

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 18
 (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் March 191
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் lex

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P.W.D. துறை

அரசாணை எண். 2797 அச்சகம்
 மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 2797 பலவகை

நாள் : 2-11-1893

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 24th August 1893, No. 487.

Read—the following letter from HERBERT BRADLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 15th June 1893, No. 69-Genl.-Isl. :—

I have the honour to submit Mr. Batten's report, dated 31st March 1893, on his visit to the islands in December last. I called for certain further information which only reached me on the 8th instant. A copy of this second report is also enclosed.

2. Unfortunately, I was travelling in the north of the district when the *Outram* arrived. Otherwise I think the Captain of the vessel might have been induced to take Mr. Joyce to Androth notwithstanding the condition laid down by the Chief Engineer that he should not be absent from the mainland for more than a week. The Captain excused himself from taking Mr. Joyce on the plea of want of coal, but it will be seen from the report that the steamer did return to the mainland on account of one of the peons being attacked with small-pox.

3. *Androth*.—Mr. Twigg informed me before leaving for his furlough that he had seen a chart of the mouth of the Androth Lagoon had been made by Captain Smyth, Captain of the *Margaret Northcote*, who died of sunstroke in December 1877, during Mr. Winterbotham's visit to the islands. Unfortunately it is not forthcoming in my office, but apparently a few charges of dynamite in the hands of an officer accustomed to submarine blasting would do all that is necessary at Androth.

4. 2,770 nuts were brought to the mainland as the proceeds of the Amin's management of the Kacheri park for four months. They sold for about Rs. 49-13-9.

5. The Amin appointed at Androth by Mr. Dumergue has so far given satisfaction. I have already in my letter, dated 5th June 1893, No. 66-Gl.-Isl., reported on the petition of the late Amin against his dismissal. I think it would be a very unfortunate event for the island if it should be decided to reappoint him.

6. *Kalpeni*.—At Kalpeni a new catecherry building appears to be badly wanted. I venture to recommend that a sum of Rs. 200 may be sanctioned for its construction. A plan will be drawn up and furnished to the Amin.

7. The complaint of the islanders that sircar coir is calculated at 32 lb. per tulam is well founded. The explanation is that the custom on the island has been to give 32 lb. to the tulam. This has been done for many years and has been the customary rate in this island only. The Amin always shows in his manifests so many tulams at 32 lb. per tulam and the same rate of conversion is applied at Calicut. The rate for the other islands is 28 lb. and it seems only right that this distinction should be done away with.

8. The pay allowed to the Gumastah on account of the school which has not been disbursed will be withheld for seven months as recommended by Mr. Batten. I understand that the school is still closed, and if this should be the case, it will continue to be withheld.

9. There was a mistake in Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, Political, paragraph 2. It was not the Amin of Kalpeni but of Kavarathi who, with the Amins of Androth and Minicoy, was dismissed by Mr. Dumergue.

10. *Kavarathi*.—The storm of the 5th November 1891 seems to have been most disastrous at this island. I concur in Mr. Batten's recommendation for remission.

11. It was suggested by Mr. Dumergue in paragraph 35 of his report disposed of in Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, Political, that the lease of Suhelipar should be left in the hands of the present lessees until the next visit to the islands. But early in 1892, petitions were received offering various sums for the lease and in March 1892, Mr. Dumergue issued orders to the Amin to sell the lease by auction again. The amount it fetched was Rs. 680. I do not think the old lessees are entitled to any remission, but as the new lessees admit having gathered 5,000 nuts worth about Rs. 144 at the commencement of their lease, the old lessees appear to be entitled to recover this amount from them. The price fetched for the lease including as it does a condition to plant 500 trees every year is satisfactory.

12. The newly-appointed Amin so far appears to be working satisfactorily.

13. *Agathi*.—The complaint at Agathi as to the deduction of 5 per cent. is due to the fact that the islanders made a practice of wetting their coir before weighing, which led to Mr. Logan imposing this deduction to prevent loss to Government. First-class prices cannot of course be given for inferior coir, and so long as the prices we can obtain remain as at present, only about Rs. 30 per candy, we cannot afford to give more. Minicoy coir fetches Rs. 40 or more and there is no reason why the other islands should not turn out an equally good article.

14. The islands of Bungarom, Tinnakara and Parli were inspected by one of Mr. Batten's clerks and Kalpitti by another. It is stated that there are about 450 newly-planted trees in the two former besides the 50 in Parli mentioned by Mr. Batten. Kalpitti does not appear to be planted in accordance with the terms of the lease. The Amin will be directed to take note of this and warn the lessee. The islets named Cheriam, Tilakkam and Pitti near Kalpeni were not inspected.

15. There was a loss of almost 33 per cent. shown by the repaimash of the cowle lands of Agathi owing to the storm of November 1891.

16. *Minicoy*.—Dom Malikhan, who was appointed Amin of Minicoy by Mr. Dumergue, appears to have done his work satisfactorily. He was not quite satisfied with the arrangement made by Mr. Batten and appeared before me on the 25th of April with Muhammad Didi. He took objection to being held responsible for what takes place on the islands when he is absent. Didi agreed to work as Amin upon his own responsibility whenever Dom Malikhan is absent, and the latter agreed to this and undertook to supervise Didi's work when he is in Minicoy. Didi agreed to do the duties of Amin with Dom Malikhan when the latter is on the island. I think this arrangement will work well as long as the two men are friendly, and as they are closely related by marriage and are on good terms now, there is no reason why they should not remain so. Dom Malikhan will now be free for his trade and will have an able and, I hope, trustworthy deputy. He describes his late deputy, Mussa Malikhan *alias* Rampu, as a boy.

17. The construction of a house for the Hospital Assistant is recommended.

18. A copy of the Hospital Assistant's report with the District Medical and Sanitary officer's endorsement is enclosed. The lepers of Minicoy appear to require State assistance. It is difficult to decide how this can be granted without pauperizing them. Their relations now pretend to support them, but appear to do so in a very unsatisfactory manner. Most of their people are exceedingly poor. If the State is to contribute at all to their support, I think an allowance of not more than one-third of what is absolutely necessary for their support should be given and that only to those whose relations are certified by the Amin to be too poor to support them entirely. It might be advisable to set apart a piece out of the Pandarom for the support of the lepers and to leave the management of the funds arising from it to the Amin. But considering that all classes of the inhabitants are liable to be sent to the Lepor Settlement, and leprosy has at last attacked the highest class in the island; it is, I

think, time that some arrangement should be made by the people themselves for the support of the lepers. This can only be done by a voluntary subscription. The accounts given of these lepers show that they are in a most miserable condition, but as long as we are administering the islands on behalf of Ali Rajah, I do not see how we can expend island funds upon them.

19. A copy of the report on the inspection of the schools is enclosed. Matters are satisfactory in Androth, but in the other islands there is little or no progress. Black-boards should be supplied to the schools. The Amins of the islands will be again warned to pay personal attention to education.

20. I request sanction for the payment of Rs. 130 as follows at the usual rates of results grants on the islands, viz., Rs. 4 per boy passing subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 :—

	Number passed.	Rs.
1. Androth	{ 15 in Malayalam } { 21 in Hindustani }	100
2. Agathi	1	4
3. Kavarathi	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
4. Minicoy	3	12
5. Prizes passed by Mr. Batten		14
Total		130

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. K. BATTEN, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Malapuram, 31st March 1893, Ref. on No. 414, C. and D.

