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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1428	Press Mis.
Dated	9-9-	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th September 1870.*

No. 126. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th May 1870, No. 3,036 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 2nd April 1870, No. 429.

In pursuance of the marginally noted Orders my late Assistant Mr. Hall Government Order, 2nd September ¹⁸⁶⁷ ~~1870~~, No. 2,045, Revenue Department. was deputed to visit and report on the Coral Islands attached to this district, they not having been visited since Mr. Sewell's trip in 1865-66.

2. Mr. Boswell held charge of the district during my absence on privilege leave, and supplied him with the enclosed* instructions, in which he was kind enough not to lose sight of certain pencil notes I had left when I thought I should have to draw up such instructions myself.

3. Mr. Hall's report† was not fair copied when he left the district, and when copied, was to have been sent after him for signature, and the possible addition of a paragraph or two. Though his unfortunate death on his voyage to North Arcot has prevented this, the report is practically his, and I forward it as giving the result of his personal inspection of the Islands.

4. In the few covering remarks which I submit, I shall, for convenience sake, follow as far as possible the order of Mr. Hall's report quoting his paragraphs.

v. Amini ...	...	} Inhabited.	5. Paragraph 2.—In the margin are shown all the Coral Islands attached to this district, those visited on this occasion being marked with a v. The uninhabited open reefs are the only ones that were omitted.
v. Kadamat ...	...		
v. Kiltan ...	...		
v. Chetlat ...	...	} Uninhabited.	
v. Bitra ...	...		
Baliapani...	...		
Cheriapani	...	} Open reefs.	
Perunalpar	...		

6. Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5.—The harbour of Kiltan is threatened; but while the immeasurably more important ports of this coast remain unimproved, harbour expenditure in an Island containing in all 772 souls can scarcely be expected. However, as the cost is expected to be but small in the case of Chetlat, I have ordered the Monigar to report what it is likely to be.

7. I am not aware what is the depth of water outside the lagoon of Kiltan, or on the south-east side of Chetlat, where the coral is said to be advancing. The fact of the land advancing would seem to argue that there at least the sea is not too deep for the propagation of coral insects, though it is doubtful how far that depth may extend. If it extends far enough, it would seem to be a simple matter to detach living blocks of coral insects, and lay them down regularly at short distances in the form of a semi-circle, with an entrance left on the south-east side of the Islands, so that by propagation a reef might naturally grow up in the form desired for a harbour. The form is also one generally adopted by the insects themselves. Without venturing to be positive, I believe I am correct in stating that the coral selected for propagation should be taken from the very outside of

the Islands, and not from the interior where the water is fresh, the insects being different.

8. *Paragraph 6.*—To enable us to mark the changes, a rough survey of the Islands is proposed. By this term, I presume is meant such a survey as a Village Accountant would ordinarily make by chain alone without compass. I do not see the advantage of such a survey. For practical purposes the observations of the residents on so limited an area, marked out as it is with a known number of cocoanuts, will be sufficiently accurate. For scientific purposes nothing but a thoroughly accurate survey would suffice. There is no advantage in dabbling in science, unless we are prepared to prosecute our studies to such a length as will enable us to utilize the coral insect for sheltering and rendering habitable our open reefs, enlarging our present Islands, and improving their lagoons.

9. *Paragraphs 7 and 8.*—The question of the powers to be vested in the chief man of the Island is one of some difficulty, those* which he now has are the only ones which the Collector of the district can give him. That they are palpably inadequate to the suppression of crime and the righting of grievances, the enclosed report most clearly shows. On the other hand, enhanced powers in the hands of an ill-educated man, far removed from all supervision, would assuredly be abused. It will be remembered that the nearest Islands are, in the fair weather, three days' sail from the main land; that even then no vessel will set out for them, except under the conduct of an Islander acquainted with their navigation; that during the greater part of the year they are altogether unapproachable; that they are separated some of them a day's sail from each other, and that practically they are not visited more than once in two years; and that they are inhabited by Mussulmen. I believe it is practically impossible to find a Mussulman for preference, or indeed any native, fit to exercise the powers of a second-class Subordinate Magistrate who would consent to such transportation, and even if such a being were found, it is highly improbable that, in such an entirely uncontrolled and practically irresponsible position, he would long exercise those powers justly.

