed the receipts to be Rs. 30,700 and charges Rs. 31,060, against Rs. 28,000 and 24,000, respectively, provided for in the budget estimate sanctioned in G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial. The receipts and charges, as estimated by the Chairman, may be set down as Rs. 31,000 on each account in round numbers.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The receipt under this head for 1891–92 remains the same as that fixed by Government in G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial, but an increase in charges is anticipated. The provision of Rs. 6,200 has been raised to Rs. 11,000, as dredger expenses are likely to amount to a larger sum than what was anticipated it would be. The estimated receipts and charges for 1891–92, as now revised, are set down as Rs. 13,000 and 11,000, respectively, in round numbers.

COCHIN AND MANGALORE.

No change is anticipated in either the receipts or charges estimated in G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

VIZAGAPATAM.

No change is anticipated in the receipts budgeted for in the order of the 26th March 1891, but the charges have been fixed as only Rs. 1,000 instead of Rs. 4,000, the same having been based on the actuals of the past six months. Act III of 1885 was introduced at this port only on the 1st April 1891.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Godávari Port Conservancy Board has, in his revised estimate for the current year, estimated the receipts to be Rs. 36,000 against Rs. 30,000 provided for in the sanctioned estimate. The sanctioned grant for charges on account of Establishment and Contingencies will remain unaltered.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts in the order of the 26th March 1891 will remain the same, but the charges for the current year will amount to more than what has been estimated, owing to a large sum amounting to Rs. 1,566 having been incurred in connection with the construction of a passenger shed. The grant for the year has, therefore, been raised from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000.

4. Including adjustments on account of loan and interest, the revised estimates for 1891–92, as now framed, are summarised below in round numbers :—

—	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	·99	1·46	·76	3·21
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·14	·17	..	·31
Sale-proceeds of Government securities	..	·98	..	·98
Total	1·13	2·61	·76	4·50
Charges—				
Ordinary	·79	1·51	·64	2·94
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·4	·14	..	·18
Investment in Government securities	..	·9	·77	·86
			·12	·12
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·50	..	..	·50
Total	1·33	1·74	1·53	4·60
Pilotage Funds.				
Receipts	·31	·13	·6	·50
Charges	·31	·11	·5	·47
Adjustment under charges	..	·4	..	·4
Landing and Shipping Dues.				
Receipts	..	·52	..	·52
Charges	..	·34	..	·34

Particulars of the figures contained in the above statement are as given below:—

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

(1) Ordinary receipts set down for Madras, Eastern Group and Western Group districts, amounting to Rs. 3,21,000, are those specified in the column of revised estimate for 1891–92 embodied in the budget herewith submitted.

(2) The sum of Rs. 14,000, receipts for Madras on account of loan and interest, comprises of two items—Rs. 8,899, interest on loan to District Port Funds as specified in Appendix D, and Rs. 5,254, repayment of loan by District Port Funds as specified in Appendix E, which is set down as Rs. 14,000 in round numbers. Rs. 17,000, set down as receipts of the Eastern Group districts under this head, is made up of the following items:—

RS.	
6,839	Contribution from Provincial Funds to the Ganjam district to meet deficit of the year's transactions.—*Vide* Appendix C.
2,827	Contribution to Madura District Port Fund from the Pámban Pilotage to meet deficit of the year.—*Vide* Appendix C.
2,800	Interest on loan of Rs. 70,000 set apart for Pámban Pilotage Fund to meet cost of dredger. As the date when the loan was availed of is not known, interest on the sum for a full year has been provided for under column of adjustment. Should interest on loan be recovered for only a portion of the year, the remaining sum will form interest on Government securities until the loan was availed of.
4,093	Loan from Madras to meet deficits of the Kistna and South Arcot districts amounting to Rs. 3,844, and a further loan amounting to Rs. 249 to meet interest payable by those districts on outstanding loan.—*Vide* Appendices C and E.
16,559	or Rs. 17,000 in round numbers.

(3) Rs. 98,000 worth of Government securities to be sold on account of the Eastern Group districts comprises of Rs. 70,000 payable to the Tinnevelly district as loan to Pámban Pilotage to meet cost of the new dredger, Rs. 20,000 payable on the same account by the Madura Port Fund, and Rs. 8,000 being amount of Government securities to be sold before the close of the current year on account of the South Arcot District Port Fund, as proposed in my letter to Government, No. 453-G., dated 7th December 1891.

CHARGES.

(1) Ordinary charges for Madras, Eastern and Western Group districts, are those specified in the total column of the revised estimate, which amount to Rs. 2,93,563, and are set down as Rs. 2,94,000 in round numbers.

(2) Rs. 4,000, charged to Madras on account of loan and interest, is the amount of loan to be made by Madras to Kistna and South Arcot districts to meet the deficits of those districts for 1891–92 and interest payable by those districts on their previous loan.—*Vide* Appendices C and E.

(3) Rs. 14,000, provided for the East Coast districts on account of loan and interest, is the amount of interest on loan from Madras payable by a few districts in the East Coast amounting to Rs. 8,899 as per Appendix C, and repayment of loan by the Vizagapatam and Tanjore districts amounting to Rs. 5,254 as per Appendix E. These two items, aggregating Rs. 14,153, are set down as Rs. 14,000 in round numbers.

(4) Under investments, in addition to the sum of Rs. 86,000 already provided for by Government in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, provision in this estimate has been made for the investment of Rs. 10,000 on account of Malabar and Rs. 2,000 on account of the South Canara District Port Funds. Further investments to this extent can safely be made before the close of this year, as these districts had, on the 31st March 1891 (*vide* Appendix C, G.O., No. 496, Marine, dated 10th November 1891), a credit balance of Rs. 1,79,204 and Rs. 33,293, respectively, and are expected to have a large surplus of Rs. 10,363 and 2,312 by the transactions of the current year, which would raise their balances on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 1,89,567 and Rs. 35,605, while investments made on their account until now are Rs. 1,70,000 and Rs. 29,000, respectively. This being done, there will be a sufficient working balance left for those districts on the 31st March 1892.

(*b*) The receipts and charges of Pilotage Funds and of the Landing and Shipping Dues which have been explained in previous paragraphs call for no special remarks.

5. Turning to a consideration of the budget estimates of the Port and Marine Funds for the ensuing year, *viz.*, 1892–93, I beg to observe as follows:—

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

The variations in the estimated figures for the coming year under the several detailed heads of receipts over and below the actuals of the past year and the budget estimate of the current year will first be noticed.

Share of Coasting Steamer Dues.—The anticipated collections of Coasting Steamer dues at the several Maritime districts in the Eastern and Western Groups, as detailed in page 1 of Appendix B, have been distributed to the several districts in proportion to the average tonnage of coasting steamers that entered these groups during the past three years. The Coasting Steamer dues expected to be realized at Madras have not, however, been interfered with, the collections of that port being credited in full under Clause 37, Act X of 1889. The total collections for 1892–93 are expected to be Rs. 7,401 and Rs. 14,917 over and below the estimate of the current year and the actuals of the past year, respectively, the increase over the estimate for the current year arising largely in the Eastern Group districts and to a small extent in the Western Group districts. This increase has, however, to meet a small deficit in Madras. The decrease below the actuals is expected to arise in the Eastern Group districts to an extent of Rs. 9,983 and in the Western Group districts to Rs. 6,859. A slight increase is anticipated in Madras. These variations are due to the average tonnage of vessels that entered these districts during the past three years being over and below the actual tonnage of the past year and the expected tonnage of the current year.

Other Dues.—The dues under this head for 1892–93 will be nearly equal to the actual outturn of the past year, with a very slight difference of Rs. 4,003. The East Coast districts, including Madras, will benefit by an increase amounting to Rs. 9,602, while those in the Western Group will suffer, to a small extent, by Rs. 5,599, in consequence of an anticipated fall in the dues of foreign vessels and native craft, vessels of larger tonnage of the former description not having visited Malabar and South Canara during the past three years, and the average number of vessels of the latter description falling below the number that actually visited these districts last year.

Share of General Administration Receipts.—The estimate under this head of receipt has been based with reference to the actual ordinary receipts of the Administrative Department realized during the last three years, which do not amount to more than what has been set down, *i.e.*, Rs. 100.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The anticipated receipts under this head for 1892–93 will probably be about Rs. 8,000 more than the actuals of the past year, a large increase being anticipated in the Eastern Group by the levy of Pier dues in Gopálpur which has been renewed under G.O., No. 435, Marine, dated 8th October 1891. The average collections of ordinary receipts in the West Coast districts and in Madras during the past three years do not amount to more than what have been set down against these districts in the present estimate.

Fees.—The estimate is Rs. 3,650 below the amount provided for in the current year's budget, but exactly the same as that set forth in the revised estimate, and is nearly equal to the actual outturn of the past year.

Interest on Government Securities.—Provision has been made for a full year's interest on the invested capital of the districts. An increase will be noticed in Nellore, Chingleput, Malabar and South Canara, in consequence of the further investments ordered in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, and a decrease in South Arcot, Madura and Tinnevelly. In South Arcot, Government securities to the extent of Rs. 8,000 have been proposed to be sold—*Vide* my letter to Government, No. 453 G., dated 7th December 1891. The actual investment of the Madura balance, *i.e.* Rs. 20,000, will have to be sold to meet the cost of the Pámban dredger, as arranged in G.O., No. 392, Marine, dated 31st August 1891. The Tinnevelly Port Fund has to lend Rs. 70,000 to the Pámban and Kílakarai Pilotage Fund to meet the above cost, and interest on this sum has been adjusted to the credit of this district in the column of adjustment in Appendix C.

The receipts of Port Funds (Act X of 1889) exceed the budgeted sum for 1891–92 by Rs. 23,000, a large increase being anticipated in Ganjam district to the extent of Rs. 10,000 on account of Pier dues in Gopálpur, and the remainder Rs. 13,000 occurring in other districts under the several detailed heads as noticed above. The total receipts, which amount to Rs. 3,48,256, are set down as Rs. 3,48,000 in round numbers.

CHARGES.

General Administration Charges.—The estimated charges for 1892–93, as specified in Appendix B, is, in round numbers, Rs. 5,000 more than the budgeted grant for the current year. The personal allowance of Rs. 45 per mensem payable to the Agent for Government Consignments has been provided for under "Salaries of officers of the Administrative Department," as per G.O., No. 973, Financial, dated 29th September 1891. An increased provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for pensions and gratuities, as charges of this nature during the next year are likely to be over the grant for the current year by the retirement of officers and clerks. As tide-gauge establishments at Cocanada and at Madras were abolished, provision was not made in the estimates on these accounts as usual. The total general charges for 1892–93, viz., Rs. 67,000, have been distributed to all the districts in proportion to the average total tonnage that entered them during the last three years.

Lighthouse Charges.—Particulars of Lighthouse charges for 1892–93 are set forth in Appendix B. The estimated charges for 1891–92 exceed the sanctioned grant for the current year by Rs. 18,769 or Rs. 19,000 in round numbers, the increase being due to a large sum of Rs. 19,500 provided for the cost, &c., of a first-order light for the Madras Lighthouse and Rs. 200 for a dioptric mirror for the Cochin Lighthouse. Charges for public works are those specified in Appendix F on account of lighthouses both as original works and repairs. Pay of lighthouse mechanic at Rs. 80 per mensem has been provided for under Establishment. The lighthouse charges of the Eastern and Western Group districts for the ensuing year have been distributed to the several districts in these groups in proportion to the average tonnage that entered those groups, respectively, during the last three years.

Port Officers and Conservators.—The grant for the current year, *i.e.* Rs. 44,520, has been repeated for the ensuing year.

Personal Allowance to Port Officers and Conservators.—The estimate for 1892–93 is the same as the actuals of the past year and the revised estimate for the current year. The difference of Rs. 120 below the budget grant for 1891–92 has been explained in paragraph 3 *supra* under "Personal allowance, &c."

Other Establishments.—The estimate for 1892–93 is less than the grant for 1891–92 by only Rs. 376. An increase of Rs. 1,392 is anticipated in the Eastern and Western Groups in consequence of a slight revision of establishment in some of the districts, and also to the provision on account of Pier establishment in Gopálpur, while there will be a decrease in Madras amounting to Rs. 1,768 on account of reduction in Boat establishment, &c.

Contingencies and Miscellaneous.—The large decrease of Rs. 49,000 below the grant for 1891–92 is due to provision for improvements of Tuticorin Pier and the

construction of an iron store-shed at that port having been made in the present estimates under the heading of Public Works charges instead of under Contingencies as sanctioned in the current year's grant.

Public Works Charges.—The large sum of Rs. 66,824 provided for under this head includes two large items of Rs. 51,600 and 8,025, the former on account of improvements to the Tuticorin pier, and the latter on account of construction of an iron store-shed. The remaining sum is on account of ordinary Public Works charges of the districts specified in Appendix F.

Fees.—The estimate under this head falls short of the current year's grant by Rs. 2,190, and is Rs. 2,430 more than the actual outturn of the past year. A decrease of Rs. 1,440 is anticipated in the Eastern Group and Rs. 750 in the Western Group district, the present estimate being based with reference to the actuals of the past three years. Charges on account of fees and personal allowances to Port Officers and Conservators for 1892–93 will amount to Rs. 19,790 against an estimated receipt in fees of Rs. 22,600.

The total charges thus arrived at amount to Rs. 3,38,062 and are set down as Rs. 3,38,000 in round numbers.

The receipts and charges of the districts as set down in the budget estimates having been dealt with as a whole, I shall now proceed to deal with them individually, having in view also the several adjustments on account of those districts specified in column of adjustments in Appendix C, for the year 1892–93 :—

GANJAM.

Receipts.—Rs. 25,765 include a large item of Rs. 10,000 on account of Gopálpur Pier dues, the levy of which was renewed under G.O., No. 435, Marine, dated 8th October 1891.

Charges.—To the ordinary charges of the district for 1892–93, charges on account of pier establishment amounting to Rs. 548 and Rs. 500 for the upkeep of the pier annually have been added. The increase in general and lighthouse charges over the estimate for the current year and the actuals of the past year accounts for the difference between these estimates.

The transactions for the year 1892–93 are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 7,859, which after meeting payment of interest to Madras—viz., Rs. 7,576—will repay its loan by a small sum of Rs. 283 : *vide* Appendix E. Should a surplus arise, as is now anticipated, there will be no demand for a Provincial contribution to aid this District Fund as was done in previous years. The closing balance of this district on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 1,89,112, and this will be the sum outstanding as loan against this district on that date, as per Appendix E.

VIZAGAPATAM.

Receipts.—No special item of receipt is included in Rs. 27,355 estimated for that district.

Charges.—In the sum of Rs. 26,610 is included a sum of Rs. 1,000 on account of cost of constructing two groynes, and the remainder is for the ordinary charges of the district.

A small surplus will be left for 1892–93, which, added to the opening balance at the commencement of the year, will leave a credit balance of Rs. 92,419 on the 31st March 1893. The loan from Madras outstanding against this district on the 31st March 1891 will be repaid in full from the surplus of the current year as per revised estimate—*Vide* Appendices C and E.

GODAVARI.

Receipts.—The receipts for 1892–93 do not call for any special remarks, as they are only for those of an ordinary nature.

Charges.—The charges, likewise, do not need any special mention.

The District Port Fund, being relieved of large expenditure on account of dredgers during the last two years, is now gaining ground from its chronic state of deficiency.

A surplus of Rs. 3,304 is expected to result by the transactions of 1892–93, which, added to the surplus of Rs. 4,473 likely to stand to its credit at the end of the current year, will amount to Rs. 7,777 in favour of this district on the 31st March 1893.

KISTNA.

The estimated receipts and charges of this district for 1892–93 are those of an ordinary nature. During the current year the deficit of the year and interest payable on the loan outstanding on the 31st March 1891 will have to be met by an additional loan from Madras, as per Appendix D. The transactions of the year are, however, expected to result in a small surplus of Rs. 522. A sum of Rs. 257, being interest payable on the outstanding loan on the 31st March 1892, will have to be met from this surplus, and the remainder Rs. 265 will be adjusted as a repayment of loan (Appendix E). These adjustments will result in a debit balance of Rs. 6,155, which will be the loan outstanding against this district on the 31st March 1893.

NELLORE AND CHINGLEPUT.

These districts will maintain their healthy condition, their credit balances on the 31st March 1893 being expected to be, respectively, Rs. 9,932 and Rs. 6,433 (Appendix C).

SOUTH ARCOT.

The receipts for 1892–93 are expected to be nearly the same as the actual outturn of the past year and the estimate for the current year. Charges, likewise, will be the same as those of the past year excluding from the latter charges on account of new dredger, &c., amounting to Rs. 10,386.

The transactions of the year 1892–93, which will likely result in a surplus of Rs. 1,245, will have, however, to meet a small debit of Rs. 156 on account of interest on outstanding loan, and the balance of Rs. 1,089 will be treated as a set-off against the loan. The loan that will be outstanding against this district on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 2,814 as per Appendix E, and the balance which will remain to the credit of the District Port Fund will be Rs. 17,186, as per Appendix C.

TANJORE.

Receipts.—The estimated receipts for 1892–93 will very nearly amount to the actual outturn of the past and the estimated sum for the current year, and do not include any receipt of a special nature.

Charges.—The charges for 1892–93 are estimated to be Rs. 24,048, and are Rs. 3,897 and Rs. 1,423 over and below the actuals of the past year and the estimate for the current year, respectively, the increase over the actuals being due in a large measure to the increased share of General and Lighthouse charges.