I have the honour to submit my report on my recent visit of inspection to the Malabar Laccadive Islands.

2. I started from Calicut in Her Majesty's Indian Marine steamship *Outram* on the night of 1st December 1892 and returned to Calicut on 1st January 1893. As the steamer was available only for a month, I was not able to spend so long a time as usual at all the islands. All the important business was, however, finished.

3. The steamer arrived at Androth on the morning of 2nd December. After dropping my party it proceeded with Mr. Sligh to the Canara Islands.

4. Owing to the limited supply of coal the proposal to take Mr. Joyce, the Executive Engineer, to Androth, and to carry him back to Calicut within the week, could not be carried out. It was proposed that he should examine the coral rocks that block the entrance to the mouth of the only harbour in Androth, with a view to measures being taken for blasting them away. I inspected the rocks myself as far as I could. I beg to recommend that at the next visit some dynamite cartridges, boring irons, &c., be taken, as well as some one familiar with blasting operations. The rocks are not large. Both myself and the officer commanding the *Outram* were of opinion that the islanders themselves could, if they took the trouble, crowbar away the rocks. They, however, say they cannot do this and it is certain that they never will.

5. I personally inspected the lands granted on cowle by Mr. Twigg in 1889. Plots Nos. 16 and 92 of block 97 in the Great Western Pandarom should be reinspected at the next visit, and if no improvement in planting is shown the cowles should be transferred to others.

6. Seventeen items of land leased out by Mr. Dumergue on annual rent, because no one would take them on cowle, were repaimashed and granted on cowle, mostly to the former lessees. Fifteen were given at the usual rate of 20 palams of coir per tree and two at reduced rates of 12 and 14 palams per tree respectively.

7. Sixteen plots of cowle lands in which trees had fallen or withered were repaimashed with the result that a remission of 7 tulumas and 40 palams for 1892 was granted and 9 tulumas and 80 palams for subsequent years. The aggregate rent on which the remission was granted was 73 tulumas and 20 palams. These plots should be repaimashed in say 1896.

8. A large block of land at the south-western extremity of the island had been set apart as a fuel reserve for common use. The jungle suitable for firewood is now exhausted. At first I proposed to give this land out on cowle in plots. It was pointed out, however, that the ground was exposed to the full force of the monsoon winds, and not of much use for cocoanut planting. I eventually ordered that casuarinas should be sown there. These trees, when full grown, will protect the cocoanut trees further inland and will also allow of cocoanuts of being planted among them. A good supply of casuarina seed was given to the Amin with full instructions for

planting, and smaller quantities given to those of the islanders who applied. This course was followed in all of the islands. It will be interesting in future years to note how the experiment of planting casuarinas succeeds.

9. The Kacheri park leased from January 1891 by Mr. Dumergue to Abdul Khader Koya for an annual rental of Rs. 251 till 31st December 1891 was relinquished at the end of the lease by Abdul Khader Koya. The produce was collected by the Amin until 1st May 1892 when the lease was purchased at auction by Sayid Muhammad Fazl Pukoya for Rs. 256. I ordered a fresh auction to be held on 1st May 1893. I ordered the nuts collected by the Amin to be brought to Calicut. In January 1892, Abdul Khader Koya complained that he had suffered a loss owing to storms. On inquiry I found this to be true and sanctioned a refund of Rs. 15.

10. The leaf-disease mentioned by Mr. Dumergue had not spread since his visit. I have brought over, preserved in spirit, specimens of the cocoanut leaves and nut husks infested by the coccid blight. The disease does not appear to affect the bearing of full grown trees, but it prevents the bearing of trees attacked at or before the "maram" stage. It also attacks betel vines growing under the shade of the affected cocoanut trees. I have sent the specimens to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, Madras.

11. The hand-power spinning jenny taken with me, I entrusted to the Amin for the use of the islanders who seemed to appreciate it from what they saw of its working before I left.

12. The Amin, I was glad to see, had, with the aid of a carpenter from Minicoy, constructed a Mas boat, as recommended by Mr. Dumergue. The boat, though not of full size, is well constructed and sea-going. It had only been completed a day or two before my arrival and had not yet been fitted with proper oars or fishing appliances. I hope that before the next visit the Mas fishing industry will have made a good beginning in Androth.

13. There were 26 cases on the Amin's criminal register for 1892. Of these, 15 were pending. Eleven cases of 1891 were also pending. There does not appear to have been any wilful neglect on the part of the Amin. He had disposed of all cases in which a civil dispute was not involved. The delay in cases involving civil disputes was owing to inexperience. I issued instructions which, if followed, will prevent such delays in future.

14. The Amin's civil register for 1892 contained 71 cases, of which 57 were pending disposal. There were also several cases of 1891 pending disposal. The delay was again owing to the Amin's inexperience and want of knowledge of the rules regarding the disposal of cases by himself and the karanavars. I drew the attention of the Amin and the karanavars to the rules regarding the disposal of business laid down by Mr. Winterbottom and Mr. Dumergue, and I think that such delays will not occur in future.

The orders I gave to the Amin of Androth in order to accelerate the disposal of cases I repeated in the other islands.

15. The other registers of the island were scrutinized. The birth and death registration appeared defective, only 47 births and 82 deaths having been registered for 1892. The population of the island in 1891 was 3,329. Dysentery had prevailed in the monsoon. I issued orders calculated to improve the registration. These orders I repeated in the other islands.

16. The number of petitions of all kinds for my disposal was 143. There were hardly any of them of public interest. The bulk of the population appears to be perfectly satisfied with the present Amin Cheriya Koya.

A party headed by Chamayath Tanga Koya, the brother of the late Amin, is adverse to the present Amin, but had no definite complaints to make against him. Cheriya Koya seemed to me to be a man of a singularly peaceful disposition. The late Amin, Sayid Muhammad Koya, arrived on the island after a long absence just before my departure. He seemed disappointed that the present Amin had made no complaints against him.

17. I left Androth on 10th December in the steamer which had returned from the Canara Islands and arrived at Kalpeni the same day. I had to leave the island early on the morning of the 12th. As usual there was little to do on this island. There has been no leaf-disease there for the last four years.

18. The three cowle lands referred to by Mr. Dumergue in his notes of cowle inspection in 1891 were inspected. They were not yet fully planted, but a good number of trees had been planted since Mr. Dumergue's visit. Another year's grace may be granted to the cowledars. The Amin had, in obedience to Mr. Dumergue's orders, planted 25 cocoanut trees in the Kacheri Paramba. The Kacheri building is a very inconvenient one and in bad order. If funds are available, a new one should be constructed. The Amin should be given a plan.

19. The islanders repeated to me the complaint made to Mr. Dumergue that siccar coir is calculated at 32 lb. to the tulum instead of at 28 lb. as in other islands. The conversion into pounds is made at Calicut, and I believe that as a matter of fact no difference is made between the different islands.

20. Two registers, one of civil and the other of criminal cases, were maintained by the Amin for the year 1892. Of the 14 civil cases, only 1 was pending, and of the 14 criminal cases, 4 were pending.

21. The other registers of the island were neatly kept. 27 births and 87 deaths were registered in 1892. The population of the island in 1891 was 1317. Of the deaths, 66 were due to small-pox which raged in the island from June to October. There were still a few cases at the southern end of the island. Owing to this epidemic the school had been closed. I ordered it to be re-opened on 1st January 1893. The Gumastah gets Rs. 3 extra a month for teaching in the school. I think this extra Rs. 3 should be withheld from 1st June to 31st December 1892.