10. This Scylla and Caribdes of inadequate power on one side, and anticipated abuse of power on the other, has always stood in the way of the administration of justice on these distant Islands. While the people were unsophisticated very little actual power with much pretension of it and some illegality sufficed to tide over the difficulty; but now the case is different, and the only proposal I can make is, that considering the very peculiar position of these Islanders, they should be allowed a system differing from that obtaining on the main land. Accepting their isolated position as irremediable, I would endeavour to make them as much as possible independent of the main land, by placing the administration of justice both civil and criminal in their own hands. In each Island I would have a Council with its President, and for the administration of criminal justice, as well as for the settlement of all civil suits not involving immovable property, I would make each Island independent of the others, while for civil suits involving land or other immovable property, I would have one general Council in Amindivi.

11. The value of property in those Islands can never be very great; they might, therefore, be well entrusted with all civil suits, and need no converse whatever with the Civil Courts of the main land and their demoralizing influences. In criminal matters their powers might extend for the present to one month's rigorous imprisonment, with Rupees 50 fine, or fifty lashes with a cat-o'-nine-tail, and no cases should be brought for trial on the main land, except murder, and such as the Council preferred to send. Justice might be a little rude; but it would be prompt, which is a great point.

12. If the principle is approved, it will be easy to settle the way in which the Islanders should annually elect their own Councils, the size of them, and the number required to form a quorum.

13. *Paragraph 9.*—Mr. Hall proposes the erection of a place of confinement; this is scarcely necessary, while twelve hours in a lock-up, or six hours in the stocks, is the longest term for which the Monigar can confine. But if more adequate powers are given, as I propose to the Islanders, a place of confinement will be necessary. From 50 to 100 Rupees would suffice to build one of blocks of coral.

14. *Paragraph 10.*—As soon as the want of a pound was known to me, I sent the necessary money for its construction to the Monigar, together with a copy of the Act, and it has probably been built ere this; but the Monigar has nevertheless been referred to again on this subject.

15. *Paragraph 11.*—Mr. Hall remarks on the injustice of imposing a fine in Coir which falls not on the offender, but his Coir-spinning wife, and proposes imprisonment instead. But the substitution of imprisonment would not, in all cases, be legal, and there are very few cases in which the Monigar has authority to fine. I have, however, ordered that in every case in which a fine is impossible, the money decreed shall, if desired, be commuted at the then market price to raw cocoanuts. This will ensure the loss in raw produce falling on the offender himself. The Monigar has also been instructed to be careful to keep his fines in cocoanuts within the equivalent money limits of his legal powers, to keep a regular register of his decisions, and to submit annual returns thereof.

16. *Paragraph 12.*—The dilatoriness complained of would probably be got rid of by the Council system I propose, and this would, I think, be preferable to making everything dependent on the doubtful visits of a distant authority from the main land.

17. *Paragraph 16.*—Mr. Hall's proposal for taking the census in the monsoon seems a good one, and I have inquired of the Monigar whether there is any practical difficulty in the way of its introduction.

18. *Paragraph 18.*—Ophthalmia seems to be endemic, the effect of the driving sand, and the constant and great glare of that and the white coral, together with the numerous eye-flies in the houses of their cocoanut covered Islands. As a relief I have sent them the necessary caustic lotion, together with a further supply of a few other English medicines ready made up. Cholera and fever medicines and a supply of chlorodyne have also been sent in sufficient quantities, and will be renewed as occasion may require. Their Mahomedan, almost Morman, system of temporary "Nicca" marriages, is sadly against the women and children.

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19. *Paragraph 19.*—It is very satisfactory to hear that the first Vaccinator sent to the Islands did his work well, for I took some pains to ensure the transmission of good lymph, by having several boats' crews vaccinated just before leaving the main land. Beyond the dislike of a little feverishness, Mussulmen are not calculated to oppose vaccination like Hindoos, who worship Mariamma (the Goddess of small-pox).

20. *Paragraph 19.*—Whether as Vaccinators, Monigar or Peon, no officers seem to succeed in those Islands, unless they hold the same faith as the Islanders, who are, without exception, Mussulmen. This is one of our difficulties in the way of the selection of a Monigar.

21. *Paragraphs 20 and 21.*—I should rather doubt whether the Hakim will consent to spend a few months practising vaccination on the main land. I have, however, invited him, and if he comes, will take the opportunity of encouraging him to increase his knowledge of pharmacy and his appreciation of English medicines. If he will undertake vaccination, he will be a more fitting person for such employ than the headman or Monigar of the Islands, and it might be well to encourage him by the payment of fees on certificates granted by the Monigar.