The year's transactions are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 3,846. In the column of adjustment in Appendix C, a sum of Rs. 864 is provided for payment of interest on the loan outstanding, and the difference—Rs. 2,982—is treated as a set-off against the outstanding loan (Appendix E). The payment of interest on loan, adjusted with the surplus of the year, will reduce the debit balance from Rs. 21,592 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 18,610 on the 31st March 1893, which will be the loan outstanding against this district on that date.

MADURA.

The estimated receipts and charges of the district for 1892–93 are those for an ordinary nature. In consequence of a payment of Rs. 20,000 from the Port Fund balance in 1891–92 towards cost of the Pámban dredger which necessitated the sale of its funded capital, no provision has been made for receipts of interest on Government securities in 1892–93.

The transactions of the year 1892–93, which are likely to result, as usual, in a deficit of Rs. 2,004, will have to be supplemented by a contribution of this sum from

Pilotage Funds, Pámban, and adjustment to this effect has been made in the column of adjustment in Appendix C. The large payment in 1891–92 of Rs. 20,000 above noticed will leave a balance of Rs. 2,853 on the 31st March 1892, and this balance will run on to the 31st March 1893, the deficit for 1892–93 being met by a contribution from Pilotage Funds.

TINNEVELLY.

Receipts.—In the receipts for 1892–93, interest on Government securities, to the extent of Rs. 50,000 only, has been provided for, as Rs. 70,000 of the district balance has to be treated as loan to Pámban Pilotage Fund. The interest on the latter sum has been treated as an adjustment in Appendix C. In the sum of Rs. 8,700 provided for under Miscellaneous receipts, Rs. 8,000 is on account of receipts of Pier tolls. With these exceptions, the receipts for the year do not need any special mention.

Charges.—Two large items of Rs. 51,600 on account of Pier improvements and Rs. 8,025 on account of an iron store-shed are included in the sum of Rs. 76,698 set down as ordinary charges of the district.

The transactions of this district for 1891–92 (Appendix C) will raise its credit balance to Rs. 1,47,577 on the 31st March 1892. Those of 1892–93 will seriously affect the financial position of the district, in consequence of two large items of charges above noticed, and would result in a deficit of Rs. 54,218. This sum, adjusted with a small receipt of interest on loan to Pilotage Fund, Pámban, and the opening balance of 1892–93, will leave a balance of Rs. 96,159 in favour of this district on the 31st March 1893. Excluding the loan of Rs. 70,000 referred to, the net working balance of the district on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 26,159.

MALABAR.

The receipts and charges of this district for 1892–93 are nearly the same as those estimated for the current year, and do not call for any special remark.

The transactions for 1892–93 are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 16,598, which will raise the district balance from Rs. 1,89,567 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 2,06,165 on the 31st March 1893. Should the surplus for 1892–93 be realized to the extent specified, a further investment of, say, at least Rs. 10,000 may be made on behalf of this district, which will then leave a working balance of Rs. 16,165.

SOUTH CANARA.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 are nearly the same as those estimated for the current year, a slight increase in receipts arising from interest on additional investment of Government securities ordered in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891.

The year's transactions are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 2,613, which, when added to its credit balance of Rs. 35,605 on the 31st March 1892, will leave Rs. 38,218 on the 31st March 1893—*vide* Appendix C. During the year in question, another sum of Rs. 2,000 may be invested in Government securities on behalf of this district, which will then leave a working balance of Rs. 7,218 on the 31st March 1893.

MADRAS.

The difference between the estimates of receipts and charges for the Madras port for 1892–93, as framed by the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, and those entered for that port, as embodied in the consolidated budget now submitted, are explained below:—

	Receipts, 1892–93.	Charges, 1892–93.
	RS.	RS.
As per Chairman's estimate	1,15,000	76,616
„ this office estimate	1,09,515	81,071
	— 5,485	+ 4,455

RECEIPTS.

Instead of Rs. 9,500 provided for by the Chairman as sundry receipts, only Rs. 4,015 has been provided for in the present estimate, which comprises of the following sums :—

	RS.
Share of general receipts	15
Miscellaneous receipts	2,000
Fees	2,000
Total ..	4,015

Large sale of surplus stores not being anticipated, receipts on this account (Miscellaneous receipts) were set down as Rs. 2,000, and the average fees also not amounting to more than Rs. 2,000 in round numbers, receipts under this head were estimated at that sum.

CHARGES.

The increase of Rs. 4,455 is expected to arise in the share of general and lighthouse charges to the extent of Rs. 834 and 3,621 respectively.

The whole port dues collections at this port, including coasting steamer dues, being credited in full, the anticipated receipts, including other items of receipts, amount to Rs. 1,09,515, while the charges, including share of general and lighthouse charges, amount to Rs. 81,071.

The year's transactions are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 28,434. The amount of loans to District Port Funds on the 31st March 1892 being expected to be Rs. 2,21,310 as per Appendix D, the working balance of the Madras port on that date will probably be only Rs. 49,251—*Vide* Appendix C. A sum of Rs. 35,000, therefore, may safely be sanctioned as contribution to the Harbour Trust Board for 1892-93. Referring to Appendix D, it will be found that interest on loans to the extent of Rs. 8,853, and repayment of loan to the extent of Rs. 4,619, have to be received from District Port Funds. These two sums, the surplus of the year and the contribution payable by the Harbour Trust Board being adjusted with the opening balance of Rs. 2,70,561 will result in a credit balance of Rs. 2,72,848 on the 31st March 1893, of which sum Rs. 2,16,691 will form as loan outstanding against District Port Funds—*vide* Appendix E—the balance, Rs. 56,157, remaining as the net working balance of the Madras district on the 31st March 1893.

Appendix D exhibits the loan and interest account of Madras. During the ensuing year a sum of Rs. 8,853 is expected to be recovered on account of interest on loan to District Port Funds and Rs. 4,619 as repayment of loan. No further loan is anticipated to be required by the District Port Funds in 1892-93, as their transactions do not disclose any deficit for that year. The net loan outstanding on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 2,16,691, as per this appendix.

Appendix E furnishes detailed particulars of loan outstanding against the several District Port Funds and the amount of repayment made by them. The loan of Rs. 2,21,310 outstanding on the 31st March 1892 will be reduced to Rs. 2,16,691 on the 31st March 1893 by a repayment of Rs. 4,619 by the districts of Ganjam, Kistna, South Arcot and Tanjore.

Taking a general view of the District Port Fund transactions for 1892-93 as a whole as exhibited in Appendix C, it would appear that the transactions of the Eastern Group would result in a deficit of Rs. 37,461 in consequence of a large payment of special charges in the Tinnevelly district amounting to Rs. 59,625. The adjustment of special items of receipts and charges of the districts in this group would result also in a deficit of Rs. 4,049 in consequence of a large payment of Rs. 8,853, being interest on loan from Madras, notwithstanding a contribution of Rs. 2,004 in aid of the Madura Port Fund, and another sum of Rs. 2,800, interest on loan made by the Tinnevelly Port Fund. The opening balance of the Eastern Group (Madras excepted)—viz., Rs. 60,392—will, in consequence of the deficits above noticed, be reduced to Rs. 18,882

on the 31st March 1893. The transactions of the Western Group districts will, as usual, be in a flourishing state and will have a surplus of Rs. 19,211 by the transactions of the year. The credit balance of Rs. 2,25,172 on the 31st March 1892 will swell to Rs. 2,44,383 on the 31st March 1893. The surplus of Madras for 1892-93 is anticipated to be only Rs. 28,434, while a larger sum of Rs. 35,000, based on the net working balance at the commencement of that year, is proposed to be paid over as contribution to Harbour Trust Board. The transactions of the year of the Madras district will, therefore, result in a deficit of Rs. 6,566, which, adjusted with receipts on account of interest on loan to District Port Funds, *i.e.*, Rs. 8,853, will leave a surplus of Rs. 2,287. This latter sum added to the opening balance of Rs. 2,70,561 on the 31st March 1892 will leave Rs. 2,72,848 to the credit of the Madras district on the 31st March 1893. A sum of Rs. 2,16,691 will then be outstanding as loans made to the District Port Funds—Appendix E—so that the net working balance on that date will be Rs. 56,157. The transactions of the Eastern and Western Group districts and Madras for 1892-93 adjusted with the loan, interest account, &c., would result in a deficit of Rs. 20,012. The opening balance of Rs. 5,56,125 of the whole District Port Funds on the 31st March 1892 will, in consequence of the transactions above noticed, be reduced to Rs. 5,36,113 on the 31st March 1893.

An abstract statement, showing the estimated receipts and charges of Madras and other districts, is given below :—

—	Actuals, 1890–91.	Revised estimate, 1891–92.	Budget estimate, 1892–93.
Receipts.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Madras—			
Port dues	1,00,983	95,000	1,05,500
Sundry receipts	3,862	4,015	4,015
Total ..	1,04,845	99,015	1,09,515
Other Districts—			
Port dues	1,92,157	1,64,815	1,75,726
Sundry receipts	50,671	56,965	63,015
Total ..	2,42,828	2,21,780	2,38,741
Grand Total ..	3,47,673	3,20,795 or 3,21,000	3,48,256 or 3,48,000
Charges.			
Madras—			
Share of general charges	8,051	9,339	10,173
Share of lighthouse charges	6,684	7,534	10,441
Salary of Deputy Conservator	8,376	8,640	8,640
Personal allowance to Deputy Conservator	2,100	2,100	2,100
Other establishments	24,939	19,438	17,676
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	2,76,649	32,247	32,047
Total ..	3,26,799	79,298	81,071
Other Districts—			
Share of general charges	45,141	52,661	56,827
Share of lighthouse charges	27,781	35,404	42,666
Port Officers and Conservators	37,094	35,880	35,880
Personal allowance to Port Officers and Conservators ..	8,640	8,640	8,640
Other establishments	19,404	19,707	21,099
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	61,364	61,973	91,879
Total ..	1,99,424	2,14,265	2,56,991
Grand Total ..	5,26,223	2,93,563 or 2,94,000	3,38,062 or 3,38,000

The total receipts, which amount to Rs. 3,48,256, and charges, Rs. 3,38,062, are set down as Rs. 3,48,000 and Rs. 3,38,000 in round numbers, respectively, and these compared with the figures of the past three years would stand as follows :—

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,56,425	3,25,438
1889–90	3,95,881	5,50,818
1890–91	3,47,673	5,26,223
Estimate—		
1891–92	3,25,000	3,15,000
1892–93	3,48,000	3,38,000

The estimated charges for 1892–93 are for the ordinary charges only, and do not include contribution to Harbour Trust Board.

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

The estimate for 1892–93 of the receipts and charges of this fund, as framed by the Chairman of the Harbour Trust Board, is forwarded herewith as an enclosure to his letter to Government, No. 3705-A, dated 8th December 1891. The details of estimated receipts and charges as therein found will show that the receipts and charges are, respectively, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,148 in excess of the sanctioned estimates for the current year, the excess in receipt arising by a provision of Rs. 100 on account of miscellaneous receipts and the excess in charges being due in a great measure to contingencies being fixed at Rs. 2,000 instead of at Rs. 1,000 and also to a slight increase in charges on account of outfees to Harbour Masters' boat crews. The estimated receipts and charges of the Chairman, *i.e.*, Rs. 28,100 and Rs. 24,630, are set down in the budget estimate as Rs. 28,000 and 25,000 in round numbers, respectively.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The pilotage receipts of Pámban and Kílakarai for 1892–93, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 11,200 in round numbers, and the estimated charges as Rs. 20,000. This latter sum comprises of the following items :—

	RS.
Allowance to Port Officer, Pámban, as head pilot, establishment and contingencies	1,800
Stores, such as anchors, awnings and chains for the new dredger ..	5,000
Dredging charges	10,000
Charges for docking the dredger	3,000
Total ..	19,800

or Rs. 20,000 in round numbers.

COCHIN.

The estimated receipts and charges of Cochin Pilotage Fund do not much vary from the estimates of the previous years, and are set down as Rs. 2,600 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

MANGALORE.

The estimated receipts and charges for the Mangalore Pilotage Fund for the year 1891–92—viz., Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000, respectively—are repeated for the ensuing year also.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada, in his estimate submitted to this office, provides Rs. 35,000 as the receipts for 1892–93, which is made up as follows :—

	RS.
Landing and shipping dues	30,000
Wharfage fees	2,500
Hire of cranes, &c.	1,500
Sundry receipts	1,000
Total ..	35,000

The charges as estimated by him amount to Rs. 39,318, and include the following items :—

	RS.
Expenses of Groynes work	7,374
„ Priestman's dredger	5,232
„ Dredger "Connemara"	5,712
Balance of cost of steam tug	1,000
Cost of upkeep of „	3,000
Repairs of jetties and crane expenses	2,000
Cost of a new screw-cutting lathe	1,000
Repairs to mud punts	1,000
Cost of cutting a new dock	3,000
Contribution to Pámban dredger for dredging at Cocanada	10,000
Total ..	39,318

and adding to this sum a sum of Rs. 3,750 on account of cost of a new derrick crane sanctioned for that port, the total charges, Rs. 43,068, is set down as Rs. 43,000 in round numbers.

VIZAGAPATAM.

The receipts as estimated by the Port Officer amount to Rs. 5,000, which sum is likely to be realised, having in view the quantity of railway materials to be landed at that port. The charges, as ascertained from the actuals of the past six months of the current year, will not amount to more than Rs. 1,500 in 1892–93, and provision was made in the present estimate to this extent only.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 10,000, and no charges of a special nature being likely to be incurred during the ensuing year, the charges are estimated to be Rs. 1,500.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues, compared with the actuals of the past three years and the estimate of the current year, stand as under :—

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Madras.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	27,660	16,073
1889–90	30,670	20,714
1890–91	28,674	23,112
Estimate—		
1891–92	28,000	23,500
1892–93	28,000	25,000
Pamban and Kilakarai.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	13,428	3,116
1889–90	13,499	1,117
1890–91	11,145	1,796
Estimate—		
1891–92	13,000	6,200
1892–93	11,200	20,000
Cochin.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,382	1,680
1889–90	2,521	2,460
1890–91	3,217	2,145
Estimate—		
1891–92	2,500	2,800
1892–93	2,600	3,000

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,56,425	3,25,438
1889–90	3,95,881	5,50,818
1890–91	3,47,673	5,26,223
Estimate—		
1891–92		
1892–93	3,25,000	3,15,000
	3,48,000	3,38,000

The estimated charges for 1892–93 are for the ordinary charges only, and do not include contribution to Harbour Trust Board.

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

The estimate for 1892–93 of the receipts and charges of this fund, as framed by the Chairman of the Harbour Trust Board, is forwarded herewith as an enclosure to his letter to Government, No. 3705-A, dated 8th December 1891. The details of estimated receipts and charges as therein found will show that the receipts and charges are, respectively, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,148 in excess of the sanctioned estimates for the current year, the excess in receipt arising by a provision of Rs. 100 on account of miscellaneous receipts and the excess in charges being due in a great measure to contingencies being fixed at Rs. 2,000 instead of at Rs. 1,000 and also to a slight increase in charges on account of outfees to Harbour Masters' boat crews. The estimated receipts and charges of the Chairman, *i.e.*, Rs. 28,100 and Rs. 24,630, are set down in the budget estimate as Rs. 28,000 and 25,000 in round numbers, respectively.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The pilotage receipts of Pámban and Kílakarai for 1892–93, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 11,200 in round numbers, and the estimated charges as Rs. 20,000. This latter sum comprises of the following items :—

	RS.
Allowance to Port Officer, Pámban, as head pilot, establishment and contingencies	1,800
Stores, such as anchors, awnings and chains for the new dredger ..	5,000
Dredging charges	10,000
Charges for docking the dredger	3,000
Total ..	19,800

or Rs. 20,000 in round numbers.

COCHIN.

The estimated receipts and charges of Cochin Pilotage Fund do not much vary from the estimates of the previous years, and are set down as Rs. 2,600 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

MANGALORE.

The estimated receipts and charges for the Mangalore Pilotage Fund for the year 1891–92—viz., Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000, respectively—are repeated for the ensuing year also.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada, in his estimate submitted to this office, provides Rs. 35,000 as the receipts for 1892–93, which is made up as follows :—

	RS.
Landing and shipping dues	30,000
Wharfage fees	2,500
Hire of cranes, &c.	1,500
Sundry receipts	1,000
Total ..	35,000

The charges as estimated by him amount to Rs. 39,318, and include the following items :—

	RS.
Expenses of Groynes work	7,374
„ Priestman's dredger	5,232
„ Dredger "Connemara"	5,712
Balance of cost of steam tug	1,000
Cost of upkeep of „	3,000
Repairs of jetties and crane expenses	2,000
Cost of a new screw-cutting lathe	1,000
Repairs to mud punts	1,000
Cost of cutting a new dock	3,000
Contribution to Pámban dredger for dredging at Cocanada	10,000
Total ..	39,318

and adding to this sum a sum of Rs. 3,750 on account of cost of a new derrick crane sanctioned for that port, the total charges, Rs. 43,068, is set down as Rs. 43,000 in round numbers.

VIZAGAPATAM.