22. There were 41 petitions for my disposal, mostly of a trivial nature. Of these, only 1 impugned the conduct of the Amin. An acting karanavan, Attakoya, stated that the Amin was in the habit of misappropriating criminal fines and making false entries in the register. He mentioned 3 cases. From the statements of the parties in the cases I found the accusations to be absolutely without foundation. As a punishment for making vexatious charges I ordered that Attakoya should not be allowed to sit as an acting karanavan till January 1894.

23. The steamer left Kalpeni on the morning of the 12th December and arrived at Kavarathi the same evening. It was discovered on the 10th that the fever from which one of my peons was suffering was small-pox. Accordingly after landing my party at Kavarathi, the steamer took the sick peon and the apothecary to Calicut, whence, after disinfection, it returned with the apothecary to Kavarathi. It then proceeded to pick up Mr. Slight from the Canara Islands and finally returned to Kavarathi on the evening of 22nd December. Owing to the prompt measures taken on board, I am happy to say there were no further cases of small-pox. The infection in this case had probably been contracted on the mainland where small-pox was raging when I started.

24. The greater part of the time I was at Kavarathi was taken up in making a complete repaimash of the crown lands (Idiakhal, Nattagam and Padhi-Padhi). This repaimash was rendered necessary by the great storm that burst on the island on 5th November 1891. The result of the repaimash was that I found 3,568 "phalam" (full-bearing cocoanut trees) on the crown lands instead of the 5,137 phalam trees of Mr. Dumergue's paimash of 1891 or a decrease of 1,569. This gives a decrease of over 30 per cent. in bearing trees. But I do not think that this fully represents the number of bearing trees that were blown down, for many of the "maram" trees must have subsequently come into bearing and have been counted in my paimash as "phalams". The above figures refer only to crown lands, but the loss in private lands was equally great. It was sad to see as one walked through the island the number of fine cocoanut trees lying prostrate. Not only had trees been blown down, but the full-bearing trees left standing had been so injured that they were only just beginning to bear again at the time of my visit, and the coming crop of nuts was evidently a most meagre one. Fortunately the younger generations of trees will not permanently suffer, as they were protected to a great extent by the full-grown trees from the full force of the storm.

25. I beg to recommend that the rent payable on all the trees which have been blown down may be remitted and the rents collected according to my paimash. But I do not think that this will give sufficient relief to the islanders. They themselves ask for a total remission of all rent for three years. The collection of rent for 1891 was, on news of the storm, ordered by the Collector to be postponed. But the rents had been paid before the order could be given effect to. The rent for 1892 should, I think, be totally remitted. In 1892 only 133,100 nuts were exported from the islands as against 531,700 in 1891. There should also, I think, be a further remission of all rents for a period equal to the time in 1891 for which rents were paid after the storm, viz. two months. The remaining "phalam" trees will not, in my opinion, be in full vigor again until the beginning of 1894. Altogether I beg to recommend a full remission of all rents on crown lands for one-and-a-half years at least. This may appear an excessive remission. But it must be remembered that not only did the renters lose the produce of the crown trees, but also the produce of their own trees. Large numbers of the poorer Kavarathi islanders took refuge in the neighbouring islands. The islanders asked for 200 bags of rice to be given them on the condition that they will pay for them in six years. I do not recommend the grant of this concession.

26. The question of the lease of Suhelipar islets was taken up at Kavarathi. The former lessees were A. Kunhi Koya and Assenar Koya. Their lease expired on the 30th September 1892, but they had not paid their rent of Rs. 435 as they considered that it should be remitted. I made them pay the Rs. 435 as deposit before discussing their grievances. Assenar Koya had given a deposition, dated 1st October 1892, to the effect that, though given the opportunity to go to Suhelipar and collect the produce, he was unwilling to do so. He, before me, denied having said this. But all the six karanavars who signed the deposition said to me that the written deposition is in accordance with Assenar Koya's words. Even Ahmad Koya, specially referred to by Assenar Koya, said the same. The reason he gave for not being willing to go was that his lease did not expire on 30th September 1892, and that he was going to appeal against the fresh sale of the islets. As to this, the late lease plainly commenced from 1st October 1889, and Assenar Koya was present when Mr. Dumergue ordered in March 1892 that the lease was to be resold from 1st October 1892. The petitioners are therefore not entitled to any remission, as they were given the opportunity on 1st October 1892 of collecting the produce, but refused to avail themselves of it. On the other hand the present lessee Ummermanoda Melulapura Koya Kunhi

Koya, who purchased the lease conditionally on the sale being confirmed by the Collector in open auction on 1st October 1892, admits having since visited Suhelipar and plucked 8,000 nuts. Petitioners say he has plucked more. These nuts are plainly those which the former lessees ought to have plucked but did not. The former lessees have therefore actually suffered loss. I told them, I would report the circumstances to the Collector who would consider whether any of the Rs. 435 should be returned to them. From inquiries I made, I have no doubt that the former lessees were fully aware of the new auction on 1st October 1892, and in fact one of them actually bid at it. When at Minicoy, I inquired if any one wished to lease Suhelipar as a mas-fishing station, but no one came forward. The lease of the present *de facto* lessee U. M. Koya Kunhi Koya must, I think, be confirmed. He bid Rs. 680 a year for 12 years.

27. There were 80 cases on the Amin's criminal register for 1892, of which 66 had been disposed of. A large number of cases on the criminal register were not really of a criminal nature. There were 193 cases on the civil register for 1891, of which all but 38 had been disposed of and 62 on the register for 1892, of which 18 were pending. As in Androth, the necessary instructions were given for the prevention of delays.

28. The other registers were well kept. Orders were given to open a register for wrecks. Seven railway sleepers found on Suhelipar were sold by me for Rs. 6-14-0. According to the birth and death registers there were 79 births and 124 deaths in 1891 and 54 births and 100 deaths in 1892. The population in 1891 was 2,126. Small-pox raged in the island from May 1891 to May 1892.

29. There were 125 petitions for my disposal. Many of these were nominally against the Amin, but I found that it was a practice to enter the Amin's name as the co-defendant as a matter of form. The new Amin Tanga Koya, though inclined, I think, to be a little arbitrary, seemed popular with all, except the immediate friends of the late Amin Syed Bahari Koya. A. Kunhi Koya, also one of the late Suhelipar lessees, is not on good terms with the Amin, but there is no strong bad feeling on the island.

30. The steamer left Kavarathi on the morning of 23rd December and arrived at Agathi the same afternoon. The Agathi Amin was found to be still hale and popular. On landing I was met by a deputation of 39 women who made the usual complaints regarding the price given for coir. Their main complaints were of the 5 per cent. deduction made from the gross weight of monopoly coir and of the fact that first-class prices were not given for all coir. Complaints of the same sort are always made at all the monopoly islands, but here the women say that, as it is they who twist the coir, they have a greater grievance than the men.

31. The islets of Bungaram, Tinnakara and Parli were inspected. The lease is now held by A. Kutti Koya, the tenant of the islet of Kalpitti which was also inspected. The greater part of Parli is planted up, and there were 36 newly-planted coconut plants. In Bungaram and Tinnakara more than 450 cocoanuts had been planted since Mr. Dumergue's visit. In Kalpitti about 75 cocoanuts had been planted.

32. Some damage was done in Agathi by the storm of November 1891. The attached islets suffered more than the main island. But the damage was nothing to that done in Kavarathi, and I do not recommend any general remission. A repairment was however made on cowle lands where trees had fallen.

33. There were 35 criminal cases on the register for 1892, of which none were pending. Thirty-three of these cases were of cattle trespass. Orders were given to open a pound and cattle-fine register. There were 14 civil cases on the register, of which only one was pending. The registers were all neatly kept. As at Kavarathi, I ordered a wreck register to be opened. The register showed 15 births and 36 deaths for 1892. The population of the island in 1891 was 1,354. There were 25 petitions for my disposal. They do not call for any remarks.

34. The Register of receipts and expenditure on account of the five plots of land put in the Amin's charge by Mr. Dumergue (*vide* paragraph 25 of Mr. Dumergue's report) was scrutinized. The 144 cocoanuts which were the net profits were ordered to be planted in the plots.

35. Leaving Agathi on 26th December we arrived at Minicoy on the early morning of the 27th. Here the Amin appointed by Mr. Dumergue Dom Malikhan placed his final resignation in my hands. He had long been threatening this step, but had been induced to postpone it. It appears to be true that his being Amin interfered with his large business as a trader. His Deputy Mussa Malikhan *alias* Rampu leaves the island as often as Dom Malikhan himself. Dom Malikhan finally consented to retain the style of Amin if an efficient deputy were appointed. I consulted the Karanavars and also the ladies of the island. These were unanimous that some one of Dom Malikhan's family alone would possess the requisite influence. I finally, subject to your confirmation, appointed (in the place of Mussa Malikhan) Mahammad Didi who is married to one of Dom Malikhan's sisters. He is universally respected. He was formerly Wazir of the Maldives and has lived in Minicoy for the last 3 years.

36. Dom Malikhan who, as remarked by Mr. Winterbotham, is exasperatingly lethargic, yet has, I think, done his work honestly though not energetically. It is to be hoped that a Deputy who devotes himself to his work will show better results. Dom Malikhan practically left everything except the gathering of nuts to his gumastah Gulam Khader. Gulam Khader cannot be called a good gumastah, but I know of no one else who could be procured for the post.

37. There was one register for 1892 containing 8 civil, 9 criminal and 5 miscellaneous petitions. Five criminal and 6 civil cases were pending. The entries in the register were unintelligible. As however previous to 1892 there was no register and all cases were disposed of verbally, the mere maintenance of a register is an improvement. Only 15 births and 40 deaths were registered in 1892. The population in 1891 was 3,730. The orders given in Androth designed to improve the registration of vital statistics were repeated here. There were 20 petitions for my disposal. A criminal complaint of assault brought against Gulam Khader I dismissed after inquiry.

38. The Hospital Assistant had failed, even with the Amin's assistance, to secure a house fit for him to live in. I recommend that a house be built after the style of and at the same cost as the house built for the tidal observatory clerk which cost Rs. 200-7-1. I selected a site in the Pandaram land behind the dispensary. One Ali Malmi, the father of a very promising pupil of the school, who, though aged only 6 years, has made great progress in Malayalam, has undertaken to build a school-house near the dispensary.

39. The mas-fishing for many months previous to my visit had given very poor results. As a consequence few of the trading boats had yet started for Bengal.

40. The late Amin Ali Malikhan accompanied me to Minicoy from Kalpeni. His unpopularity in Minicoy is shown by the fact that he was afraid to land, except under the protection of my party. He came to Minicoy to recover some of his property which had been left behind.

41. The islanders had no general complaints to make. It is interesting as a commentary on free trade that the ladies objected to the permission to trade given to the Dutch merchant two of whose vessels were lying at the island. They said that their sons could get no work on these vessels as sailors.

42. The steamer left Minicoy on the morning of December 31st and arrived at Calicut on 1st January 1893.

43. I enclose the endorsement of the District Medical and Sanitary officer on the report of the Apothecary who accompanied me. I beg to endorse the recommendation that a fixed allowance of rice be given to the twelve lepers of Minicoy.

44. The island clerk who accompanied me, Srinivas Rao, had been formerly a schoolmaster. He thoroughly examined the pupils of the schools in Androth, Kavarathi, Agathi and Minicoy. His report is enclosed. In Agathi, when the boys spend their time making caps, I, in order to increase the school attendance, sanctioned the teaching of the Koran at the school on the condition that not more than one-third of the school hours were devoted to it.

45. Good work was done by all the clerks who accompanied me. Their names are given in the margin.

1. P. K. Atchutan.	3. Ummer Koya.
2. C. M. Ansatan.	4. Srinivas Rao.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From P. KARUNAKARAN MENON, Civil Apothecary, Calicut, to the District Surgeon, Malabar, dated 22nd January 1893.

I beg to submit the following medical report on the recent visit to the Laccadive Islands.

2. The I.M.S. *Outram* left Calicut on 1st December 1892 and returned to Calicut on 1st January 1893. During this interval, I was obliged to return once to the mainland in charge of a patient who had contracted small-pox. With this exception, all members of the establishment enjoyed good health during the expedition.

3. The several islands were visited in the following order:—Androth, Kalpeni, Kavarathi, Agathi and finally Minicoy.

4. *Androth*.—We reached this island on the 2nd December and stayed till 9th idem. Here I prescribed and dispensed medicines to 326 patients. The principal complaints were diseases of the eye, rheumatism, skin diseases, worms and respiratory affections, chiefly asthma.

5. Eye diseases and asthma prevail to a considerable extent in all the islands. Both curiously enough are probably due to the same cause. The irritation caused by the particles of hand-twisted coir flying into the eyes is responsible for the former, and the inevitable inhalation of the same, and consequent irritation caused in the bronchial tubes, most probably result in the respiratory ailment referred to.

6. From the large number of old men I observed here, I am inclined to think that longevity is more common here than on mainland. I saw many healthy octogenarians, and one who is no less than 103 years. Except for a slight trembling of the hands, this old gentleman was in the enjoyment of excellent health.

7. *Kalpeni*.—We anchored off Kalpeni on the forenoon of 10th December. The head peon of the establishment had been suffering from fever for the last 48 hours and on the morning of the 10th small-pox eruptions appeared on his body. He was probably infected at Malapuram, where the disease was prevailing, when he left the station.

8. I did not go on shore, but remained on board in charge of the patient. I could not therefore render any medical aid in this island.

9. We left Kalpeni early on the 12th December and reached Kavarathi in a few hours. Mr. Batten and his establishment landed here in the afternoon and soon after the course of the I.M.S. *Outram* was directed back to the mainland on account of this small-pox patient.

10. I landed at Calicut on the afternoon of 18th December with my patient, whom I directly took to the small-pox hospital, where, after attending to his comforts, I left him. In passing, I may mention that the attack was a mild one and the patient soon recovered.

11. The same evening, according to your directions, the ship was thoroughly disinfected.

12. *Kavarathi*.—At 6.30 p.m. on 14th December the *Outram* started on her return voyage to Kavarathi which was reached at 2 p.m. next day.

13. Here I treated 157 patients for diseases similar to those at Androth.

14. The people of Kavarathi are in great distress at the present time. The storm of 5th November 1891 destroyed several thousands of coconut trees. For the lower classes a rice meal is out of the question, and they solely subsist on fish and the unfermented toddy of the island called *meera*. They cannot procure even a sufficiency of coconuts which generally form an article of food with them.