The receipts as estimated by the Port Officer amount to Rs. 5,000, which sum is likely to be realised, having in view the quantity of railway materials to be landed at that port. The charges, as ascertained from the actuals of the past six months of the current year, will not amount to more than Rs. 1,500 in 1892–93, and provision was made in the present estimate to this extent only.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 10,000, and no charges of a special nature being likely to be incurred during the ensuing year, the charges are estimated to be Rs. 1,500.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues, compared with the actuals of the past three years and the estimate of the current year, stand as under :—

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Madras.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	27,660	16,073
1889–90	30,670	20,714
1890–91	28,674	23,112
Estimate—		
1891–92	28,000	23,500
1892–93	28,000	25,000
Pamban and Kilakarai.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	13,428	3,116
1889–90	13,499	1,117
1890–91	11,145	1,796
Estimate—		
1891–92	13,000	6,200
1892–93	11,200	20,000
Cochin.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,382	1,680
1889–90	2,521	2,460
1890–91	3,217	2,145
Estimate—		
1891–92	2,500	2,800
1892–93	2,600	3,000

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Mangalore.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	..	..
1889-90	..	..
1890-91	..	..
Estimate—		
1891-92	3,000	2,000
1892-93	3,000	2,000

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

Cocanada.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	13,562	9,011
1889-90	14,870	22,209
1890-91	21,269	11,193
Estimate—		
1891-92	30,000	30,000
1892-93	35,000	43,000
Vizagapatam.		
Actuals—		
1888-89		
1889-90	..	..
1890-91	..	..
Estimate—		
1891-92		
1892-93	5,000	4,000
	5,000	1,000
Negapatam.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	..	..
1889-90	..	..
1890-91	10,207	1,172
	11,004	3,227
Estimate—		
1891-92		
1892-93	11,000	1,500
	10,000	1,500

To speak generally of the financial position of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues at the several ports as specified above, it will be observed from Appendix C that the Madras Pilotage Fund will have a surplus of Rs. 3,000 by the transactions of the year, which will raise its credit balance from Rs. 98,513 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 1,01,513 on the 31st March 1893. The Pámban and Kílakarai Pilotage Fund, in addition to the deficit of Rs. 8,800 which would result from the transactions of the year, will have also to pay interest to the extent of Rs. 2,800 on the loan advanced to it by the Tinnevelly Port Fund and a contribution of Rs. 2,000 to the Madura Port Fund to meet the deficit of the year. These transactions, resulting in a total deficit of Rs. 13,604, adjusted with the balance of Rs. 20,156 standing to its credit on the 31st March 1892, will leave a credit balance of Rs. 6,552 on the 31st March 1893. Proposals have not been made for the repayment of loan out of this credit balance, as the efficiency of the fund is likely to be injured if it has no working balance at least to that extent. The Cochin Pilotage will have a small deficit, which will not, however, affect its financial position very seriously. This fund will have a credit balance of Rs. 14,852 on the 31st March 1893. The Mangalore Pilotage Fund will add to its already existing balance a sum of Rs. 1,000, being the anticipated surplus of the year. There will remain Rs. 2,000 to the credit of this fund on the 31st March 1893.

In respect to the Landing and Shipping Dues, it may be observed that the transactions of Cocanada would result in a deficit of Rs. 8,000, which will have the effect of reducing its balance to Rs. 8,699 on the 31st March 1893. The transactions at Negapatam and Vizagapatam would each result in a surplus of Rs. 8,500 and

Rs. 4,000, respectively, which, when added to their previous balances, would leave Rs. 33,312 and Rs. 8,000 to the credit of Negapatam and Vizagapatam, respectively, on the 31st March 1893.

6. Including adjustments on account of loan, interest, &c., the budget estimates for 1892–93, as now framed, are summarised below in round numbers:—

—	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	1·10	1·62	·76	3·48
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·13	·5	..	·18
Total ..	1·23	1·67	·76	3·66
Charges—				
Ordinary	·81	2·00	·57	3·38
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	..	·13	..	·13
Investment in Government Securities	..	..	·12	·12
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·35	..	..	·35
Total ..	1·16	2·13	·69	3·98
Pilotage Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts	·28	·11	·6	·45
Charges	·25	·20	·5	·50
Adjustment under charges	..	·5	..	·5
Landing and Shipping Dues—Act III of 1885.				
Receipts	..	·50	..	·50
Charges	..	·46	..	·46

In the above statement, the ordinary receipts are those set down in the budget estimates. Rupees 13,000, shown as receipts for Madras on account of loans and interest, is made up of Rs. 8,853, interest on loan to District Port Funds, and Rs. 4,619, anticipated repayment of loan, as per Appendices D and E. Rupees 5,000, receipts of the Eastern Group, comprises of two sums of Rs. 2,800 and Rs. 2,004, the former being interest on the loan of Rs. 70,000 made by the Tinnevelly Port Fund to the Pámban Pilotage, and the latter contribution by Pámban Pilotage to the Madura Port Fund to meet the deficit of the year. Under charges, the ordinary charges are those set down in the estimates. Rupees 13,000, charges of the Eastern Group under "Adjustment, &c.," is the interest on loan and repayment of loan to the Madras district as noticed above. The provision of Rs. 12,000 for purchase of Government securities is for the investment of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 2,000 on behalf of the Malabar and South Canara District Port Funds, and the large payment of Rs. 35,000 is on account of contribution to Harbour Trust Board. The receipts and charges of Pilotage and Landing and Shipping Dues are those set down in the budget estimates. The provision of Rs. 5,000, as adjustment charges of the Pilotage Funds in the Eastern Group, is the interest on loan from Tinnevelly Port Fund and contribution to the Madura Port Fund.

7. With the above remarks, I beg to submit the estimates in question for the sanction of Government.

ORDER—dated 5th March 1892, No. 273, Financial.

The budget estimates of the several Port and Marine funds in the Presidency for 1892–93 have been framed by the Presidency Port Officer with great care and with due regard to the financial position of each fund, and are accepted by Government subject to the following remarks.

PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

2. *Ganjam.*—It is doubtful whether so large a sum as ·10 lakh will be realised from the dues levied on goods passing over the Gopálpur pier; the Engineer-in-Chief of the East Coast Railway estimated that not more than three or four thousand tons of railway stores would contribute towards the income from this source and it is just possible that some portion of the ordinary traffic may be diverted to the ports in Vizagapatam. The cost of substantially repairing the pier (estimated by the Public Works Department at ·06 lakh in G.O., Marine, No. 397, dated 2nd September 1891), has been met from Provincial revenues, so that, as long as the pier receipts are realised, payment of contributions from Provincial funds to meet deficits in the port accounts will be unnecessary.

3. *Godávari.*—This district has not only emerged from its old indebtedness, but will have accumulated a balance of ·04 lakh to credit in the current and nearly ·08 in the next official year; as the Presidency Port Officer has apparently no proposals to make for utilising this at an early date, and all dredging expenses will be charged to the dues under Act III of 1885, the Accountant-General will arrange to purchase Government promissory notes for ·04 lakh by the beginning of 1892–93.

4. *South Arcot.*—It would have been convenient if the Presidency Port Officer had submitted his proposals for selling out a portion of the Government securities belonging to this district as soon as the necessity arose for incurring heavy expenditure on the dredger, or at least shortly afterwards with reference to the instructions conveyed in paragraph 11 of G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial. As a matter of fact, the loan taken from Madras was not only the deficit of 1890–91 (Rs. 1,569), but also the amount of the further investment of Rs. 5,000 made in April 1891, and on this was paid premium as well as interest throughout the current year. When securities for Rs. 8,000 are sold as proposed by the Port Officer, premium will be realized at about 5 per cent. and the assets will amount to Rs. 17,000 in Government paper and Rs. 8,400 in cash; the closing balance of 1892–93 will then be a cash surplus of Rs. 244 as shown on the margin, and there will be no loan outstanding against the district, as brought out by the Presidency Port Officer, of Rs. 2,814 on 31st March 1893. To avoid similar complications in future due regard should be had to the exact cash balances of each fund before any large expenditure not provided for in the estimates is proposed or incurred. Attention should also be directed to the position of the market in regard to investments and withdrawals of Government securities, so that these transactions may, as far as possible, be effected to the best advantage.

	Rs.
Debt in April 1891	1,569
Do for additional investment ..	5,250
Interest for 1891–92	273
Deficit in 1891–92	2,271
	9,363
Deduct assets	8,400
Debt in April 1892	963
Interest at 4 per cent.	38
	1,001
Add surplus in 1892–93	1,245
Net cash balance ..	244

5. *Tanjore.*—According to the estimate of the Presidency Port Officer, the debit balance of ·35 lakh at the beginning of 1890–91 will have been reduced by one-half towards the end of next year, but credit is taken for surpluses of only ·05 and ·03 in the current and ensuing years against ·10 in 1890–91, the receipts being somewhat under-estimated and the charges over-rated; there is reason to hope that the district will retrieve its position more rapidly than at present anticipated.

6. *Madura.*—There is no object in retaining the small sum of Rs. 2,853 which will be left to the credit of these ports after the appropriation of their invested capital of ·20 lakh towards the cost of the dredger *Wenlock*. As the annual deficits in Madura are made good by the Pámban Pilotage fund in full, that balance will be transferred to the credit of the latter in reduction of the amount to be borrowed from Tinnevelly.

7. *Tinnevelly.*—The adjustments ordered in G.O., Marine, No. 392, dated 31st August 1891, on account of the initial cost of the Dredger *Wenlock* will be carried out towards the close of the current year and will necessitate the withdrawal of about ·65 lakh from the invested capital of this district, the remainder being provided from other sources as shown in paragraph 11 *infra*. The loan to the Pámban Pilotage fund will, however, stand at about ·68, being the sale-proceeds of Government paper which will be transferred to the Pilotage account. If, however, the outlay proposed on the pier improvements (·52) and the iron storeshed (·08) at Tuticorin is to be incurred in 1892–93, a further withdrawal of about ·25 lakh will become indispensable, and the Presidency Port Officer should apply for the requisite permission of Government in good time before expenditure is actually incurred. The invested capital of the districts will then be reduced to ·30 lakh.

8. *Malabar and South Canara.*—Additional investments in Government paper may safely be made in these districts to the extent of ·20 and ·06 lakh respectively in the beginning of the next official year, and the Accountant-General will arrange accordingly. The estimates need not be altered, as the payment of premiums will be more or less counterbalanced by the realisations of interest.

9. *Madras Port.*—The estimates of receipts and charges under this section as modified by the Presidency Port Officer are accepted. The Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, need not submit the Madras Pilotage and Port Fund budgets direct to Government in future, but will forward them to the Presidency Port Officer, who will communicate the figures finally accepted by Government. As regards adjustments on account of loans and interest, certain modifications have become necessary, and these are shown clearly in the appendix to these proceedings; the result is that the closing balance in the current and ensuing years is expected to stand at 1·02 and ·93 respectively. A contribution of ·50 lakh was paid to the Harbour Trust Board in 1891–92; a sum of ·65 lakh can safely be made over in 1892–93, leaving a working balance of ·28 lakh. Of this at least ·20 can be invested in Government paper and maintained as a reserve without interfering with the ordinary requirements of the port, and the Accountant-General will arrange accordingly towards the close of the ensuing year.

	1891-92. LAKHS.
Opening balance	·70
Surplus on ordinary transactions ..	·28
Net adjustments on account of loans ..	·04
Total ..	1·02
Deduct contribution to the Harbour Trust Board	·50
Opening balance, 1892-93	·52
Surplus	·37
Adjustments	·04
Total ..	·93
Deduct contribution to the Harbour Trust Board	·65
Net working balance ..	·28

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

10. *Pámban and Kilakarai.*—The estimates of the Presidency Port Officer under this head are altogether incomplete. The Dredger *Wenlock* was declared to belong to the Pámban Pilotage fund and the whole of the transactions connected with its purchase, upkeep and repairs, as well as the cost of services rendered by it to other ports, should be brought to account under this fund. The Accountant-General should see that the adjustments in the Home accounts in regard to the initial cost are effected before 1st April next, as the official rate of exchange will be reduced from 1*s.* $6\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 1*s.* $4\frac{3}{4}$*d.* the rupee on that date. The Presidency Port Officer has not provided for the full cost of the upkeep of the dredger, estimated at ·028 lakh per mensem, nor has he taken credit in the Pámban accounts for the recovery of ·10 which he provides as a contribution

from the landing and shipping dues, Cocanada, for dredging that port. The financial position, as far as materials for a forecast exist, is shown below:—

Pámban Pilotage Fund.

	1891–92. LAKH.	1892–93. LAKH.
Opening balance	·22	·07
Receipts—		
Contributions towards the initial cost of the dredger, viz., Rs. 1,91,676—		
Provincial grant .. .. .. LAKH. 1·00		
Madura balance .. .. .. ·23		
Premium on sale of Madura securities ·01		
Loan from Tinnevelly .. .. .. ·65		
Premium on sale of Tinnevelly securities ·03		
	1·92	..
Ordinary pilotage collections	·13	·20
Recoveries from other ports	..	·10
Total receipts ..	2·05	·30
Expenditure—		
Initial cost of the dredger	1·92	..
Charges for docking the dredger	·03	·03
Cost of establishment and working charges ..	·20	·34
Repairs to the dredger (depreciation)	·01	·01
Pámban pilot establishment and contingencies ..	·02	·02
Interest payable to Tinnevelly on ·68 lakh ..	..	·02
Contribution to make good the deficit in Madura ..	·02	·02
Total charges ..	2·20	·44
Closing balance ..	·07	— ·07

11. It will be seen that the accounts, which opened with a credit balance of ·22 in the current year, close with a deficit of ·07 in 1892–93; this will be made good by Provincial revenues from the provision of ·26 for this purpose in the estimates under 21, *Marine*. The outlook in subsequent years is not encouraging, as there will be a continuous deficit of at least ·14 lakh per annum; the question, therefore, arises whether measures should be adopted for restoring equilibrium and providing for the repayment of the loan to Tinnevelly. The Presidency Port Officer will accordingly submit an early report on the following points:—

(i) Whether it is desirable to move the Government of India to raise the scale of pilotage dues, in view of the large outlay on dredging, and the facilities thereby afforded to the shipping at Pámban, and (ii) at what ports within and without the limits of the Madras Presidency the *Wenlock* may be usefully employed, as soon as she has completed her present work. A definite programme should be prepared showing, in the order of importance and urgency and with reference to the seasons and to the local circumstances, the ports to which she should be first lent and the rates of fees to be levied or other mode of recovery. The full cost of maintenance together with interest on capital may, in the opinion of Government, be recovered from ports at which the dredger is employed.

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

12. The Act having been extended to the port of Masulipatam with effect from 15th March 1892, the receipts and charges in the ensuing year may be entered roughly at ·03 and ·01 lakh.

13. The estimates as modified above are shown in the appendix to these Proceedings and are summarised below for 1892–93:—

Budget Estimates of 1892–93.	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	1·10	1·63	·76	3·49
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·13	..	..	·13
Total ..	1·23	1·63	·76	3·62
Charges—				
Ordinary	·81	2·00	·57	3·38
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	..	·13	..	·13
Investment in Government securities	·20	·04	·26	·50
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·65	..	..	·65
Total ..	1·66	2·17	·83	4·66
Pilotage Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts	·28	·30	·06	·64
Charges	·25	·40	·05	·70
Adjustment under charges	..	·04	..	·04
Landing and Shipping Dues—Act III of 1885.				
Receipts	..	·53	..	·53
Charges	..	·46	..	·46

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Presidency Port Officer.
" Chairman, Harbour Trust Board.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Marine Department.
" Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada.
" Landing and Shipping Dues Committee, Negapatam.
" " " " Vizagapatam.
" " " " Masulipatam.

Exd. A. Raitt.

[Appendix.

from the landing and shipping dues, Cocanada, for dredging that port. The financial position, as far as materials for a forecast exist, is shown below:—

Pámban Pilotage Fund.

	1891-92.	1892-93.
	LAKH.	LAKH.
Opening balance	·22	·07
Receipts—		
Contributions towards the initial cost of the dredger, viz., Rs. 1,91,676—	LAKH.	
Provincial grant	1·00	
Madura balance	·23	
Premium on sale of Madura securities	·01	
Loan from Tinnevelly	·65	
Premium on sale of Tinnevelly securities	·03	
	1·92	..
Ordinary pilotage collections	·13	·20
Recoveries from other ports	..	·10
Total receipts ..	2·05	·30
Expenditure—		
Initial cost of the dredger	1·92	..
Charges for docking the dredger	·03	·03
Cost of establishment and working charges ..	·20	·34
Repairs to the dredger (depreciation)	·01	·01
Pámban pilot establishment and contingencies ..	·02	·02
Interest payable to Tinnevelly on ·68 lakh ..	..	·02
Contribution to make good the deficit in Madura ..	·02	·02
Total charges ..	2·20	·44
Closing balance ..	·07	— ·07

11. It will be seen that the accounts, which opened with a credit balance of ·22 in the current year, close with a deficit of ·07 in 1892–93; this will be made good by Provincial revenues from the provision of ·26 for this purpose in the estimates under 21, *Marine*. The outlook in subsequent years is not encouraging, as there will be a continuous deficit of at least ·14 lakh per annum; the question, therefore, arises whether measures should be adopted for restoring equilibrium and providing for the repayment of the loan to Tinnevelly. The Presidency Port Officer will accordingly submit an early report on the following points:—

(i) Whether it is desirable to move the Government of India to raise the scale of pilotage dues, in view of the large outlay on dredging, and the facilities thereby afforded to the shipping at Pámban, and (ii) at what ports within and without the limits of the Madras Presidency the *Wenlock* may be usefully employed, as soon as she has completed her present work. A definite programme should be prepared showing, in the order of importance and urgency and with reference to the seasons and to the local circumstances, the ports to which she should be first lent and the rates of fees to be levied or other mode of recovery. The full cost of maintenance together with interest on capital may, in the opinion of Government, be recovered from ports at which the dredger is employed.

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

12. The Act having been extended to the port of Masulipatam with effect from 15th March 1892, the receipts and charges in the ensuing year may be entered roughly at ·03 and ·01 lakh.