15. It is not my province to suggest remedial measures, but I may be permitted to remark that some sort of relief to tide over the present difficulty appears to be necessary, especially as there is no immediate prospect of an improvement.

16. *Agathi*.—We left Kavarathi at 11 a.m. on 23rd and reached this island the same afternoon at 3 p.m. Here I treated 80 patients. On 26th we left this island for Minicoy, which alone now remained to be visited.

17. *Minicoy*.—After a voyage of nearly 20 hours we reached this island on 27th December. As there is a dispensary here, my services were not so much in requisition as in other islands.

18. There were twelve wretched, ill-clad, under-fed inmates in the leper settlement which I visited on 28th December.

19. In 1889 when Dr. Beech visited the islands and compiled his interesting report on leprosy in the islands, there were 17 patients—7 males and 10 females. Since then 4 males and 4 females died and three new men have been sent to the retreat. Thus at the time of my visit the settlement consisted of 6 males and 6 females.

20. Hassan Malikhan, a male 40 years old, one of the new admissions, is a member of the highest class in the island. Up to this time the two higher classes have enjoyed a singular immunity from the disease which has always confined itself to the two lower classes Thakens and Melacharis.

21. Fifteen years ago when the disease was in its incipient stage, this man went abroad and when he returned home about 8 months ago, a confirmed leper, he had no alternative but to submit himself to the custom of compulsory segregation obtaining in the island.

22. His ancestors are healthy, but it is reported that his wife is just beginning to show symptoms of the disease. I had no opportunity of seeing her.

23. The lepers are dependent on the charity of their poor relations who place at their disposal a scanty dole of food daily or weekly for their maintenance.

24. I had much pleasure to distribute on behalf of Mr. Batten a large quantity of chillies and tobacco which the poor inmates greatly appreciated and which to them was a god send in their forlorn state. Each of the clerks of the establishment were good enough to give away one rupee worth of rice, and one bag of rice was distributed as my own humble portion.

25. All the lepers loudly complained of the apathy of the Sirkar in leaving them to remain without an allowance of food. As their present supply of food is insufficient to appease the hungry edge of appetite, I trust the Government will be pleased to sanction an allotment from the Island Funds for the benefit of the lepers.

26. *General Remarks*.—I treated altogether 589 patients in all the islands. Rheumatism, eye diseases, respiratory affections, worms and skin diseases formed the chief complaints.

Vaccination, I regret was not successful. Thirty-five children were operated at Androth, but as the supply of lymph had deteriorated, no success was obtained. When the islands were visited in 1890, lanoline vaccine was used with remarkable success, and the islanders retain a lively recollection of the powers of that potent stuff. The *Sanitary condition* of all the islands will compare favorably with many parts nearer home. It is no doubt capable of improvement, but we need not go so far afield to bewail its want. The *water-supply* of all the islands is obtained from shallow wells only a few feet deep. The water everywhere is decidedly hard on account of the lime-stone strata from which it is obtained. The least hard water is perhaps that of Kavarathi and the most injurious from its proximity to burial-grounds and consequent contamination with organic impurities, certainly that of Minicoy.

Endorsement by Surgeon-Major G. W. WALKER, M.D., Acting District Surgeon, Malabar, dated—, No. 534.

The above excellent report by Civil Apothecary P. Karunakara Menon on his recent visit to the Laccadive Islands, and his work whilst there is forwarded to the Special Assistant Collector with the remarks—

(1) that the Apothecary appears to have done good work in affording medical treatment to the large number of 589 persons during the tour.

(2) that the subject of making an allotment from Island Funds for the support of the lepers of Minicoy who are very properly segregated in a leper settlement according to the custom of the island. At present they apparently receive a very scanty support from their relatives who are in many cases in poor circumstances.

(3) with regard to vaccination, when the method of preserving vaccine lymph by admixture with glycerine is fully established in this district, a supply of vaccine so preserved will be sent to Minicoy.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

School Inspection at Minicoy.

School inspection at Minicoy.—The inspection occupied me this morning over two hours. There are 8 boys on the rolls for the month of December, but there were 18 boys present for inspection. Most of these attended irregularly at distant intervals and consequently they know very little. Three have passed. There are two who have studied Hindustani which they understand well. Discipline is very slack and the dislike of the islanders for punishments leaves no means for its enforcement. Some beginning has been made and some time may elapse before any appreciable result could be produced.

The Schoolmaster, a mainland man, has a fair knowledge of English, Malayalam and Hindustani and since his residence here he has learnt to read and write the Malayalam language. The difficulty of communication is the main obstacle for the progress of education, but the knowledge of the island native language which the schoolmaster now possesses will hereafter remove this difficulty.

The strength of the school appears to have a prospect of improving if the building is located in the heart of the village. The cutcherry is now situated at the end of the village and it is very doubtful whether the people to whom learning has not yet become an important necessity would go out of their way to send their boys to school. If located in the midst of the village, just as the hospital at present is, there is a better chance of its being fairly peopled. Besides some of the guardians who were present during inspection expressed their desire that the school should be built in the midst of the village; one man went so far as to tell me that he would build it if permitted.

Of the three boys who have passed H. Muhammad Koifu, a lad of six years of age, deserves every encouragement. He joined school on the 1st October last after completing his Koran study, and within these two months and odd days he has made astonishing progress in reading, dictation and arithmetic. He is a very intelligent boy and his guardian assured me he would be sent over to the mainland for advanced instruction.

The father, Ali Malmi, undertakes to build a small school building near the dispensary. I have ordered the Amin to help him. I have sanctioned a prize of Rs. 3, 2 and 1 each to Mahammad Koifu, Dem Thakuram and Usan Malikhan, the most advanced student of the school aged 22 (an orphan son of a widow).

(Initd.) J. K. B.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

School Inspection at Agathi.

There are only two students at Agathi. The younger of the two could read very well and worked correctly sums in addition. They were inspected on the morning of the 26th instant. It appears that the boys, soon after studying Koran, get apprenticed to hat-makers, a very lucrative trade which is the chief source of income to the islanders. The present system of teaching Koran along with Malayalam is likely to produce better results in future.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

Report on School Inspection at Kavarathi.

Malayalam.—The inspection occupied me less than half an hour yesterday, the 19th instant. There were eleven students present, mostly grown up men, of whom one was over 25 years of age. Five among these belonged to the batch that was examined during the last inspection in age. The same subjects, and, as they appear not to have advanced further, they may be left out of the consideration in this report. Of the remaining six, one only could be examined in all the subjects prescribed, viz., reading, meaning, dictation, copy, mental arithmetic and arithmetic, and he has failed. The remaining five could be examined only in reading and meaning, as the

majority of them has learnt only the first paragraph of Garthwaite's First Book, Part I, and the others have advanced only a paragraph or two further. No result worth the name could therefore be recorded so far as these five students were concerned.

Famine is appealed to as the potent factor that thwarted the progress of education this year in the island. The explanation is of questionable truth, my impression being that there was no school and no study during this whole year, save for a few days before our arrival, when half a dozen students were collected and hurriedly trained up. This explains the scanty knowledge which, as I have said already, the students possess of the Malayalam language. The inquiries I instituted confirm me in the opinion above expressed. Education has been entirely neglected, and, instead of advancing further than where it was during last inspection, it has taken a retrograde step during the interval of nearly two years that has since elapsed. New books had to be supplied to these students—a fact confirming the opinion I had already expressed. The attendance has not been marked since 9th January 1892.