13. The estimates as modified above are shown in the appendix to these Proceedings and are summarised below for 1892–93:—

Budget Estimates of 1892–93.	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	1·10	1·63	·76	3·49
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·13	..	..	·13
Total ..	1·23	1·63	·76	3·62
Charges—				
Ordinary	·81	2·00	·57	3·38
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	..	·13	..	·13
Investment in Government securities	·20	·04	·26	·50
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·65	..	..	·65
Total ..	1·66	2·17	·83	4·66
Pilotage Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts	·28	·30	·06	·64
Charges	·25	·40	·05	·70
Adjustment under charges	..	·04	..	·04
Landing and Shipping Dues—Act III of 1885.				
Receipts	..	·53	..	·53
Charges	..	·46	..	·46

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Presidency Port Officer.
" Chairman, Harbour Trust Board.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Marine Department.
" Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada.
" Landing and Shipping Dues Committee, Negapatam.
" " " " Vizagapatam.
" " " " Masulipatam.

Exd. A. Raitt.

[Appendix.

osing Balance.		Remarks.
Cash + Debt —	Total.	
18	19	20
Rs.	Rs.	
— 1,89,112	— 1,89,112	(*a*) Deficits made good from Provincial revenues.
+ 2,419	+ 92,419	(*b*) ,, ,, ,, by loans from Madras balances.
+ 3,577	+ 7,577	(*c*) Transfers from the Pámban Pilotage to the Madura Port fund.
— 6,155	— 6,155	(*d*) Interest payable to the Tinnevelly Port fund by the Pámban Pilotage fund.
+ 1,932	+ 9,932	(*e*) Interest payable to the Madras Port at 4 per cent.
+ 433	+ 6,433	(*f*) Interest payable to Madras advanced by Madras itself.
+ 244	+ 17,244	(*g*) Madura balance transferred to the Pámban Pilotage fund.
— 18,610	— 18,610	(*h*) Surplus repaid to Madras in reduction of debt.
..	..	(*i*) Purchase of Government securities.
— 68,000	+ 68,000	(*j*) Premium on Government securities.
— 2,779	+ 32,779	(*k*) Sale of Government securities.
— 70,779	+1,00,779	
— 1,34,493	+ 20,507	
— 15,165	+2,05,165	
— 2,918	+ 37,918	
— 18,083	+2,43,083	
— 2,13,877	+ 2,13,877	
— 8,063	+ 28,063	
..	..	
2,21,940	+2,41,940	
— 1,01,513	+1,01,513	
..	..	
— 68,000	— 68,000	
— 14,652	+ 14,652	
— 2,000	+ 2,000	
— 50,165	+ 50,165	
8,699	+ 8,699	
33,312	+ 33,312	
8,000	+ 8,000	
2,000	+ 2,000	
52,011	+ 52,011	

Madras Port.	Actuals, 1890–91.	Revised estimate, 1891–92.	Budget estimate, 1892–93.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	5,04,477	2,91,945	2,70,771
Deduct contribution to Harbour Trust Board.	2,62,000	50,000	65,000
Net balance available ..	2,42,477	2,41,945	2,05,771
Add surplus of the year	40,046	19,717	27,434
Add interest received from—			
Ganjam	7,576	7,576	7,576
Vizagapatam	73	49	..
Godávari	188	..	..
Kistna	206	186	257
South Arcot	..	273	38
Tanjore	1,379	1,025	864
Total ..	9,422	9,109	8,735
Real balance ..	2,91,945	2,70,771	2,41,940
Loans advanced in previous years	2,35,544	2,22,471	2,18,370
Loans advanced to cover deficits—			
Kistna	..	1,573	..
South Arcot	1,569	{ 2,271 / 5,250 }	..
Loans advanced for payment of interest—			
Kistna	..	186	..
South Arcot	..	273	..
Total during the year ..	1,569	9,553	..
Deduct repayments of loan—			
Ganjam	..	..	283
Vizagapatam	610	1,224	..
Godávari	4,704	..	..
Kistna	485	..	265
South Arcot	..	8,400	963
Tanjore	8,843	4,030	2,982
Total repayments ..	14,642	13,654	4,493
Net loans outstanding ..	2,22,471	2,18,370	2,13,877
Net working balance ..	69,474	52,401	28,063

le year.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

No. 940 Wdy 22 March 1892

Issued

Recd. Encl.

Recorded
vol / O.C. B
Dw

G.O., 5th March 1892, No. 273.

MARCH.

Budget Estimate.

Reviewing the — under Port and Marine funds for 1892–93.

The Ecr S.W. Coast

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From Captain B. CREAGH, H.M.'s I.M., Officiating Presidency Port Officer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 15th January 1892, No. 1390-17-G.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the consideration and orders of Government, the budget estimates of the Port and Marine Funds of this Presidency for the official year 1892–93 and the revised estimates for the current year, together with Appendices A to F, which are as follows :—

Appendix A.—An abstract statement arranged according to districts of receipts and charges of the several Port and Marine Funds, showing in one view the actuals of the past year, the revised estimate of the current year, and the budget estimate of the ensuing year.

Appendix B.—Statement showing the actual Port dues collections and detailed particulars of General, Light-house and Public Works charges for 1892–93, compared with the actuals of the past year and the revised estimate of the current year.

Appendix C.—Statement showing the financial position of the several Port and Marine Funds for the three years 1890–91 to 1892–93, including adjustments on account of loans, interest, &c.

Appendix D.—Statement showing particulars of loan and interest account of the Madras port from 1890–91 to 1892–93.

Appendix E.—Statement showing particulars of loan from Madras outstanding against the District Port Funds in the years 1890–91 to 1892–93.

Appendix F.—Statement showing particulars of public works to be executed from Port Funds during 1892–93.

2. The estimates in question were prepared in accordance with the instructions of Government contained in paragraph 17 of their order, No. 85, Marine, dated 5th March 1890, and the figures in the column of actuals for 1890–91 under the several detailed heads of receipts and charges were reconciled with the accounts for that year submitted to Government with my letter, No. 1243-392-G., dated 15th October 1891, and reviewed in G.O., No. 496, Marine, dated 10th November 1891. The grants for the current year under the several detailed heads, both for receipts and charges, specified in the column of "Budget Estimate, 1891–92," are those sanctioned by Government in their orders, Nos. 211 and 430, Financial, dated 26th March and 10th June 1891, respectively.

3. The revised estimates for the current year of the several Port and Marine Funds which have been incorporated, as desired in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, with the same statement which contains the budget estimate of those funds for the ensuing year, will first be dealt with.

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

The total receipts under this head of account, as per revised estimate now framed, amount to Rs. 3,20,795, against the estimated receipt for the year, viz., Rs. 3,24,330 or Rs. 3,25,000 in round numbers; the decrease of Rs. 3,535 arising by a fall in general receipts, miscellaneous receipts and fees amounting to Rs. 6,775, which was, however, supplemented by an increase in interest on Government securities to the

extent of Rs. 3,240. The estimates of the remaining detailed heads of receipts are the same as those estimated in the sanctioned budget, and the rise and fall above noticed will shortly be explained, as under :—

—	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.	Increase or Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General receipts	225	100	— 125
Miscellaneous receipts	22,760	19,760	— 3,000
Fees	26,250	22,600	— 3,650
Interest	15,280	18,520	+ 3,240
	..	..	— 3,535

General Receipts.—The actual outturn of the past three years, exclusive of special items of receipts, do not give hopes of large receipts being realized under this head during this year. Hence it is proposed that the budgeted sum be reduced from Rs. 225 to 100.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The decrease of Rs. 3,000 arises chiefly in Madras, where the sale-proceeds of surplus stores are not likely to amount to what has been budgeted for. Rs. 5,000 expected to be realized at Madras has been reduced to Rs. 2,000, and hence the decrease.

Fees.—The revised estimate under this head falls short of the budgeted sum by Rs. 3,650, the decrease arising chiefly in Madras where it has been over-estimated, and also in the East Coast districts where the amounts are now fixed with reference to the actual outturns of the past three years.

Interest.—Rs. 3,240, expected to be realized under this head of receipt during the current year more than the estimated receipts, is the interest on additional investments of District Port Fund balances ordered in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, paragraph 11. Interest on the additional investment of Rs. 5,000 of the South Arcot District Port Fund is not anticipated, as in my letter to Government, No. 453 G., dated 7th December 1891, Government securities to the extent of Rs. 8,000, which include the above investment, have been proposed to be sold to enable that district to pay off its debt and to have a small working balance.

The total estimated receipts for 1891–92, as now revised, amounting to Rs. 3,20,795, are set down as Rs. 3,21,000 in round numbers.

CHARGES.

In G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, the sanctioned grant for the current year, *i.e.*, Rs. 3,14,873, is set down in round numbers as Rs. 3,15,000, and the revised estimate now framed amounting to Rs. 2,93,563 falls short of that sum by Rs. 21,310, the decrease being explained as under :—

—	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.	Increase or Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Share of Lighthouse charges	34,338	42,938	+ 8,600
Personal allowance to Port officers and Conservators ..	10,860	10,740	— 120
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	97,282	69,132	— 28,150
Fees	11,240	9,600	— 1,640
	..	..	— 21,310

Lighthouse Charges.—The increase of Rs. 8,600 in the revised estimate is due to provision on account of cost, &c., of new lights and other apparatus connected therewith for the Gopálpur, Malpé, Cundapur, Cuddalore and Tondi lights, which have been received lately, and the charges for which will appear in the accounts for the current year.

Personal Allowance to Port Officers and Conservators.—The decrease of Rs. 120 is due to the personal allowance of the Port Officer, Mangalore, having been erroneously calculated at Rs. 50 per mensem in the budget estimate for 1891–92, instead of at Rs. 40 per mensem, which has now been correctly set down in the revised estimate.

Contingencies and Miscellaneous.—The decrease of Rs. 28,150 below the sanctioned grant has arisen as follows :—

—	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891-92.	Increase or Decrease.
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
South Arcot	2,250	1,500	— 750
Tanjore	6,700	2,500	— 4,200
Madura	2,600	22,600	+ 20,000
Tinnevelly	45,750	2,500	— 43,200
	..	..	— 28,150

In the South Arcot and Tanjore districts, charges on account of establishment and contingencies of dredger have been reduced by Rs. 750 and 4,200, respectively, as dredging work in the former district has not been carried out during the current year to an extent anticipated, and charges on account of the same in the latter district amounting to the sum specified are not likely to be incurred during the currency of the year. Such charges, however, if incurred in the latter district in future, will be debited to Landing and Shipping dues, to which head it is properly debitable. In Madura, a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been provided for payment this year out of the district balance to meet the cost of the Pámban dredger partly, as arranged in G.O., No. 392, Marine, dated 31st August 1891, and this would necessitate its funded capital being sold to that extent. The provision of Rs. 43,400 for the improvements of the pier and the erection of an iron store-shed, which are not likely to be carried out during the current year, has been eliminated, and a small increase of Rs. 200 made in the ordinary contingencies of the Tinnevelly district, and this resulted in a reduction of Rs. 43,200 below the sanctioned grant for the year.

The total estimated charges for 1891–92, as now revised, amount to Rs. 2,93,563 and are set down as Rs. 2,94,000 in round numbers.

The difference between the revised estimate of Port Funds (Act X of 1889) for the Madras port for the current year submitted by the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board (herewith forwarded), and the estimated receipts and charges for that port as entered in the consolidated budget now submitted, is explained below :—

	Receipts.	Charges.
	Rs.	Rs.
As per Chairman's estimate	1,04,534	78,584
„ this office estimate	99,015	79,298
	— 5,519	+ 714

The heads of account in which the difference of Rs. 5,519 in receipts is noticed are—

	Rs.
(1) General receipts	— 19
(2) Miscellaneous receipts	— 3,000
(3) Fees	— 2,500
	— 5,519

(1) The fall in General receipts is due to receipts of such a nature not being expected to be actually realized during 1891–92 to such a large extent as has been anticipated in the sanctioned estimate.

(2) Large sales of surplus stores at Madras, as were anticipated, were not made and are not likely to be made before the close of the year. Hence the decrease.

(3) Receipts under this head for the current year have been fixed as Rs. 2,000 with reference to the average of the past three years and the actual outturn of 1890–91.

CHARGES.

Excluding the contribution to the Harbour Trust Board of Rs. 50,000 for 1891–92, the increase of Rs. 714 over the Chairman's estimate occurs in the share of Lighthouse charges, as during this year total charges on that account in the Eastern Group will probably exceed the budget grant by Rs. 3,500. *Vide* estimate of Lighthouse charges, Appendix B.

An abstract statement showing the revised estimated receipts and charges of Madras and other districts is given below :—

—	Actuals, 1890–91.	Budget estimate, 1891-92.	Revised estimate, 1891–92.
Receipts.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Madras—			
Port Dues	1,00,983	95,000	95,000
Sundry Receipts	3,862	9,534	4,015
Total	1,04,845	1,04,534	99,015
Other Districts—			
Port Dues	1,92,157	1,64,815	1,64,815
Sundry Receipts	50,671	54,981	56,965
Total	2,42,828	2,19,796	2,21,780
Grand Total	3,47,673	3,24,330 or 3,25,000	3,20,795 or 3,21,000
Charges.			
Madras—			
Share of General charges	8,051	9,339	9,339
Do. Lighthouse charges	6,684	6,820	7,534
Salary of Deputy Conservator	8,376	8,640	8,640
Personal Allowance to Deputy Conservator	2,100	2,100	2,100
Other Establishments	24,939	19,438	19,438
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	2,76,649	32,247	32,247
Total	3,26,799	78,584	79,298
Other Districts—			
Share of General charges	45,141	52,661	52,661
Do. Lighthouse charges	27,781	27,518	35,404
Port Officers and Conservators	37,094	35,880	35,880
Personal Allowance to Post Officers and Conservators	8,640	8,760	8,640
Other Establishments	19,404	19,707	19,707
Contingencies and Miscellaneous	61,364	91,763	61,973
Total	1,99,424	2,36,289	2,14,265
Grand Total	5,26,223	3,14,873 or 3,15,000	2,93,563 or 2,94,000

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

In his revised estimate of Pilotage Fund, Madras, for 1891–92, herewith submitted, the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, has fixed the receipts to be Rs. 30,700 and charges Rs. 31,060, against Rs. 28,000 and 24,000, respectively, provided for in the budget estimate sanctioned in G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial. The receipts and charges, as estimated by the Chairman, may be set down as Rs. 31,000 on each account in round numbers.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The receipt under this head for 1891–92 remains the same as that fixed by Government in G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial, but an increase in charges is anticipated. The provision of Rs. 6,200 has been raised to Rs. 11,000, as dredger expenses are likely to amount to a larger sum than what was anticipated it would be. The estimated receipts and charges for 1891–92, as now revised, are set down as Rs. 13,000 and 11,000, respectively, in round numbers.

COCHIN AND MANGALORE.

No change is anticipated in either the receipts or charges estimated in G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

VIZAGAPATAM.

No change is anticipated in the receipts budgeted for in the order of the 26th March 1891, but the charges have been fixed as only Rs. 1,000 instead of Rs. 4,000, the same having been based on the actuals of the past six months. Act III of 1885 was introduced at this port only on the 1st April 1891.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Godávari Port Conservancy Board has, in his revised estimate for the current year, estimated the receipts to be Rs. 36,000 against Rs. 30,000 provided for in the sanctioned estimate. The sanctioned grant for charges on account of Establishment and Contingencies will remain unaltered.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts in the order of the 26th March 1891 will remain the same, but the charges for the current year will amount to more than what has been estimated, owing to a large sum amounting to Rs. 1,566 having been incurred in connection with the construction of a passenger shed. The grant for the year has, therefore, been raised from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000.

4. Including adjustments on account of loan and interest, the revised estimates for 1891–92, as now framed, are summarised below in round numbers :—

—	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	·99	1·46	·76	3·21
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·14	·17	..	·31
Sale-proceeds of Government securities	..	·98	..	·98
Total	1·13	2·61	·76	4·50
Charges—				
Ordinary	·79	1·51	·64	2·94
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·4	·14	..	·18
Investment in Government securities	..	·9	·77 ·12	·86 ·12
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·50	..	..	·50
Total	1·33	1·74	1·53	4·60
Pilotage Funds.				
Receipts	·31	·13	·6	·50
Charges	·31	·11	·5	·47
Adjustment under charges	..	·4	..	·4
Landing and Shipping Dues.				
Receipts	..	·52	..	·52
Charges	..	·34	..	·34

Particulars of the figures contained in the above statement are as given below :—

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

(1) Ordinary receipts set down for Madras, Eastern Group and Western Group districts, amounting to Rs. 3,21,000, are those specified in the column of revised estimate for 1891–92 embodied in the budget herewith submitted.

(2) The sum of Rs. 14,000, receipts for Madras on account of loan and interest, comprises of two items—Rs. 8,899, interest on loan to District Port Funds as specified in Appendix D, and Rs. 5,254, repayment of loan by District Port Funds as specified in Appendix E, which is set down as Rs. 14,000 in round numbers. Rs. 17,000, set down as receipts of the Eastern Group districts under this head, is made up of the following items :—

RS.	
6,839	Contribution from Provincial Funds to the Ganjam district to meet deficit of the year's transactions.— *Vide* Appendix C.
2,827	Contribution to Madura District Port Fund from the Pámban Pilotage to meet deficit of the year.— *Vide* Appendix C.
2,800	Interest on loan of Rs. 70,000 set apart for Pámban Pilotage Fund to meet cost of dredger. As the date when the loan was availed of is not known, interest on the sum for a full year has been provided for under column of adjustment. Should interest on loan be recovered for only a portion of the year, the remaining sum will form interest on Government securities until the loan was availed of.
4,093	Loan from Madras to meet deficits of the Kistna and South Arcot districts amounting to Rs. 3,844, and a further loan amounting to Rs. 249 to meet interest payable by those districts on outstanding loan.— *Vide* Appendices C and E.
16,559	or Rs. 17,000 in round numbers.

(3) Rs. 98,000 worth of Government securities to be sold on account of the Eastern Group districts comprises of Rs. 70,000 payable to the Tinnevelly district as loan to Pámban Pilotage to meet cost of the new dredger, Rs. 20,000 payable on the same account by the Madura Port Fund, and Rs. 8,000 being amount of Government securities to be sold before the close of the current year on account of the South Arcot District Port Fund, as proposed in my letter to Government, No. 453-G., dated 7th December 1891.

CHARGES.

(1) Ordinary charges for Madras, Eastern and Western Group districts, are those specified in the total column of the revised estimate, which amount to Rs. 2,93,563, and are set down as Rs. 2,94,000 in round numbers.

(2) Rs. 4,000, charged to Madras on account of loan and interest, is the amount of loan to be made by Madras to Kistna and South Arcot districts to meet the deficits of those districts for 1891–92 and interest payable by those districts on their previous loan.— *Vide* Appendices C and E.

(3) Rs. 14,000, provided for the East Coast districts on account of loan and interest, is the amount of interest on loan from Madras payable by a few districts in the East Coast amounting to Rs. 8,899 as per Appendix C, and repayment of loan by the Vizagapatam and Tanjore districts amounting to Rs. 5,254 as per Appendix E. These two items, aggregating Rs. 14,153, are set down as Rs. 14,000 in round numbers.

(4) Under investments, in addition to the sum of Rs. 86,000 already provided for by Government in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, provision in this estimate has been made for the investment of Rs. 10,000 on account of Malabar and Rs. 2,000 on account of the South Canara District Port Funds. Further investments to this extent can safely be made before the close of this year, as these districts

had, on the 31st March 1891 (*vide* Appendix C, G.O., No. 496, Marine, dated 10th November 1891), a credit balance of Rs. 1,79,204 and Rs. 33,293, respectively, and are expected to have a large surplus of Rs. 10,363 and 2,312 by the transactions of the current year, which would raise their balances on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 1,89,567 and Rs. 35,605, while investments made on their account until now are Rs. 1,70,000 and Rs. 29,000, respectively. This being done, there will be a sufficient working balance left for those districts on the 31st March 1892.

(*b*) The receipts and charges of Pilotage Funds and of the Landing and Shipping Dues which have been explained in previous paragraphs call for no special remarks.

5. Turning to a consideration of the budget estimates of the Port and Marine Funds for the ensuing year, *viz.*, 1892–93, I beg to observe as follows :—

(*a*) PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

RECEIPTS.

The variations in the estimated figures for the coming year under the several detailed heads of receipts over and below the actuals of the past year and the budget estimate of the current year will first be noticed.

Share of Coasting Steamer Dues.—The anticipated collections of Coasting Steamer dues at the several Maritime districts in the Eastern and Western Groups, as detailed in page 1 of Appendix B, have been distributed to the several districts in proportion to the average tonnage of coasting steamers that entered these groups during the past three years. The Coasting Steamer dues expected to be realized at Madras have not, however, been interfered with, the collections of that port being credited in full under Clause 37, Act X of 1889. The total collections for 1892–93 are expected to be Rs. 7,401 and Rs. 14,917 over and below the estimate of the current year and the actuals of the past year, respectively, the increase over the estimate for the current year arising largely in the Eastern Group districts and to a small extent in the Western Group districts. This increase has, however, to meet a small deficit in Madras. The decrease below the actuals is expected to arise in the Eastern Group districts to an extent of Rs. 9,983 and in the Western Group districts to Rs. 6,859. A slight increase is anticipated in Madras. These variations are due to the average tonnage of vessels that entered these districts during the past three years being over and below the actual tonnage of the past year and the expected tonnage of the current year.

Other Dues.—The dues under this head for 1892–93 will be nearly equal to the actual outturn of the past year, with a very slight difference of Rs. 4,003. The East Coast districts, including Madras, will benefit by an increase amounting to Rs. 9,602, while those in the Western Group will suffer, to a small extent, by Rs. 5,599, in consequence of an anticipated fall in the dues of foreign vessels and native craft, vessels of larger tonnage of the former description not having visited Malabar and South Canara during the past three years, and the average number of vessels of the latter description falling below the number that actually visited these districts last year.

Share of General Administration Receipts.—The estimate under this head of receipt has been based with reference to the actual ordinary receipts of the Administrative Department realized during the last three years, which do not amount to more than what has been set down, *i.e.*, Rs. 100.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—The anticipated receipts under this head for 1892–93 will probably be about Rs. 8,000 more than the actuals of the past year, a large increase being anticipated in the Eastern Group by the levy of Pier dues in Gopálpur which has been renewed under G.O., No. 435, Marine, dated 8th October 1891. The average collections of ordinary receipts in the West Coast districts and in Madras during the past three years do not amount to more than what have been set down against these districts in the present estimate.

Fees.—The estimate is Rs. 3,650 below the amount provided for in the current year's budget, but exactly the same as that set forth in the revised estimate, and is nearly equal to the actual outturn of the past year.

Interest on Government Securities.—Provision has been made for a full year's interest on the invested capital of the districts. An increase will be noticed in Nellore, Chingleput, Malabar and South Canara, in consequence of the further investments ordered in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891, and a decrease in South Arcot, Madura and Tinnevelly. In South Arcot, Government securities to the extent of Rs. 8,000 have been proposed to be sold—*Vide* my letter to Government, No. 453 G., dated 7th December. 1891. The actual investment of the Madura balance, *i.e.* Rs. 20,000, will have to be sold to meet the cost of the Pámban dredger, as arranged in G.O., No. 392, Marine, dated 31st August 1891. The Tinnevelly Port Fund has to lend Rs. 70,000 to the Pámban and Kílakarai Pilotage Fund to meet the above cost, and interest on this sum has been adjusted to the credit of this district in the column of adjustment in Appendix C.

The receipts of Port Funds (Act X of 1889) exceed the budgeted sum for 1891–92 by Rs. 23,000, a large increase being anticipated in Ganjam district to the extent of Rs. 10,000 on account of Pier dues in Gopálpur, and the remainder Rs. 13,000 occurring in other districts under the several detailed heads as noticed above. The total receipts, which amount to Rs. 3,48,256, are set down as Rs. 3,48,000 in round numbers.

CHARGES.

General Administration Charges.—The estimated charges for 1892–93, as specified in Appendix B, is, in round numbers, Rs. 5,000 more than the budgeted grant for the current year. The personal allowance of Rs. 45 per mensem payable to the Agent for Government Consignments has been provided for under "Salaries of officers of the Administrative Department," as per G.O., No. 973, Financial, dated 29th September 1891. An increased provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for pensions and gratuities, as charges of this nature during the next year are likely to be over the grant for the current year by the retirement of officers and clerks. As tide-gauge establishments at Cocanada and at Madras were abolished, provision was not made in the estimates on these accounts as usual. The total general charges for 1892–93, viz., Rs. 67,000, have been distributed to all the districts in proportion to the average total tonnage that entered them during the last three years.

Lighthouse Charges.—Particulars of Lighthouse charges for 1892–93 are set forth in Appendix E. The estimated charges for 1891–92 exceed the sanctioned grant for the current year by Rs. 18,769 or Rs. 19,000 in round numbers, the increase being due to a large sum of Rs. 19,500 provided for the cost, &c., of a first-order light for the Madras Lighthouse and Rs. 200 for a dioptric mirror for the Cochin Lighthouse. Charges for public works are those specified in Appendix F on account of lighthouses both as original works and repairs. Pay of lighthouse mechanic at Rs. 80 per mensem has been provided for under Establishment. The lighthouse charges of the Eastern and Western Group districts for the ensuing year have been distributed to the several districts in these groups in proportion to the average tonnage that entered those groups, respectively, during the last three years.

Port Officers and Conservators.—The grant for the current year, *i.e.* Rs. 44,520, has been repeated for the ensuing year.

Personal Allowance to Port Officers and Conservators.—The estimate for 1892–93 is the same as the actuals of the past year and the revised estimate for the current year. The difference of Rs. 120 below the budget grant for 1891–92 has been *explained in paragraph 3 supra under "Personal allowance, &c."*

Other Establishments.—The estimate for 1892–93 is less than the grant for 1891–92 by only Rs. 376. An increase of Rs. 1,392 is anticipated in the Eastern and Western Groups in consequence of a slight revision of establishment in some of the districts, and also to the provision on account of Pier establishment in Gopálpur, while there will be a decrease in Madras amounting to Rs. 1,768 on account of reduction in Boat establishment, &c.

Contingencies and Miscellaneous.—The large decrease of Rs. 49,000 below the grant for 1891–92 is due to provision for improvements of Tuticorin Pier and the

construction of an iron store-shed at that port having been made in the present estimates under the heading of Public Works charges instead of under Contingencies as sanctioned in the current year's grant.

Public Works Charges.—The large sum of Rs. 66,824 provided for under this head includes two large items of Rs. 51,600 and 8,025, the former on account of improvements to the Tuticorin pier, and the latter on account of construction of an iron store-shed. The remaining sum is on account of ordinary Public Works charges of the districts specified in Appendix F.

Fees.—The estimate under this head falls short of the current year's grant by Rs. 2,190, and is Rs. 2,430 more than the actual outturn of the past year. A decrease of Rs. 1,440 is anticipated in the Eastern Group and Rs. 750 in the Western Group district, the present estimate being based with reference to the actuals of the past three years. Charges on account of fees and personal allowances to Port Officers and Conservators for 1892–93 will amount to Rs. 19,790 against an estimated receipt in fees of Rs. 22,600.

The total charges thus arrived at amount to Rs. 3,38,062 and are set down as Rs. 3,38,000 in round numbers.

The receipts and charges of the districts as set down in the budget estimates having been dealt with as a whole, I shall now proceed to deal with them individually, having in view also the several adjustments on account of those districts specified in column of adjustments in Appendix C, for the year 1892–93 :—

GANJAM.

Receipts.—Rs. 25,765 include a large item of Rs. 10,000 on account of Gopálpur Pier dues, the levy of which was renewed under G.O., No. 435, Marine, dated 8th October 1891.

Charges.—To the ordinary charges of the district for 1892–93, charges on account of pier establishment amounting to Rs. 548 and Rs. 500 for the upkeep of the pier annually have been added. The increase in general and lighthouse charges over the estimate for the current year and the actuals of the past year accounts for the difference between these estimates.

The transactions for the year 1892–93 are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 7,859, which after meeting payment of interest to Madras—viz., Rs. 7,576—will repay its loan by a small sum of Rs. 283 : *vide* Appendix E. Should a surplus arise, as is now anticipated, there will be no demand for a Provincial contribution to aid this District Fund as was done in previous years. The closing balance of this district on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 1,89,112, and this will be the sum outstanding as loan against this district on that date, as per Appendix E.

VIZAGAPATAM.

Receipts.—No special item of receipt is included in Rs. 27,355 estimated for that district.

Charges.—In the sum of Rs. 26,610 is included a sum of Rs. 1,000 on account of cost of constructing two groynes, and the remainder is for the ordinary charges of the district.

A small surplus will be left for 1892–93, which, added to the opening balance at the commencement of the year, will leave a credit balance of Rs. 92,419 on the 31st March 1893. The loan from Madras outstanding against this district on the 31st March 1891 will be repaid in full from the surplus of the current year as per revised estimate—*Vide* Appendices C and E.

GODAVARI.

Receipts.—The receipts for 1892–93 do not call for any special remarks, as they are only for those of an ordinary nature.

Charges.—The charges, likewise, do not need any special mention.

The District Port Fund, being relieved of large expenditure on account of dredgers during the last two years, is now gaining ground from its chronic state of deficiency.

A surplus of Rs. 3,304 is expected to result by the transactions of 1892–93, which, added to the surplus of Rs. 4,473 likely to stand to its credit at the end of the current year, will amount to Rs. 7,777 in favour of this district on the 31st March 1893.

KISTNA.

The estimated receipts and charges of this district for 1892–93 are those of an ordinary nature. During the current year the deficit of the year and interest payable on the loan outstanding on the 31st March 1891 will have to be met by an additional loan from Madras, as per Appendix D. The transactions of the year are, however, expected to result in a small surplus of Rs. 522. A sum of Rs. 257, being interest payable on the outstanding loan on the 31st March 1892, will have to be met from this surplus, and the remainder Rs. 265 will be adjusted as a repayment of loan (Appendix E). These adjustments will result in a debit balance of Rs. 6,155, which will be the loan outstanding against this district on the 31st March 1893.

NELLORE AND CHINGLEPUT.

These districts will maintain their healthy condition, their credit balances on the 31st March 1893 being expected to be, respectively, Rs. 9,932 and Rs. 6,433 (Appendix C).

SOUTH ARCOT.

The receipts for 1892–93 are expected to be nearly the same as the actual outturn of the past year and the estimate for the current year. Charges, likewise, will be the same as those of the past year excluding from the latter charges on account of new dredger, &c., amounting to Rs. 10,386.

The transactions of the year 1892–93, which will likely result in a surplus of Rs. 1,245, will have, however, to meet a small debit of Rs. 156 on account of interest on outstanding loan, and the balance of Rs. 1,089 will be treated as a set-off against the loan. The loan that will be outstanding against this district on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 2,814 as per Appendix E, and the balance which will remain to the credit of the District Port Fund will be Rs. 17,186, as per Appendix C.

TANJORE.

Receipts.—The estimated receipts for 1892–93 will very nearly amount to the actual outturn of the past and the estimated sum for the current year, and do not include any receipt of a special nature.

Charges.—The charges for 1892–93 are estimated to be Rs. 24,048, and are Rs. 3,897 and Rs. 1,423 over and below the actuals of the past year and the estimate for the current year, respectively, the increase over the actuals being due in a large measure to the increased share of General and Lighthouse charges.

The year's transactions are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 3,846. In the column of adjustment in Appendix C, a sum of Rs. 864 is provided for payment of interest on the loan outstanding, and the difference—Rs. 2,982—is treated as a set-off against the outstanding loan (Appendix E). The payment of interest on loan, adjusted with the surplus of the year, will reduce the debit balance from Rs. 21,592 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 18,610 on the 31st March 1893, which will be the loan outstanding against this district on that date.

MADURA.

The estimated receipts and charges of the district for 1892–93 are those for an ordinary nature. In consequence of a payment of Rs. 20,000 from the Port Fund balance in 1891–92 towards cost of the Pámban dredger which necessitated the sale of its funded capital, no provision has been made for receipts of interest on Government securities in 1892–93.

The transactions of the year 1892–93, which are likely to result, as usual, in a deficit of Rs. 2,004, will have to be supplemented by a contribution of this sum from

Pilotage Funds, Pámban, and adjustment to this effect has been made in the column of adjustment in Appendix C. The large payment in 1891–92 of Rs. 20,000 above noticed will leave a balance of Rs. 2,853 on the 31st March 1892, and this balance will run on to the 31st March 1893, the deficit for 1892–93 being met by a contribution from Pilotage Funds.

TINNEVELLY.

Receipts.—In the receipts for 1892–93, interest on Government securities, to the extent of Rs. 50,000 only, has been provided for, as Rs. 70,000 of the district balance has to be treated as loan to Pámban Pilotage Fund. The interest on the latter sum has been treated as an adjustment in Appendix C. In the sum of Rs. 8,700 provided for under Miscellaneous receipts, Rs. 8,000 is on account of receipts of Pier tolls. With these exceptions, the receipts for the year do not need any special mention.

Charges.—Two large items of Rs. 51,600 on account of Pier improvements and Rs. 8,025 on account of an iron store-shed are included in the sum of Rs. 76,698 set down as ordinary charges of the district.

The transactions of this district for 1891–92 (Appendix C) will raise its credit balance to Rs. 1,47,577 on the 31st March 1892. Those of 1892–93 will seriously affect the financial position of the district, in consequence of two large items of charges above noticed, and would result in a deficit of Rs. 54,218. This sum, adjusted with a small receipt of interest on loan to Pilotage Fund, Pámban, and the opening balance of 1892–93, will leave a balance of Rs. 96,159 in favour of this district on the 31st March 1893. Excluding the loan of Rs. 70,000 referred to, the net working balance of the district on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 26,159.

MALABAR.

The receipts and charges of this district for 1892–93 are nearly the same as those estimated for the current year, and do not call for any special remark.

The transactions for 1892–93 are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 16,598, which will raise the district balance from Rs. 1,89,567 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 2,06,165 on the 31st March 1893. Should the surplus for 1892–93 be realized to the extent specified, a further investment of, say, at least Rs. 10,000 may be made on behalf of this district, which will then leave a working balance of Rs. 16,165.

SOUTH CANARA.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 are nearly the same as those estimated for the current year, a slight increase in receipts arising from interest on additional investment of Government securities ordered in G.O., No. 211, Financial, dated 26th March 1891.

The year's transactions are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 2,613, which, when added to its credit balance of Rs. 35,605 on the 31st March 1892, will leave Rs. 38,218 on the 31st March 1893—*vide* Appendix C. During the year in question, another sum of Rs. 2,000 may be invested in Government securities on behalf of this district, which will then leave a working balance of Rs. 7,218 on the 31st March 1893.