There is no black board and it is difficult to understand how any tuition could be conducted in the absence of such an important apparatus.

From inquiries, I instituted I find that the generality of the population in the island have not begun to appreciate education as at Androth, but in some influential quarters there is a desire that boys should get better education than what it is now. To foster this sentiment and to develop it is an important and difficult task and the requisite amount of earnestness and patient labour can hardly be expected from the present schoolmaster who himself has a very little knowledge of the language, he is made to teach.

As the development of learning is the only source which can infuse a spirit of useful activity and competition in the islanders, the matter is respectfully submitted for earnest consideration.

The subjoined statement shows the result of the inspection:—

Names.	Age.	Reading 5.	Meaning 5.	Dictation 5.	Copy 5.	Mental arith- metic 5.	Arithmetic 5.	Remarks.
1. B. Mahomed	18	3	1	4	4	4	3	1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 belonged to the batch examined during the last inspection. Nos. 1 and 2 write a good hand which appears to me to be the result more of petition writing, in which, they say, they are often engaged than to any exertion on the part of the schoolmaster.
2. K. Ahmed	17	2	..	5	4	3	3	
3. Kumbidan Ahmad ..	20	2	..	1	2	3	3	
4. P. Yusuf	21	1	..	1	3	3	3	
5. P. Avvokar	16	2	..	..	3	3	3	
6. O. Mahammad	25	2	..	4	3	3	2	
7. K. Koya	18	2	..	..	..	..	..	
8. M. Ibrahim Katti ..	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	
9. B. Kadir	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	
10. P. Avvokar	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	
11. K. Mahammad	16	1	..	..	..	..	..	

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

REPORT on School Inspection at Androth.

The inspection occupied a portion of the 4th and the whole of the 7th instant. The inspection was conducted on the approved system obtaining on the mainland.

Malayalam.—Thirty-one students were examined in Malayalam. Garthwaite's First Book, first part is the text taught in the class. The students were examined in the following subjects:—

(1) *Reading*.—The greatest defect observed is in pronunciation; but comparatively speaking it is improving. The accent peculiar to the dialect of this country is gradually giving way to a better utterance of the language as spoken on the mainland. Greater attention should be paid to punctuation.

(2) *Meaning of words*.—It is apparent that attempts are made to teach the meaning of words. But meaning has been taught always in reference to the context, so that they can give the meaning of a word only when its place in the sentence is pointed out. They should be made to use them in sentences of their own.

(3) *Copywriting*.—Writing is comparatively fair. There are two specimens of good writing. The schoolmaster's attention has been drawn to a great defect observed in writing, which requires attention. The words are not written separately. Every line is an unbroken chain of letters. The system of daily exercises in copywriting should be introduced.

(4) *Dictation* was fairly written. Mistakes were few.

(5) *Arithmetic*.—The boys are well grounded in addition. Subtraction has not been so well grasped. In most cases mistakes were detected in subtraction.

(6) *Mental arithmetic*.—The boys were made to add up mentally small numbers and they did the work with tolerable success. A regular system of mental arithmetic should be introduced.

Fifteen boys have passed in the examination, of whom 10 have passed creditably. Attendance is very irregular. The work commences daily between 9 and 10 and closes for the day between 12 and 1. The schoolmaster then attends to his duties as amir's gumastah. Greater punctuality should be observed in attendance. At least four hours' work should be done per day.

School-going age varies between 10 and 18. Most of the students are 13 and 14 years of age. Discipline is very slack, in fact there is hardly any discipline at all. The schoolmaster has been instructed in some simple rules which, if enforced, discipline can gradually be restored. I pointed out to him the importance of discipline in early life and made him understand that it forms the primary duty of a schoolmaster. It is a question of time and patience and it is hoped that subsequent years will show better results.

Cleanliness is conspicuous by its absence. They are very shabbily dressed and their bodies are rarely washed. The schoolmaster can gradually remove this serious evil and he has been asked to exert in that direction.

School materials.—A black board is very necessary. The one in use is very rickety, being formed of three pieces of wood unequal in length and clumsily connected. A board-stand is also necessary. Slate pencils have been distributed to the whole class.

The attitude of the people towards education.—The people seem to have begun to like their youngsters being taught. Several guardians were anxious to know the results of the examination, and they expressed evident satisfaction when success was announced. The master, if he is wise, can foster this sentiment and cleverly utilise it to develop the school.

Hindustani.—Hindustani is taught in the night between 7 and 10. There are two classes in Hindustani. In the first class the *Talim Ullath Fat*, corresponding to our primer, is taught, and the *Talim Nana*, corresponding to our Second Reader, forms the text for the second class. They were examined in reading and meaning. Most of the boys of the Malayalam class form the Hindustani first class. The second class is manned by elderly people, one of whom is an old man. Nineteen students were examined in the first class, of whom 9 were successful in the second class; 12 passed out of the 15 examined. Pronunciation is bad. Literal meaning alone was taught by the master. Consequently the students cannot render Hindustani into idiomatic Malayalam. The master has been instructed to see to this matter. They cannot give the substance of a story after reading it in the book without referring to the book. Hindustani higher class is not properly manned, as most of the students being grown up men; they man the odams when the trading season commences and attend school only during the intervals they are on the island.

On the whole the result of the inspection is creditable to the master.

Malayalam class and Hindustani I class.

Names.	Malayalam.						Hindustani.		
	Read- ing 5.	Meaning 5.	Dicta- tion 5.	Copy 5.	Arithme- tic 5.	Mental arith. 5.	Result.	Read- ing 5.	Meaning 5.
1. K. Pakoya	4	4	3	4	5	5	P	3	5
2. E. Atta Koya	3	4	3	4	8	3	P	3	4
3. A. Muthu Koya	3	2	2	4	8	3	P	3	4
4. A. Pakoya	4	3	2	4	8	5	P	3	4
5. S. V. Syed Sheikh Koya	4	3	3	4	8	4	P	3	5
6. K. Ahmed	3	2	3	4	6	2	P	3	4
7. K. Sheikh	4	2	3	4	6	2	P	3	4
8. P. Muthali	3	1	1 1/2	2	4	2	P	3	4
9. K. Samad	4	1	2	3	8	3	P	3	4
10. M. Ahmad	3	1	2	3	6	1	P	3	4
11. S. Koya Kidava ..	4	4	1	4	8	4	P	3	4
12. K. Abdulla	2	..	..	2	6	2	..	2	3
13. A. Atta Koya	2	1	2	2	2	1	..	2	..
14. K. Oheriya Koya ..	3	..	..	1	5	4	..	2	..
15. S. V. Yusuf	2	3	..	2	8	2	P	2	2
16. P. Syed Koya	4	3	1	2	8	1	..	2	1
17. A. Ahmed	3	..	..	1	8	1	..	2	..
18. P. Ahmed	1	..	..	..	8	4	..	2	2
19. S. Nalla Koya	2	4	1	1	6	1	..	3	4
20. N. Pakoya	3	..	2	3	6	4	..	..	..
21. M. Karamulla	4	5	2	2	6	3	..	..	..
22. K. Khatad	3	2	..	1	8	2	..	..	..
23. P. Ali Katti	2	4	3	4	8	3	P	2	2
24. S. Mahammad Koya ..	3	4	1	2 1/2	8	2	P	2	2
25. S. V. Kushi Koya ..	3	5	2	4	6	1	..	..	..
26. M. Khurim	3	2	2	1	6	1	..	..	..
27. D. P. Pakoya	1	..	1	1	..	2	P	2	3
28. P. Att. Koya	3	..	..	4	8	1	P	2	..
29. C. Karamulla	3	4	2	4	8	4	..	2	2
30. A. Sheikh Koya	5	6	3	4	4	1	..	..	..
31. Puthalath Pakoya ..	2	..	..	1	4	1	..	..	..