MADRAS.

The difference between the estimates of receipts and charges for the Madras port for 1892–93, as framed by the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, and those entered for that port, as embodied in the consolidated budget now submitted, are explained below:—

	Receipts, 1892–93.	Charges, 1892–93.
	RS.	RS.
As per Chairman's estimate	1,15,000	76,616
„ this office estimate	1,09,515	81,071
	— 5,485	+ 4,455

RECEIPTS.

Instead of Rs. 9,500 provided for by the Chairman as sundry receipts, only Rs. 4,015 has been provided for in the present estimate, which comprises of the following sums :—

	Rs.
Share of general receipts	15
Miscellaneous receipts	2,000
Fees	2,000
Total ..	4,015

Large sale of surplus stores not being anticipated, receipts on this account (Miscellaneous receipts) were set down as Rs. 2,000, and the average fees also not amounting to more than Rs. 2,000 in round numbers, receipts under this head were estimated at that sum.

CHARGES.

The increase of Rs. 4,455 is expected to arise in the share of general and light-house charges to the extent of Rs. 834 and 3,621 respectively.

The whole port dues collections at this port, including coasting steamer dues, being credited in full, the anticipated receipts, including other items of receipts, amount to Rs. 1,09,515, while the charges, including share of general and lighthouse charges, amount to Rs. 81,071.

The year's transactions are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 28,434. The amount of loans to District Port Funds on the 31st March 1892 being expected to be Rs. 2,21,310 as per Appendix D, the working balance of the Madras port on that date will probably be only Rs. 49,251—*Vide* Appendix C. A sum of Rs. 35,000, therefore, may safely be sanctioned as contribution to the Harbour Trust Board for 1892-93. Referring to Appendix D, it will be found that interest on loans to the extent of Rs. 8,853, and repayment of loan to the extent of Rs. 4,619, have to be received from District Port Funds. These two sums, the surplus of the year and the contribution payable by the Harbour Trust Board being adjusted with the opening balance of Rs. 2,70,561 will result in a credit balance of Rs. 2,72,848 on the 31st March 1893, of which sum Rs. 2,16,691 will form as loan outstanding against District Port Funds—*vide* Appendix E—the balance, Rs. 56,157, remaining as the net working balance of the Madras district on the 31st March 1893.

Appendix D exhibits the loan and interest account of Madras. During the ensuing year a sum of Rs. 8,853 is expected to be recovered on account of interest on loan to District Port Funds and Rs. 4,619 as repayment of loan. No further loan is anticipated to be required by the District Port Funds in 1892-93, as their transactions do not disclose any deficit for that year. The net loan outstanding on the 31st March 1893 will be Rs. 2,16,691, as per this appendix.

Appendix E furnishes detailed particulars of loan outstanding against the several District Port Funds and the amount of repayment made by them. The loan of Rs. 2,21,310 outstanding on the 31st March 1892 will be reduced to Rs. 2,16,691 on the 31st March 1893 by a repayment of Rs. 4,619 by the districts of Ganjam, Kistna, South Arcot and Tanjore.

Taking a general view of the District Port Fund transactions for 1892-93 as a whole as exhibited in Appendix C, it would appear that the transactions of the Eastern Group would result in a deficit of Rs. 37,461 in consequence of a large payment of special charges in the Tinnevelly district amounting to Rs. 59,625. The adjustment of special items of receipts and charges of the districts in this group would result also in a deficit of Rs. 4,049 in consequence of a large payment of Rs. 8,853, being interest on loan from Madras, notwithstanding a contribution of Rs. 2,004 in aid of the Madura Port Fund, and another sum of Rs. 2,800, interest on loan made by the Tinnevelly Port Fund. The opening balance of the Eastern Group (Madras excepted)—viz., Rs. 60,392—will, in consequence of the deficits above noticed, be reduced to Rs. 18,882

on the 31st March 1893. The transactions of the Western Group districts will, as usual, be in a flourishing state and will have a surplus of Rs. 19,211 by the transactions of the year. The credit balance of Rs. 2,25,172 on the 31st March 1892 will swell to Rs. 2,44,383 on the 31st March 1893. The surplus of Madras for 1892-93 is anticipated to be only Rs. 28,434, while a larger sum of Rs. 35,000, based on the net working balance at the commencement of that year, is proposed to be paid over as contribution to Harbour Trust Board. The transactions of the year of the Madras district will, therefore, result in a deficit of Rs. 6,566, which, adjusted with receipts on account of interest on loan to District Port Funds, *i.e.*, Rs. 8,853, will leave a surplus of Rs. 2,287. This latter sum added to the opening balance of Rs. 2,70,561 on the 31st March 1892 will leave Rs. 2,72,848 to the credit of the Madras district on the 31st March 1893. A sum of Rs. 2,16,691 will then be outstanding as loans made to the District Port Funds—Appendix E—so that the net working balance on that date will be Rs. 56,157. The transactions of the Eastern and Western Group districts and Madras for 1892-93 adjusted with the loan, interest account, &c., would result in a deficit of Rs. 20,012. The opening balance of Rs. 5,56,125 of the whole District Port Funds on the 31st March 1892 will, in consequence of the transactions above noticed, be reduced to Rs. 5,36,113 on the 31st March 1893.

An abstract statement, showing the estimated receipts and charges of Madras and other districts, is given below :—

	Actuals, 1890–91.	Revised estimate, 1891–92.	Budget estimate, 1892–93.
Receipts.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Madras—			
Port dues	1,00,983	95,000	1,05,500
Sundry receipts	3,862	4,015	4,015
Total ..	1,04,845	99,015	1,09,515
Other Districts—			
Port dues	1,92,157	1,64,815	1,75,726
Sundry receipts	50,671	56,965	63,015
Total ..	2,42,828	2,21,780	2,38,741
Grand Total ..	3,47,673	3,20,795 or 3,21,000	3,48,256 or 3,48,000
Charges.			
Madras—			
Share of general charges	8,051	9,339	10,173
Share of lighthouse charges ..	6,684	7,534	10,441
Salary of Deputy Conservator	8,376	8,640	8,640
Personal allowance to Deputy Conservator	2,100	2,100	2,100
Other establishments ..	24,939	19,438	17,670
Contingencies and Miscellaneous ..	2,76,649	32,247	32,047
Total ..	3,26,799	79,298	81,071
Other Districts—			
Share of general charges	45,141	52,661	56,827
Share of lighthouse charges	27,781	35,404	42,666
Port Officers and Conservators	37,094	35,880	35,880
Personal allowance to Port Officers and Conservators ..	8,640	8,640	8,640
Other establishments ..	19,404	19,707	21,099
Contingencies and Miscellaneous ..	61,364	61,973	91,879
Total ..	1,99,424	2,14,265	2,56,991
Grand Total ..	5,26,223	2,93,563 or 2,94,000	3,38,062 or 3,38,000

The total receipts, which amount to Rs. 3,48,256, and charges, Rs. 3,38,062, are set down as Rs. 3,48,000 and Rs. 3,38,000 in round numbers, respectively, and these compared with the figures of the past three years would stand as follows :—

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,56,425	3,25,438
1889–90	3,95,881	5,50,818
1890–91	3,47,673	5,26,223
Estimate—		
1891–92	3,25,000	3,15,000
1892–93	3,48,000	3,38,000

The estimated charges for 1892–93 are for the ordinary charges only, and do not include contribution to Harbour Trust Board.

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

The estimate for 1892–93 of the receipts and charges of this fund, as framed by the Chairman of the Harbour Trust Board, is forwarded herewith as an enclosure to his letter to Government, No. 3705-A, dated 8th December 1891. The details of estimated receipts and charges as therein found will show that the receipts and charges are, respectively, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,148 in excess of the sanctioned estimates for the current year, the excess in receipt arising by a provision of Rs. 100 on account of miscellaneous receipts and the excess in charges being due in a great measure to contingencies being fixed at Rs. 2,000 instead of at Rs. 1,000 and also to a slight increase in charges on account of outfees to Harbour Masters' boat crews. The estimated receipts and charges of the Chairman, *i.e.*, Rs. 28,100 and Rs. 24,630, are set down in the budget estimate as Rs. 28,000 and 25,000 in round numbers, respectively.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The pilotage receipts of Pámban and Kílakarai for 1892–93, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 11,200 in round numbers, and the estimated charges as Rs. 20,000. This latter sum comprises of the following items :—

	RS.
Allowance to Port Officer, Pámban, as head pilot, establishment and contingencies	1,800
Stores, such as anchors, awnings and chains for the new dredger ..	5,000
Dredging charges	10,000
Charges for docking the dredger	3,000
Total ..	19,800

or Rs. 20,000 in round numbers.

COCHIN.

The estimated receipts and charges of Cochin Pilotage Fund do not much vary from the estimates of the previous years, and are set down as Rs. 2,600 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

MANGALORE.

The estimated receipts and charges for the Mangalore Pilotage Fund for the year 1891–92—viz., Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000, respectively—are repeated for the ensuing year also.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada, in his estimate submitted to this office, provides Rs. 35,000 as the receipts for 1892–93, which is made up as follows :—

	RS.
Landing and shipping dues	30,000
Wharfage fees	2,500
Hire of cranes, &c.	1,500
Sundry receipts	1,000
Total ..	35,000

The charges as estimated by him amount to Rs. 39,318, and include the following items :—

	RS.
Expenses of Groynes work	7,374
„ Priestman's dredger	5,232
„ Dredger "Connemara"	5,712
Balance of cost of steam tug	1,000
Cost of upkeep of „	3,000
Repairs of jetties and crane expenses	2,000
Cost of a new screw-cutting lathe	1,000
Repairs to mud punts	1,000
Cost of cutting a new dock	3,000
Contribution to Pámban dredger for dredging at Cocanada	10,000
Total ..	39,318

and adding to this sum a sum of Rs. 3,750 on account of cost of a new derrick crane sanctioned for that port, the total charges, Rs. 43,068, is set down as Rs. 43,000 in round numbers.

VIZAGAPATAM.

The receipts as estimated by the Port Officer amount to Rs. 5,000, which sum is likely to be realised, having in view the quantity of railway materials to be landed at that port. The charges, as ascertained from the actuals of the past six months of the current year, will not amount to more than Rs. 1,500 in 1892–93, and provision was made in the present estimate to this extent only.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 10,000, and no charges of a special nature being likely to be incurred during the ensuing year, the charges are estimated to be Rs. 1,500.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues, compared with the actuals of the past three years and the estimate of the current year, stand as under :—

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Madras.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	27,660	16,073
1889–90	30,670	20,714
1890–91	28,674	23,112
Estimate—		
1891–92	28,000	23,500
1892–93	28,000	25,000
Pamban and Kilakarai.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	13,428	3,116
1889–90	13,499	1,117
1890–91	11,145	1,796
Estimate—		
1891–92	13,000	6,200
1892–93	11,200	20,000
Cochin.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,382	1,680
1889–90	2,521	2,460
1890–91	3,217	2,145
Estimate—		
1891–92	2,500	2,800
1892–93	2,600	3,000

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,56,425	3,25,438
1889–90	3,95,881	5,50,818
1890–91	3,47,673	5,26,223
Estimate—		
1891–92	3,25,000	3,15,000
1892–93	3,48,000	3,38,000

The estimated charges for 1892–93 are for the ordinary charges only, and do not include contribution to Harbour Trust Board.

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

The estimate for 1892–93 of the receipts and charges of this fund, as framed by the Chairman of the Harbour Trust Board, is forwarded herewith as an enclosure to his letter to Government, No. 3705-A, dated 8th December 1891. The details of estimated receipts and charges as therein found will show that the receipts and charges are, respectively, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,148 in excess of the sanctioned estimates for the current year, the excess in receipt arising by a provision of Rs. 100 on account of miscellaneous receipts and the excess in charges being due in a great measure to contingencies being fixed at Rs. 2,000 instead of at Rs. 1,000 and also to a slight increase in charges on account of outfees to Harbour Masters' boat crews. The estimated receipts and charges of the Chairman, *i.e.*, Rs. 28,100 and Rs. 24,630, are set down in the budget estimate as Rs. 28,000 and 25,000 in round numbers, respectively.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The pilotage receipts of Pámban and Kílakarai for 1892–93, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 11,200 in round numbers, and the estimated charges as Rs. 20,000. This latter sum comprises of the following items :—

	RS.
Allowance to Port Officer, Pámban, as head pilot, establishment and contingencies	1,800
Stores, such as anchors, awnings and chains for the new dredger ..	5,000
Dredging charges	10,000
Charges for docking the dredger	3,000
Total ..	19,800

or Rs. 20,000 in round numbers.

COCHIN.

The estimated receipts and charges of Cochin Pilotage Fund do not much vary from the estimates of the previous years, and are set down as Rs. 2,600 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

MANGALORE.

The estimated receipts and charges for the Mangalore Pilotage Fund for the year 1891–92—viz., Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000, respectively—are repeated for the ensuing year also.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada, in his estimate submitted to this office, provides Rs. 35,000 as the receipts for 1892–93, which is made up as follows :—

	RS.
Landing and shipping dues	30,000
Wharfage fees	2,500
Hire of cranes, &c.	1,500
Sundry receipts	1,000
Total ..	35,000

The charges as estimated by him amount to Rs. 39,318, and include the following items :—

	RS.
Expenses of Groynes work	7,374
„ Priestman's dredger	5,232
„ Dredger "Connemara"	5,712
Balance of cost of steam tug	1,000
Cost of upkeep of „	3,000
Repairs of jetties and crane expenses	2,000
Cost of a new screw-cutting lathe	1,000
Repairs to mud punts	1,000
Cost of cutting a new dock	3,000
Contribution to Pámban dredger for dredging at Cocanada	10,000
Total ..	39,318

and adding to this sum a sum of Rs. 3,750 on account of cost of a new derrick crane sanctioned for that port, the total charges, Rs. 43,068, is set down as Rs. 43,000 in round numbers.

VIZAGAPATAM.

The receipts as estimated by the Port Officer amount to Rs. 5,000, which sum is likely to be realised, having in view the quantity of railway materials to be landed at that port. The charges, as ascertained from the actuals of the past six months of the current year, will not amount to more than Rs. 1,500 in 1892–93, and provision was made in the present estimate to this extent only.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 10,000, and no charges of a special nature being likely to be incurred during the ensuing year, the charges are estimated to be Rs. 1,500.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues, compared with the actuals of the past three years and the estimate of the current year, stand as under :—

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Madras.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	27,660	16,073
1889–90	30,670	20,714
1890–91	28,674	23,112
Estimate—		
1891–92	28,000	23,500
1892–93	28,000	25,000
Pamban and Kilakarai.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	13,428	3,116
1889–90	13,499	1,117
1890–91	11,145	1,796
Estimate—		
1891–92	13,000	6,200
1892–93	11,200	20,000
Cochin.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,382	1,680
1889–90	2,521	2,460
1890–91	3,217	2,145
Estimate—		
1891–92	2,500	2,800
1892–93	2,600	3,000

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,56,425	3,25,438
1889–90	3,95,881	5,50,818
1890–91	3,47,673	5,26,223
Estimate—		
1891–92	3,25,000	3,15,000
1892–93	3,48,000	3,38,000

The estimated charges for 1892–93 are for the ordinary charges only, and do not include contribution to Harbour Trust Board.

(*b*) PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

MADRAS.

The estimate for 1892–93 of the receipts and charges of this fund, as framed by the Chairman of the Harbour Trust Board, is forwarded herewith as an enclosure to his letter to Government, No. 3705-A, dated 8th December 1891. The details of estimated receipts and charges as therein found will show that the receipts and charges are, respectively, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,148 in excess of the sanctioned estimates for the current year, the excess in receipt arising by a provision of Rs. 100 on account of miscellaneous receipts and the excess in charges being due in a great measure to contingencies being fixed at Rs. 2,000 instead of at Rs. 1,000 and also to a slight increase in charges on account of outfees to Harbour Masters' boat crews. The estimated receipts and charges of the Chairman, *i.e.*, Rs. 28,100 and Rs. 24,630, are set down in the budget estimate as Rs. 28,000 and 25,000 in round numbers, respectively.

PAMBAN AND KILAKARAI.

The pilotage receipts of Pámban and Kílakarai for 1892–93, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 11,200 in round numbers, and the estimated charges as Rs. 20,000. This latter sum comprises of the following items :—

	RS.
Allowance to Port Officer, Pámban, as head pilot, establishment and contingencies	1,800
Stores, such as anchors, awnings and chains for the new dredger ..	5,000
Dredging charges	10,000
Charges for docking the dredger	3,000
Total ..	19,800

or Rs. 20,000 in round numbers.

COCHIN.

The estimated receipts and charges of Cochin Pilotage Fund do not much vary from the estimates of the previous years, and are set down as Rs. 2,600 and Rs. 3,000 respectively.

MANGALORE.

The estimated receipts and charges for the Mangalore Pilotage Fund for the year 1891–92—viz., Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000, respectively—are repeated for the ensuing year also.

(*c*) LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

COCANADA.

The Chairman of the Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada, in his estimate submitted to this office, provides Rs. 35,000 as the receipts for 1892–93, which is made up as follows :—

	RS.
Landing and shipping dues	30,000
Wharfage fees	2,500
Hire of cranes, &c.	1,500
Sundry receipts	1,000
Total ..	35,000

The charges as estimated by him amount to Rs. 39,318, and include the following items :—

	RS.
Expenses of Groynes work	7,374
„ Priestman's dredger	5,232
„ Dredger "Connemara"	5,712
Balance of cost of steam tug	1,000
Cost of upkeep of „	3,000
Repairs of jetties and crane expenses	2,000
Cost of a new screw-cutting lathe	1,000
Repairs to mud punts	1,000
Cost of cutting a new dock	3,000
Contribution to Pámban dredger for dredging at Cocanada	10,000
Total ..	39,318

and adding to this sum a sum of Rs. 3,750 on account of cost of a new derrick crane sanctioned for that port, the total charges, Rs. 43,068, is set down as Rs. 43,000 in round numbers.