Hindustani II class.

Names.	Reading 5.	Meaning 5.	Result.
1. S. Tanga Koya	4	5	P
2. P. Sheikh Koya	4	5	P
3. P. A. Mutha Koya	4	5	P
4. P. Cheria Koya	4	5	P
5. E. Atta Koya	4	5	P
6. Appurayil Sheikh Koya	4	1	
7. K. Eyed Koya	4	5	P
8. C. Fuka Koya	3	4	P
9. K. Abdul Khader	2		
10. P. P. Buhari Koya	3		P
11. P. A. Buhari Koya	4	5	P
12. K. Syed Koya	5	4	P
13. M. Eramullan	4	2	
14. C. P. Ahmad Koya	6	5	P
15. P. Ahmad Koya	3	4	P
	3	3	P

ENCLOSURE No. 7.

From J. K. BATTEN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Malabar, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 7th June 1893.

With reference to your letter, No. 44-Genl.-Isl., dated 18th April 1893, asking for further information regarding my island report, I have the honour to report as follows:—

1. Paragraph 8.—The instructions given for planting casuarina seed embodied the directions given in your proceedings further reference on C. No. 3962-P. The seeds are to be sown in boxes about the middle of March and watered and to be planted out about the middle of June. From the end of the monsoon the trees, which should be planted in pits about 12 feet apart, must be watered till the next rains. The following sites were selected for planting with casuarina in the various island:—

Androth	Old fuel reserves at south-western extremity.
Kalpeni	Pandarom lands.
Kavarathe	On beach near cacherri, on the southern peninsula and on southern part of main island.
Agathi	Southern Pandarom according to Mr. Dumergue's recommendation.
Minicoy	Southern Pandarom.

Small quantities of seed were also distributed to islanders to plant where they liked. The office copy of the instructions to the Amin of Androth is enclosed.

2. Paragraph 18.—The following is the nature of the instructions issued to prevent delay in the disposal of cases. I instructed the Amin that if on hearing evidence as to the actual trespass, mischief or whatever the offence may be, he is of opinion that the defendants have acted under a *bona fide* claim of right and have not used violence, he may dismiss the criminal case. If, however, violence is used, it should be punished even if it is to enforce a *bona fide* claim of right. The criminal case need never be put off to first settle the civil case. The attention of the Amin and karnavars was also called to the rules laid down by Mr. Winterbotham and Mr. Dumergue to the effect that it is only necessary for two karnavars at a time to attend a case, civil or criminal, and that the Amin, while recording the opinions of the karnavars, is not bound to follow them. He can decide the case even if the karnavars do not agree with him. The Amin was ordered to open a register showing what karnavars are present each day and at what cases they assist. The same two karnavars should attend throughout one case. The office copy of my written order embodying the first part of the above instructions is enclosed.

3. Paragraph 15.—The instructions issued with respect to registration were that the Gumastah should make systematic fortnightly inquiries regarding births and deaths and that the peons must assist him. The office copy of my order is enclosed.

4. Paragraph 32.—The result of my repaimash in Agathi was as follows: Number of phalam trees according to former paimash 925, according to my repaimash 635, a decrease of 290. The rent in coir according to the old paimash was 124 tulams 80 palams, according to the repaimash the rent would be reduced to 95 tulams 25 palams.

Resolution—dated 24th August 1893, No. 487.

With his letter read above, the Collector of Malabar submits Mr. Batten's report of his visit to the Laccadive Islands and to Minicoy in December last.

2. The S.S. *Outram* belonging to Her Majesty's Indian Marine fleet, which was procured for the trip, was available only for a month, which period included the inspection of the South Canara Islands also, although it was originally arranged that she should be placed at the disposal of the Government Order, dated 1st August 1892, No. 3460, inspecting officers at least for seven weeks.* Mr. Batten's inspection of the islands was therefore unfortunately curtailed.

3. In paragraph 52 of his report disposed of in Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150 (Political), Mr. Dumergue suggested the desirability of blasting a passage into the lagoons at Androth and other islands. This matter was referred to the Public Works Department for consideration (paragraph 6 of the Government Order). Subsequently the Board in its Proceedings, dated 24th November 1892, Mis. No. 7703, requested Government that the survey of the lagoon mouths by the *Investigator* might be arranged for. But Government in its Proceedings, dated 14th December 1892, No. 5473, Revenue, remarked, "what is required immediately is a preliminary inspection of the lagoons in one of the islands by a qualified Engineer to ascertain whether the blasting is feasible and at what cost and by what means it can best be accomplished." Government further directed that Mr. Joyce, the Executive Engineer of Malabar, should visit Androth and submit a report after an inspection of the lagoons in that island, and that the necessary measures to be adopted would then be considered. It is now reported that, owing to the limited supply of coal, the proposal to take Mr. Joyce, who could only be spared for a week, was not carried out. In paragraph 4 of his report, Mr. Batten proposes that at the next visit some dynamite cartridges, boring irons, &c., should be sent with some person competent to carry out sub-marine blasting operations, as the rocks are not large. The Collector supports this proposal and thinks that the job will be a simple one. If it is not feasible to send a Public Works officer to the island in the meanwhile the Board would recommend this proposal for adoption.

4. With reference to the question of providing the inspecting officers with a suitable steamer so as to admit of more frequent inspections of the islands, the Board begs to point out that final orders on this point were deferred pending the settlement of the questions then under discussion with the Supreme and Home Governments regarding the status and future administration of the islands (*vide* paragraph 8 of Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, Political). The orders of the Government of India and the Secretary of State have since been received (*vide* Government Order, dated 12th September 1892, No. 544, Political), and it may now be assumed that the islands will remain under British administration for a long time to come. As already observed by the Board (*vide* paragraph 8 of Board's Proceedings, dated 18th November 1891, No. 656, and paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd August 1892, Mis. No. 4772, disposed of in Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, Political, and Government Order, dated 23rd August 1892, No. 3783, Revenue, respectively), it would be extremely inconvenient to have to depend on, or rather to interfere with the proper use of the new steamer *Margarita*, specially intended for the Tinnevely pearl fisheries for the island inspections. The Board begs, therefore, to repeat its recommendation that a special steamer for these islands be purchased.

5. During his visit, Mr. Batten introduced casuarina seed into Androth. This is satisfactory as the casuarina should give in a short time good timber for building purposes as well as fuel and will not be less useful as shelter for palms than the *Perupines* with which the islands are now covered. As suggested in paragraph 5 of Board's Proceedings, dated 18th November 1891, No. 656, disposed of in Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150 (Political), cashewnut, korkapilli and babul might also with advantage be introduced.

6. The Board notes with satisfaction that the leaf disease which did extensive damage in Kalpeni and Androth in 1876, and which made its re-appearance in the latter island during Mr. Dumergue's visit in 1891, has not spread since then and that there has been no such disease in the former island for the last four years.