VIZAGAPATAM.

The receipts as estimated by the Port Officer amount to Rs. 5,000, which sum is likely to be realised, having in view the quantity of railway materials to be landed at that port. The charges, as ascertained from the actuals of the past six months of the current year, will not amount to more than Rs. 1,500 in 1892–93, and provision was made in the present estimate to this extent only.

NEGAPATAM.

The estimated receipts, based with reference to the actuals of the past three years, are set down as Rs. 10,000, and no charges of a special nature being likely to be incurred during the ensuing year, the charges are estimated to be Rs. 1,500.

The estimated receipts and charges for 1892–93 of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues, compared with the actuals of the past three years and the estimate of the current year, stand as under :—

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Madras.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	27,660	16,073
1889–90	30,670	20,714
1890–91	28,674	23,112
Estimate—		
1891–[illegible]	28,000	23,500
1[illegible]	28,000	25,000
Pamban and Kilakarai.		
[illegible]uals—		
1888–89	13,428	3,116
1889–90	13,499	1,117
1890–91	11,145	1,796
Estimate—		
1891–92	13,000	6,200
1892–93	11,200	20,000
Cochin.		
Actuals—		
1888–89	3,382	1,680
1889–90	2,521	2,460
1890–91	3,217	2,145
Estimate—		
1891–92	2,500	2,800
1892–93	2,600	3,000

	Receipts.	Charges.
	Mangalore.	
Actuals—	RS.	RS.
1888-89		
1889-90		
1890-91		
Estimate—		
1891-92		
1892-93 3,000	2,000	
.. .. 3,000	2,000	

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

	Cocanada.	
Actuals—		
1888-89 13,562	9,011	
1889-90 14,870	22,209	
1890-91 21,269	11,193	
Estimate—		
1891-92 30,000	30,000	
1892-93 35,000	43,000	
	Vizagapatam.	
Actuals—		
1888-89		
1889-90		
1890-91		
Estimate—		
1891-92 5,000	4,000	
1892-93 5,000	1,000	
	Negapatam.	
Actuals—		
1888-89 10,207	1,172	
1889-90 11,004	3,227	
1890-91 11,000	1,500	
Estimate—		
1891-92 10,000	1,500	
1892-93		

To speak generally of the financial position of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues at the several ports as specified above, it will be observed from Appendix C that the Madras Pilotage Fund will have a surplus of Rs. 3,000 by the transactions of the year, which will raise its credit balance from Rs. 98,513 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 1,01,513 on the 31st March 1893. The Pámban and Kílakarai Pilotage Fund, in addition to the deficit of Rs. 8,800 which would result from the transactions of the year, will have also to pay interest to the extent of Rs. 2,800 on the loan advanced to it by the Tinnevelly Port Fund and a contribution of Rs. 2,000 to the Madura Port Fund to meet the deficit of the year. These transactions, resulting in a total deficit of Rs. 13,604, adjusted with the balance of Rs. 20,156 standing to its credit on the 31st March 1892, will leave a credit balance of Rs. 6,552 on the 31st March 1893. Proposals have not been made for the repayment of loan out of this credit balance, as the efficiency of the fund is likely to be injured if it has no working balance at least to that extent. The Cochin Pilotage will have a small deficit, which will not, however, affect its financial position very seriously. This fund will have a credit balance of Rs. 14,852 on the 31st March 1893. The Mangalore Pilotage Fund will add to its already existing balance a sum of Rs. 1,000, being the anticipated surplus of the year. There will remain Rs. 2,000 to the credit of this fund on the 31st March 1893.

In respect to the Landing and Shipping Dues, it may be observed that the transactions of Cocanada would result in a deficit of Rs. 8,000, which will have the effect of reducing its balance to Rs. 8,699 on the 31st March 1893. The transactions at Negapatam and Vizagapatam would each result in a surplus of Rs. 8,500 and

Rs. 4,000, respectively, which, when added to their previous balances, would leave Rs. 33,312 and Rs. 8,000 to the credit of Negapatam and Vizagapatam, respectively, on the 31st March 1893.

6. Including adjustments on account of loan, interest, &c., the budget estimates for 1892–93, as now framed, are summarised below in round numbers:—

—	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	1·10	1·62	·76	3·48
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·13	·5	..	·18
Total ..	1·23	1·67	·76	3·66
Charges—				
Ordinary	·81	2·00	·57	3·38
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	..	·13	..	·13
Investment in Government Securities	..	..	·12	·12
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·35	..	..	·35
Total ..	1·16	2·13	·69	3·98
Pilotage Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts	·28	·11	·6	·45
Charges	·25	·20	·5	·50
Adjustment under charges	..	·5	..	·5
Landing and Shipping Dues—Act III of 1885.				
Receipts	..	·50	..	·50
Charges	..	·46	..	·46

In the above statement, the ordinary receipts are those set down in the budget estimates. Rupees 13,000, shown as receipts for Madras on account of loans and interest, is made up of Rs. 8,853, interest on loan to District Port Funds, and Rs. 4,619, anticipated repayment of loan, as per Appendices D and E. Rupees 5,000, receipts of the Eastern Group, comprises of two sums of Rs. 2,800 and Rs. 2,004, the former being interest on the loan of Rs. 70,000 made by the Tinnevelly Port Fund to the Pámban Pilotage, and the latter contribution by Pámban Pilotage to the Madura Port Fund to meet the deficit of the year. Under charges, the ordinary charges are those set down in the estimates. Rupees 13,000, charges of the Eastern Group under "Adjustment, &c.," is the interest on loan and repayment of loan to the Madras district as noticed above. The provision of Rs. 12,000 for purchase of Government securities is for the investment of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 2,000 on behalf of the Malabar and South Canara District Port Funds, and the large payment of Rs. 35,000 is on account of contribution to Harbour Trust Board. The receipts and charges of Pilotage and Landing and Shipping Dues are those set down in the budget estimates. The provision of Rs. 5,000, as adjustment charges of the Pilotage Funds in the Eastern Group, is the interest on loan from Tinnevelly Port Fund and contribution to the Madura Port Fund.

7. With the above remarks, I beg to submit the estimates in question for the sanction of Government.

ORDER—dated 5th March 1892, No. 273, Financial.

The budget estimates of the several Port and Marine funds in the Presidency for 1892–93 have been framed by the Presidency Port Officer with great care and with due regard to the financial position of each fund, and are accepted by Government subject to the following remarks.

	Receipts.	Charges.
	RS.	RS.
Mangalore.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	..	..
1889-90	..	..
1890-91	..	..
Estimate—		
1891-92	..	..
1892-93	3,000	2,000
	3,000	2,000
LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.		
Cocanada.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	13,562	9,011
1889-90	14,870	22,209
1890-91	21,269	11,193
Estimate—		
1891-92	30,000	30,000
1892-93	35,000	43,000
Vizagapatam.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	..	..
1889-90	..	..
1890-91	..	..
Estimate—		
1891-92	5,000	4,000
1892-93	5,000	1,000
Negapatam.		
Actuals—		
1888-89	..	..
1889-90	..	..
1890-91	10,207	1,172
Estimate—		
1891-92	11,004	3,227
1892-93	11,000	1,500
	10,000	1,500

To speak generally of the financial position of the Pilotage Funds and Landing and Shipping Dues at the several ports as specified above, it will be observed from Appendix C that the Madras Pilotage Fund will have a surplus of Rs. 3,000 by the transactions of the year, which will raise its credit balance from Rs. 98,513 on the 31st March 1892 to Rs. 1,01,513 on the 31st March 1893. The Pámban and Kílakarai Pilotage Fund, in addition to the deficit of Rs. 8,800 which would result from the transactions of the year, will have also to pay interest to the extent of Rs. 2,800 on the loan advanced to it by the Tinnevelly Port Fund and a contribution of Rs. 2,000 to the Madura Port Fund to meet the deficit of the year. These transactions, resulting in a total deficit of Rs. 13,604, adjusted with the balance of Rs. 20,156 standing to its credit on the 31st March 1892, will leave a credit balance of Rs. 6,552 on the 31st March 1893. Proposals have not been made for the repayment of loan out of this credit balance, as the efficiency of the fund is likely to be injured if it has no working balance at least to that extent. The Cochin Pilotage will have a small deficit, which will not, however, affect its financial position very seriously. This fund will have a credit balance of Rs. 14,852 on the 31st March 1893. The Mangalore Pilotage Fund will add to its already existing balance a sum of Rs. 1,000, being the anticipated surplus of the year. There will remain Rs. 2,000 to the credit of this fund on the 31st March 1893.

In respect to the Landing and Shipping Dues, it may be observed that the transactions of Cocanada would result in a deficit of Rs. 8,000, which will have the effect of reducing its balance to Rs. 8,699 on the 31st March 1893. The transactions at Negapatam and Vizagapatam would each result in a surplus of Rs. 8,500 and

Rs. 4,000, respectively, which, when added to their previous balances, would leave Rs. 33,312 and Rs. 8,000 to the credit of Negapatam and Vizagapatam, respectively, on the 31st March 1893.

6. Including adjustments on account of loan, interest, &c., the budget estimates for 1892–93, as now framed, are summarised below in round numbers :—

—	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	1·10	1·62	·76	3·48
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·13	·5	..	·18
Total ..	1·23	1·67	·76	3·66
Charges—				
Ordinary	·81	2·00	·57	3·38
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	..	·13	..	·13
Investment in Government Securities	..	..	·12	·12
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·35	..	..	·35
Total ..	1·16	2·13	·69	3·98
Pilotage Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts	·28	·11	·6	·45
Charges	·25	·20	·5	·50
Adjustment under charges	..	·5	..	·5
Landing and Shipping Dues—Act III of 1885.				
Receipts	..	·50	..	·50
Charges	..	·46	..	·46

In the above statement, the ordinary receipts are those set down in the budget estimates. Rupees 13,000, shown as receipts for Madras on account of loans and interest, is made up of Rs. 8,853, interest on loan to District Port Funds, and Rs. 4,619, anticipated repayment of loan, as per Appendices D and E. Rupees 5,000, receipts of the Eastern Group, comprises of two sums of Rs. 2,800 and Rs. 2,004, the former being interest on the loan of Rs. 70,000 made by the Tinnevelly Port Fund to the Pámban Pilotage, and the latter contribution by Pámban Pilotage to the Madura Port Fund to meet the deficit of the year. Under charges, the ordinary charges are those set down in the estimates. Rupees 13,000, charges of the Eastern Group under "Adjustment, &c.," is the interest on loan and repayment of loan to the Madras district as noticed above. The provision of Rs. 12,000 for purchase of Government securities is for the investment of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 2,000 on behalf of the Malabar and South Canara District Port Funds, and the large payment of Rs. 35,000 is on account of contribution to Harbour Trust Board. The receipts and charges of Pilotage and Landing and Shipping Dues are those set down in the budget estimates. The provision of Rs. 5,000, as adjustment charges of the Pilotage Funds in the Eastern Group, is the interest on loan from Tinnevelly Port Fund and contribution to the Madura Port Fund.

7. With the above remarks, I beg to submit the estimates in question for the sanction of Government.

ORDER—dated 5th March 1892, No. 273, Financial.

The budget estimates of the several Port and Marine funds in the Presidency for 1892–93 have been framed by the Presidency Port Officer with great care and with due regard to the financial position of each fund, and are accepted by Government subject to the following remarks.

PORT FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

2. *Ganjam.*—It is doubtful whether so large a sum as ·10 lakh will be realised from the dues levied on goods passing over the Gopálpur pier; the Engineer-in-Chief of the East Coast Railway estimated that not more than three or four thousand tons of railway stores would contribute towards the income from this source and it is just possible that some portion of the ordinary traffic may be diverted to the ports in Vizagapatam. The cost of substantially repairing the pier (estimated by the Public Works Department at ·06 lakh in G.O., Marine, No. 397, dated 2nd September 1891), has been met from Provincial revenues, so that, as long as the pier receipts are realised, payment of contributions from Provincial funds to meet deficits in the port accounts will be unnecessary.

3. *Godávari.*—This district has not only emerged from its old indebtedness, but will have accumulated a balance of ·04 lakh to credit in the current and nearly ·08 in the next official year; as the Presidency Port Officer has apparently no proposals to make for utilising this at an early date, and all dredging expenses will be charged to the dues under Act III of 1885, the Accountant-General will arrange to purchase Government promissory notes for ·04 lakh by the beginning of 1892–93.

4. *South Arcot.*—It would have been convenient if the Presidency Port Officer had submitted his proposals for selling out a portion of the Government securities belonging to this district as soon as the necessity arose for incurring heavy expenditure on the dredger, or at least shortly afterwards with reference to the instructions conveyed in paragraph 11 of G.O., dated 26th March 1891, No. 211, Financial. As a matter of fact, the loan taken from Madras was not only the deficit of 1890–91 (Rs. 1,569), but also the amount of the further investment of Rs. 5,000 made in April 1891, and on this was paid premium as well as interest throughout the current year. When securities for Rs. 8,000 are sold as proposed by the Port Officer, premium will be realized at about 5 per cent. and the assets will amount to Rs. 17,000 in Government paper and Rs. 8,400 in cash; the closing balance of 1892–93 will then be a cash surplus of Rs. 244 as shown on the margin, and there will be no loan outstanding against the district, as brought out by the Presidency Port Officer, of Rs. 2,814 on 31st March 1893. To avoid similar complications in future due regard should be had to the exact cash balances of each fund before any large expenditure not provided for in the estimates is proposed or incurred. Attention should also be directed to the position of the market in regard to investments and withdrawals of Government securities, so that these transactions may, as far as possible, be effected to the best advantage.

	RS.
Debt in April 1891	1,569
Do for additional investment ..	5,250
Interest for 1891–92	273
Deficit in 1891–92	2,271
	9,363
Deduct assets	8,400
Debt in April 1892	963
Interest at 4 per cent.	38
	1,001
Add surplus in 1892–93	1,245
Net cash balance ..	244

5. *Tanjore.*—According to the estimate of the Presidency Port Officer, the debit balance of ·35 lakh at the beginning of 1890–91 will have been reduced by one-half towards the end of next year, but credit is taken for surpluses of only ·05 and ·03 in the current and ensuing years against ·10 in 1890–91, the receipts being somewhat under-estimated and the charges over-rated; there is reason to hope that the district will retrieve its position more rapidly than at present anticipated.

6. *Madura.*—There is no object in retaining the small sum of Rs. 2,853 which will be left to the credit of these ports after the appropriation of their invested capital of ·20 lakh towards the cost of the dredger *Wenlock*. As the annual deficits in Madura are made good by the Pámban Pilotage fund in full, that balance will be transferred to the credit of the latter in reduction of the amount to be borrowed from Tinnevelly.

7. *Tinnevelly.*—The adjustments ordered in G.O., Marine, No. 392, dated 31st August 1891, on account of the initial cost of the Dredger *Wenlock* will be carried out towards the close of the current year and will necessitate the withdrawal of about ·65 lakh from the invested capital of this district, the remainder being provided from other sources as shown in paragraph 11 *infra*. The loan to the Pámban Pilotage fund will, however, stand at about ·68, being the sale-proceeds of Government paper which will be transferred to the Pilotage account. If, however, the outlay proposed on the pier improvements (·52) and the iron storeshed (·08) at Tuticorin is to be incurred in 1892–93, a further withdrawal of about ·25 lakh will become indispensable, and the Presidency Port Officer should apply for the requisite permission of Government in good time before expenditure is actually incurred. The invested capital of the districts will then be reduced to ·30 lakh.

8. *Malabar and South Canara.*—Additional investments in Government paper may safely be made in these districts to the extent of ·20 and ·06 lakh respectively in the beginning of the next official year, and the Accountant-General will arrange accordingly. The estimates need not be altered, as the payment of premiums will be more or less counterbalanced by the realisations of interest.

9. *Madras Port.*—The estimates of receipts and charges under this section as modified by the Presidency Port Officer are accepted. The Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, need not submit the Madras Pilotage and Port Fund budgets direct to Government in future, but will forward them to the Presidency Port Officer, who will communicate the figures finally accepted by Government. As regards adjustments on account of loans and interest, certain modifications have become necessary, and these are shown clearly in the appendix to these proceedings; the result is that the closing balance in the current and ensuing years is expected to stand at 1·02 and ·93 respectively. A contribution of ·50 lakh was paid to the Harbour Trust Board in 1891–92; a sum of ·65 lakh can safely be made over in 1892–93, leaving a working balance of ·28 lakh. Of this at least ·20 can be invested in Government paper and maintained as a reserve without interfering with the ordinary requirements of the port, and the Accountant-General will arrange accordingly towards the close of the ensuing year.

	1891-92. LAKHS.
Opening balance	·70
Surplus on ordinary transactions ..	·28
Net adjustments on account of loans ..	·04
Total ..	1·02
Deduct contribution to the Harbour Trust Board	·50
Opening balance, 1892-93	·52
Surplus	·37
Adjustments	·04
Total ..	·93
Deduct contribution to the Harbour Trust Board	·65
Net working balance ..	·28

PILOTAGE FUNDS—ACT X OF 1889.

10. *Pámban and Kilakarai.*—The estimates of the Presidency Port Officer under this head are altogether incomplete. The Dredger *Wenlock* was declared to belong to the Pámban Pilotage fund and the whole of the transactions connected with its purchase, upkeep and repairs, as well as the cost of services rendered by it to other ports, should be brought to account under this fund. The Accountant-General should see that the adjustments in the Home accounts in regard to the initial cost are effected before 1st April next, as the official rate of exchange will be reduced from 1*s.* 6$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 1*s.* 4$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* the rupee on that date. The Presidency Port Officer has not provided for the full cost of the upkeep of the dredger, estimated at ·028 lakh per mensem, nor has he taken credit in the Pámban accounts for the recovery of ·10 which he provides as a contribution

from the landing and shipping dues, Cocanada, for dredging that port. The financial position, as far as materials for a forecast exist, is shown below:—

Pámban Pilotage Fund.

		1891-92.	1892-93.
		LAKH.	LAKH.
Opening balance		·22	·07
Receipts—		—	—
Contributions towards the initial cost of the dredger, viz., Rs. 1,91,676—			
Provincial grant	LAKH.		
Madura balance	1·00		
Premium on sale of Madura securities	·23		
Loan from Tinnevelly	·01		
Premium on sale of Tinnevelly securities	·65		
	·03		
	—	1·92	..
Ordinary pilotage collections		·13	·20
Recoveries from other ports		..	·10
Total receipts ..		2·05	·30
Expenditure—		—	—
Initial cost of the dredger		1·92	..
Charges for docking the dredger		·03	·03
Cost of establishment and working charges ..		·20	·34
Repairs to the dredger (depreciation)		·01	·01
Pámban pilot establishment and contingencies ..		·02	·02
Interest payable to Tinnevelly on ·68 lakh ..		..	·02
Contribution to make good the deficit in Madura ..		·02	·02
Total charges ..		2·20	·44
Closing balance ..		·07	— ·07

11. It will be seen that the accounts, which opened with a credit balance of ·22 in the current year, close with a deficit of ·07 in 1892-93; this will be made good by Provincial revenues from the provision of ·26 for this purpose in the estimates under 21, *Marine*. The outlook in subsequent years is not encouraging, as there will be a continuous deficit of at least ·14 lakh per annum; the question, therefore, arises whether measures should be adopted for restoring equilibrium and providing for the repayment of the loan to Tinnevelly. The Presidency Port Officer will accordingly submit an early report on the following points:—

(i) Whether it is desirable to move the Government of India to raise the scale of pilotage dues, in view of the large outlay on dredging, and the facilities thereby afforded to the shipping at Pámban, and (ii) at what ports within and without the limits of the Madras Presidency the *Wenlock* may be usefully employed, as soon as she has completed her present work. A definite programme should be prepared showing, in the order of importance and urgency and with reference to the seasons and to the local circumstances, the ports to which she should be first lent and the rates of fees to be levied or other mode of recovery. The full cost of maintenance together with interest on capital may, in the opinion of Government, be recovered from ports at which the dredger is employed.

LANDING AND SHIPPING DUES—ACT III OF 1885.

12. The Act having been extended to the port of Masulipatam with effect from 15th March 1892, the receipts and charges in the ensuing year may be entered roughly at ·03 and ·01 lakh.

13. The estimates as modified above are shown in the appendix to these Proceedings and are summarised below for 1892-93:—

Budget Estimates of 1892-93.	Madras.	Eastern Group.	Western Group.	Total.
Port Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts—				
Ordinary	1·10	1·63	·76	3·49
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	·13	..	..	·13
Total ..	1·23	1·63	·76	3·62
Charges—				
Ordinary	·81	2·00	·57	3·38
Adjustment on account of loan, interest, &c.	..	·13	..	·13
Investment in Government securities	·20	·04	·26	·50
Payment to Harbour Trust Board	·65	..	..	·65
Total ..	1·66	2·17	·83	4·66
Pilotage Funds—Act X of 1889.				
Receipts	·28	·30	·06	·64
Charges	·25	·40	·05	·70
Adjustment under charges	..	·04	..	·04
Landing and Shipping Dues—Act III of 1885.				
Receipts	..	·53	..	·53
Charges	..	·46	..	·46

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Presidency Port Officer.
" Chairman, Harbour Trust Board.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Marine Department.
" Port Conservancy Board, Cocanada.
" Landing and Shipping Dues Committee, Negapatam.
" " " " Vizagapatam.
" " " " Masulipatam.
"

Exd. A. Raitt.

[Appendix.

Closing Balance.		Remarks.
Cash + Debt —	Total.	
18	19	20
Rs.	Rs.	
— 1,89,112	— 1,89,112	(*a*) Deficits made good from Provincial revenues.
+ 2,419	+ 92,419	(*b*) ,, ,, ,, by loans from Madras balances.
+ 3,577	+ 7,577	(*c*) Transfers from the Pámban Pilotage to the Madura Port fund.
— 6,155	— 6,155	(*d*) Interest payable to the Tinnevelly Port fund by the Pámban Pilotage fund.
+ 1,932	+ 9,932	(*e*) Interest payable to the Madras Port at 4 per cent.
+ 433	+ 6,433	(*f*) Interest payable to Madras advanced by Madras itself.
+ 244	+ 17,244	(*g*) Madura balance transferred to the Pámban Pilotage fund.
— 18,610	— 18,610	(*h*) Surplus repaid to Madras in reduction of debt.
..	..	(*i*) Purchase of Government securities.
		(*j*) Premium on Government securities.
+ 68,000	+ 68,000	(*k*) Sale of Government securities.
+ 2,779	+ 32,779	
+ 70,779	+1,00,779	
— 1,34,493	+ 20,507	
+ 15,165	+2,05,165	
+ 2,918	+ 37,918	
+ 18,083	+2,43,083	
+ 2,13,877	+ 2,13,877	
+ 8,063	+ 28,063	
..	..	
+ 2,21,940	+2,41,940	
+ 1,01,513	+1,01,513	
..	..	
— 68,000	— 68,000	
+ 14,652	+ 14,652	
+ 2,000	+ 2,000	
+ 50,165	+ 50,165	
+ 8,699	+ 8,699	
+ 33,312	+ 33,312	
+ 8,000	+ 8,000	
+ 2,000	+ 2,000	
+ 52,011	+ 52,011	

Madras Port.	Actuals, 1890–91.	Revised estimate, 1891–92.	Budget estimate, 1892–93.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	5,04,477	2,91,945	2,70,771
Deduct contribution to Harbour Trust Board.	2,62,000	50,000	65,000
Net balance available ..	2,42,477	2,41,945	2,05,771
Add surplus of the year	40,046	19,717	27,434
Add interest received from—			
Ganjam	7,576	7,576	7,576
Vizagapatam	73	49	..
Godávari	188	..	..
Kistna	206	186	257
South Arcot	..	273	38
Tanjore	1,379	1,025	864
Total ..	9,422	9,109	8,735
Real balance ..	2,91,945	2,70,771	2,41,940
Loans advanced in previous years	2,35,544	2,22,471	2,18,370
Loans advanced to cover deficits—			
Kistna	..	1,573	..
South Arcot	1,569	{ 2,271 / 5,250 }	..
Loans advanced for payment of interest—			
Kistna	..	186	..
South Arcot	..	273	..
Total during the year ..	1,569	9,553	..
Deduct repayments of loan—			
Ganjam	..	..	283
Vizagapatam	610	1,224	..
Godávari	4,704	..	..
Kistna	485	..	265
South Arcot	..	8,400	963
Tanjore	8,843	4,030	2,982
Total repayments ..	14,642	13,654	4,493
Net loans outstanding ..	2,22,471	2,18,370	2,13,877
Net working balance ..	69,474	52,401	28,063

hole year.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 5th March 1892, No. 273.

MARCH.

Budget Estimate.

Reviewing the — under Port and Marine funds for 1892–93.

No. 940 W dy 22nd March 92

Recorded

(Sd) O. V. B

Sec

The Secy. P.W.D.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

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,

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

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,

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 (= 4½ 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

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 (= $96\frac{1}{5}$ 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 Karauavars. 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,

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

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

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

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	The decrease is attributed to unfavorable season (*vide* Government Order, No. 374, dated 14th May 1883).
1882	152,907	
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 Malikhan 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	83,303	
Average ..	144,972	

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.	Quantity.		IMPORTS. Description of article.	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.	80,000	
	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	
				Dholl	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 mas 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.

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 14 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	..	..	..	..	..	9,946
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	5 8 0
(4) Remuneration given to the Minicoy amin for selling rice	33 9 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

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

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Revenue from monopoly articles.						
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
Balance of last year's stock—third class ..	..	..	2 0 0	60 0 0	1 8 0	42 0 0
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
Excess found in last year's stock on reweighment—third class	..	..	0 0 4	0 3 5	0 0 3	0 2 7
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
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
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
Excess found in the current year's stock on reweighment—first class	0 8 19	19 5 0	..	..	..	..
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
II. Cowries	0 14 27	40 12 11	..	..	1 2 23	62 3 9
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0	..	..
Total of revenue from monopoly articles	..	11,246 4 6	..	15,193 15 5	..	17,652 1 2
Miscellaneous revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,198 13 11	..	1,223 6 0	..	..
VI. Fines	..	23 0 0	..	50 10 0	..	585 0 0
VII. Sundries—						
1. Poll-tax	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Tax on mâs boats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Others	..	0 10 0	..	9 0 6	..	11 0 0
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue	..	1,222 7 11	..	1,283 0 6	..	596 0 0
Receipts other than ordinary.						
VIII. Compensation for Amindivi Islands due to Sultan Ali Rajah	..	..	..	..	..	..
IX. Loans from Government ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	..	12,468 12 5	..	16,476 15 11	..	18,248 1 2

No. 1.

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

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.
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.
21 15 10	677 13 4	..	..	..	..	91 10 19	2,850 9 1
0 11 20	17 9 2	..	..	..	..	3 19 20	119 9 2
6 10 0	202 6 7	..	..	..	..	28 11 5	894 15 2
0 0 1	0 0 10	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	0 6 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	32 16 14	1,456 8 0
266 12 11	10,640 3 5	..	..	..	..	1,247 16 27	49,792 4 5
3 17 7	111 13 11	..	..	..	..	13 15 18	399 2 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 8 19	19 5 0
0 2 0	2 14 4	..	..	..	..	0 8 5	11 13 6
299 8 21	11,652 13 7	..	..	..	..	1,419 7 23	55,544 10 0
9 16 16	535 13 0	..	..	..	..	11 14 10	638 13 8
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 20½	97 8 0
..	12,188 10 7	..	..	..	..	..	56,280 15 8
		Number.				Number.	
..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1	..	..	1,32,847	1,930 11 1
..	240 0 0	..	1,108 6 5	..	..	..	3,770 10 4
..	..	..	1,171 0 0	..	..	..	1,829 10 0
..	..	..	768 0 0	..	..	..	768 0 0
..	..	..	142 8 0	..	..	..	142 8 0
..	..	..	1,446 9 3	..	124 12 8	..	1,592 0 5
..	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
..	12,428 10 7	..	6,567 2 9	..	5,374 12 8	..	71,564 7 6

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
	257 19 18	7,277 13 2	380 15 8	10,489 13 0	447 6 13	11,092 8 1
II. Cowries	0 14 27	11 12 0	..	..	1 2 23	46 2 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	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	..	517 0 0	..	456 0 0	..	396 2 10
(*b*) Travelling allowance and contingencies ..	..	..	..	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

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

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
	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	CDS. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Revenue from monopoly articles.						
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
Miscellaneoas Revenue.						
IV. Cocoanuts (number) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
V. Rents	..	1,354 14 0	..	1,232 4 8	..	8 1 0
IV. 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

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.
23 4 15	836 12 8	..	..	..	..	85 6 13	3,071 10 2
2 11 0	91 12 10	..	..	..	..	14 13 15	528 5 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	19 3 14	690 4 10
297 17 3	9,385 15 8	..	..	..	..	1,197 8 19	37,733 15 10
7 5 21	216 6 8	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,801 4 0
330 18 11	10,530 15 10	..	..	..	..	1,377 5 7	43,825 8 8
7 5 15	375 3 3	..	..	..	..	8 5 20	427 3 8
..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	32 0 0
..	10,906 3 1	..	..	..	..	..	44,284 12 4
		No. 56,535	1,149 6 9	..	..	No. 56,535	1,149 6 9
..	..	..	1,082 0 0	..	..	..	4,391 6 7
..	714 2 11	..	20 8 0	..	..	..	315 13 0
..	6 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	52 4 0	..	..	..	52 4 0
..	..	..	34 4 10	..	..	..	34 4 10
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	61 8 0	..	..	..	61 8 0
..	..	..	204 13 11	..	136 11 3	..	507 8 4
..	720 10 11	..	2,604 13 6	..	136 11 3	..	6,512 3 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
..	11,626 14 0	..	2,604 13 6	..	35,386 11 3	..	86,046 15 10

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
Third class	7 19 19	159 3 1	34 5 3	682 13 3	11 2 15	222 0 5	335 7 3	7,992 0 7	..	..	..	..	60 13 2	1,209 14 7
							7 5 21	145 13 10	..	..	..	..		
	239 12 22	6,393 0 6	368 13 21	9,424 2 11	482 9 7	11,543 0 3	342 12 24	8,137 14 5	..	..	..	..	1,433 8 18	35,498 2 1
II. Cowries	0 11 24	20 1 0	0 1 1	1 12 0	0 7 8	14 14 6	7 15 15	268 11 6	..	..	..	..	8 15 20	305 7 0
III. Tortoise shell	..	..	0 0 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 0 8	..
Total charges on account of monopoly articles ..	..	6,413 1 6	..	9,425 14 11	..	11,557 14 9	..	8,406 9 11	..	..	..	..	..	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	..	456 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	..	..	..		..	
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	..	..	..	451 10 0
(*b*) Boat hire, pilot fees, &c.	..	60 0 0	..	53 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	155 0 0	..	268 0 0
(*c*) Stationery and other charges	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 9	..	5 6 8	..	5 6 9	..	..	..	27 1 8
	..	65 6 9	..	58 6 9	..	155 15 5	..	155 15 4	..	155 15 5	..	155 0 0	..	746 11 8
VIII. Payment of Municipal tax on behalf of Sultan Ali Rajah.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	727 2 10	..	727 2 10
IX. Sundries	..	0 14 0	..	0 14 4	..	264 13 4	..	214 0 0	..	175 2 3	..	601 0 1	..	1,256 12 0
Total of miscellaneous charges ..	..	634 9 3	..	519 5 1	..	729 0 10	..	943 4 4	..	944 9 0	..	2,529 3 2	..	6,299 15 8
Special payments.														
X. Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1300 in reduction of peshkash Rs. 15,000-0-11	..	..	..	..	..	..					..	5,250 0 0	..	5,250 0 0
XI. Repayment of loans	..	..	..	..	..	..					..	30,473 4 4	..	30,473 4 4
XII. Payment in part liquidation of arrears of peshkash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..					..	8,220 2 9	..	8,220 2 9
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..					..	43,943 7 1	..	43,943 7 1
Grand Total ..	..	7,047 10 9	..	9,945 4 9	..	12,286 15 7	..	9,349 14 3	..	944 9 0	..	46,472 10 3	..	86,046 15 10

No. II.

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.

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.

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. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1298. Amount or value.	FASLI 1299. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1299. Amount or value.	FASLI 1300. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1300. Amount or value.
	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.
Opening balance	..	..	..	..	..	..
Receipts.						
1. Coir—						
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 .. .. Minicoy ..	..	581	..	768	..	52
8. Tax on mas boats .. .. .. Minicoy ..	..	40	..	142	..	34
9. Tax on vessels sailing to Bengal Minicoy ..	..	300	..	..	..	62
10 Sundries	..	477	..	1,592	..	508
Receipts other than ordinary.	..	74,292	..	66,314	..	50,797
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. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1298. Amount or value.	FASLI 1299. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1299. Amount or value.	FASLI 1300. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1300. Amount or value.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.
1. Coir	1,261	29,070	1,380	36,158	1,433	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.	No.		No.		No.	
4. Cocoanuts	80,676	171	55,871	111	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
Total ..	..	35,382	..	42,371	..	42,164
10. Special payments—						
Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1298 in deduction of peshkash of Rupees 15,000-0-11 for the year	..	5,250	..	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 2⅖lb. 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.

Receipts.

Items.	FASLI 1298. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1298. Amount or value.	FASLI 1299. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1299. Amount or value.	FASLI 1300. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1300. Amount or value.
	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.
Opening balance	..	..	..	..	..	..
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
Receipts other than ordinary.	..	74,292	..	66,314	..	50,797
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. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1298. Amount or value.	FASLI 1299. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1299. Amount or value.	FASLI 1300. Weight or quantity.	FASLI 1300. Amount or value.
Charges on account of monopoly articles.	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.	CDS.	RS.
1. Coir	1,261	29,070	1,380	36,158	1,433	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.	No.		No.		No.	
4. Cocoanuts	80,676	171	55,871	111	52,045	104
5. Godown rent and other Sea Custom House charges	..	297	..	138	..	198
6. Establishment charges—						
Salary	..	2,886				
Travelling allowance, &c.	..	59	..	3,419	..	3,267
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
Total ..	..	35,382	..	42,371	..	42,164
10. Special payments— Adjustment of Amindivi compensation for fasli 1298 in deduction of peshkash of Rupees 15,000-0-11 for the year	..	5,250	..	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 $3\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $2\frac{1}{5}$lb. 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.)

J. F. PRICE,
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.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.

POLITICAL.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

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

No. 924 W.D. 19-3-92

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.