7. The Board is also glad to note that Amins appointed by Mr. Dumergue in 1891 for Androth, Kavarathi and Minicoy have on the whole worked well. The appointment of the new Deputy amin for Minicoy (Mohamad Didi) will, it is hoped, prove satisfactory.

8. In regard to the complaint of the Kalpeni islanders regarding the rate of conversion of Sirkar coir at 32 lbs. a tulam instead of 28 lb. as in other islands, the Board agrees with the Collector that the 28 lbs. rate should be uniformly adopted.

9. The Board approves of Mr. Batten's recommendations supported by the Collector that the islanders of Kavarathi should, under the circumstances explained in paragraphs 24 and 25 of Mr. Batten's report, be given full remission of rents for 1½ years commencing with 1892, on account of the serious loss sustained by them during the great storm of November 1891. The Collector's remarks in paragraph 11 of his letter in regard to the Suhelipar lease are concurred in.

10. The sanction of Government is requested for the construction of quarters for the hospital assistant at Minicoy and a catcherry at Kalpeni proposed by Mr. Batten and supported by the Collector at an aggregate cost of about Rs. 400.

11. The Board is glad to learn from the report of the civil apothecary who accompanied Mr. Batten that the general sanitation of the islands is, all things considered, not unsatisfactory. The vaccination results were bad owing to the inferior quality of the lymph. A good supply should be taken on the occasion of the next visit.

As to the Minicoy lepers, whose condition as described by the apothecary is deplorable, the Board cannot concur with the Collector (paragraph 18 of his letter) that our position as administrators debars the expenditure of island funds on their relief when found to be destitute. The Board considers that such relief should be afforded, and that it should take the form of a capitation grant in money or rice to be administered by the amin for each leper whose family is reported to be unable to provide him with the necessaries of life. If this proposal is approved, the Collector will be directed to report further on the subject.

12. The progress of education is not satisfactory except in Androth and at Kavarathi there has been a falling back since the last inspection. The schoolmaster there should be replaced if possible. Black boards should of course be supplied to each school. The school at Kalpeni having been closed for some months, the teacher's allowance should be withheld as proposed in paragraph 21 of Mr. Batten's report. The Board is glad to learn that Ali Malmi of Minicoy has undertaken to construct a school-house there at his own expense.

13. The Board supports the Collector's recommendation for the payment of the results grants and prizes to the aggregate amount of Rs. 130 for the various island schools mentioned in the Collector's letter.

14. The appeal petition of the late amin of Androth against his dismissal referred to in paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter has not been received in the Board's office.

15. The typographical error in the Government Order mentioned by the Collector in paragraph 9 of his letter has already been noticed by the Board in paragraph 2 of its Proceedings, dated 30th March 1892, Mis. No. 1991.

16. In paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 28th November 1892, No. 677, recorded in Government Order, dated 26th January 1893, No. 60 (Political), the Board stated that the spinning jenny sanctioned in paragraph 6 of Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150 (Political), was introduced into the island of Androth during the fasli year ending 30th June 1892. It appears, however, from paragraph 11 of Mr. Batten's report that the machine was not brought till his visit in December last, though the expenditure was incurred during the fasli year above mentioned. It is reported that the islanders of Androth appreciate its working.

17. In paragraph 9 of Government Order, dated 29th February 1892, No. 150 (Political), Government was pleased to sanction the abolition of the taxes on Minicoy vessels trading with Bengal and on fishing boats. The effect of removal of this restriction on trade should be fully noticed in the next inspection report.

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18. The financial administration of the islands has been reviewed in Board's Proceedings, dated 28th November 1892, No. 677, above referred to (Government Order, dated 26th January 1893, No. 60, Political).

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. MEYER,
Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Political Department.

„ Collector of Malabar.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 11th October 1893, No. 696, Political.

The Board of Revenue has touched upon all points calling for remark in Mr. Batten's report on his visit to the Laccadive Islands and Minicoy in December last.

2. It is regretted that the Executive Engineer did not, as directed by Government, accompany Mr. Batten for the purpose of inspecting the lagoons in Androth and the other islands with a view to reporting whether it would be feasible to blast a passage into them. The Public Works Department will be requested to arrange, if possible, for the deputation of an officer of that department to make this investigation before the next visit. Failing this, the proposal that an officer accustomed to submarine blasting should form one of the party on the next visit will be considered in the Revenue Department.

3. The proposal of the Collector, concurred in by the Board, that the same rate (28 lb. a tulam) of conversion of Sirkar coir should be adopted in Kalpeni as in the other islands is approved, as also is the recommendation that the islanders of Kavarathi should, in consequence of the serious loss sustained by them during the storm of November 1891, be granted full remission of rents for 1½ years commencing with 1892.

4. As regards the claim of the former lessees of the Suhelipar islets, dealt with in paragraph 11 of Mr. Bradley's letter, it is observed from paragraph 26 of Mr. Batten's report that these lessees were aware that the lease would be resold on the 1st October 1892 and that one of them had, previous to this date, given a deposition to the effect that he was unwilling to go and collect the produce though given the opportunity to do so. It is probable that the present lessees counted upon the uncollected produce, and the Government considers that it would, in that case, be unfair to make them reimburse the value of the produce subsequently collected.

5. The construction of quarters for the hospital assistant at Minicoy and of a new catcherry at Kalpeni at an aggregate cost of about Rs. 400 is sanctioned provided that funds are available.

6. The vaccination results were very unsatisfactory and the attention of the Surgeon-General will be drawn to the necessity for a proper supply of vaccine being provided on the occasion of the next visit.

7. A report should, as suggested in paragraph 11 of the Board's Proceedings, be obtained immediately from the Collector on the subject of relief to the Minicoy lepers, on which point the Government concurs in the views of the Board.

8. The action of Ali Malmi, of Minicoy, in having undertaken to build a school house at his own expense is noted with satisfaction.

9. The payment of Rs. 130 on account of results grant for the island schools, mentioned in paragraph 20 of Mr. Bradley's letter, is sanctioned. It is presumed that this amount has, as directed in paragraph 7 of G.O., dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, been settled by the Director of Public Instruction.

10. The Government has already, in G.O., dated 30th June 1893, No. 415, declined to interfere on behalf of the late Amin of Androth. The Collector's report on the petition was called for direct.

11. As the subject of the future administration of the islands is still under discussion, the consideration of the question of providing the inspecting officers with a suitable steamer, which is alluded to in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, will be deferred. The Board should address Government in the matter six months hence. The Collector will meanwhile report the result of the enquiries indicated in paragraph 8 of G.O., dated 29th February 1892, No. 150, as to the probable cost of a steamer and the annual charge for maintenance.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

- " Collector of Malabar.
- " Revenue Department,
- " Public Works Department, } with reference to paragraph 2.
- " Surgeon-General, with reference to paragraph 6.
- " Director of Public Instruction, with reference to paragraph 9.

Govt. of 1893 Madras.
POLITICAL.

No 2797 Wd

Communicated to
the Suptg. Engineer in
circle.

With reference to
paragraph 2 Mr. Baker
Assistant Engineer will
be deputed to make the
required investigations.
The Suptg. Engineer will
report when and by
what means Mr. Baker
can visit the islands.

(Sd) J. D.

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Laccadive Islands.

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings on the
reports on the inspection of the -- and Minicoy
in December last.

The Suptg. Engr. in Circle
Political Dept.