22. *Paragraphs 22, 23, and 24.*—The subject of the disposal of Bitra is being inquired into.

23. *Paragraph 25.*—That the crew set fire to their own vessel before abandoning it, I have always doubted; but the strictest inquiry has failed to elicit anything satisfactory.

24. *Paragraph 26.*—Under the salvage rules they necessarily must wait, and the monsoon generally supervenes and lengthens the delay.

25. *Paragraph 28.*—On this report I have dismissed Peon Abdul Razak.

26. *Paragraphs 28 and 29.*—It would be strange, indeed, if these remote Islanders had not learnt by this time to improve their opportunities for the pillage of wrecks. It is their universally accepted character on the main land where they have been advised to it, and have found ready co-adjutors. Their days of simple innocence could not be expected to last for ever. That a chief man (Moktesar) should set such an example is more than ordinarily objectionable; and quite agreeing with Mr. Hall that he should not be allowed to retain his honourable position under Government, I have disqualified him.

27. Mr. Hall is mistaken in stating that manifests are not supplied on leaving the coast. The Islanders it seems do not produce them, and from the distance apart of the Islands the Monigar is unable to compel their production; hence for all practical purposes they might just as well not be given.

28. *Paragraph 32.*—I regret that this subject should unfortunately have been lost sight of in my office. I have, however, now sent the necessary instructions and forms of account.

29. *Paragraph 36.*—Mr. Hall did well to put a prompt stop on the deterioration of the Coir fibre by the indolent soaking thereof in handy fresh-water pits in the interior, while the sea-water lagoons are available.

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30. *Paragraph 37.*—The Board are aware of the difficulties in the way of Board's Proceedings, 19th November 1867, No. 7,552.

paying for Coir otherwise than by classification, and of altering that classification, but I would propose to grant to the Islanders a participation in the profits of improved manufacture, by giving them the same per-centage of the enhancement in the prices that they have hitherto had of the average market prices of the last ten years, for they have of late exerted themselves to improve their coir, and the Government has consequently obtained greatly enhanced* prices. This extra per-centage† on extra prices should, I think, be paid in‡ arrears for the years in which the Government profited by their improved manufacture. The absence of any such return for extra labour is discouraging, and discouragement when we were commencing after much trouble to make (paragraph 38) some real advance is calculated to throw us back irretrievably.

	Per Candy.	RS.	A.	P.
* Average of market prices realized for coir for ten years, or from Fusly 1268 to 1277	39	4	1	
Do. do. do. for the last two years or Fuslies 1278 and 1279	55	8	4	
Increase...	16	4	3	

† Per-centage of average cost price to Government, (viz., Rupees 20-7-3 per candy) on prices realized from Fusly 1268 to 1277	RS.
Do. do. on prices realized for the last two years, or Fuslies 1278 and 1279	36½

Difference or extra per-centage on increased price	15½
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‡ Cost price of total quantity of coir purchased in Fuslies 1277 and 1278 and sold in Fuslies 1278 and 1279... ..	28,861
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Per-centage of increased profits due to the Islanders on the above, at 15½ per cent.	4,401
§ G. O., 22nd Sept. 1868, No. 2,454, Revenue Department.	
Do., 29th Sept. 1868, No. 3,057, Public Works Department.	

31. I should here mention that the money allotted for the building of a coir store§ has been struck out of the Budget, but that it is as much needed as ever, if the financial pressure will allow of its being provided.

32. *Paragraph 39.*—I met the main coir purchaser of last year when taking my privilege leave in December 1868, and ascertaining from him that he could afford to pay us from twenty to twenty-five per cent. more for the coir, if twisted more finely, had intended, under sanction, to induce the Islanders to do this also, by giving them their per-centage of the enhanced value.

33. *Paragraphs 42 and 43.*—I am disposed to attribute the disproportion between the increase in the number of trees, and the increase in the supply of coir to the Islanders, selling a portion for their own profits at other ports than Mangalore. I am also inclined to think that the sterility of the soil does not affect the quality of the fibre unfavourably, but rather the reverse, for it is a general rule with all fruits that high culture improves the fruit at the expense of the stone and rind, and, by this rule, the most luxuriant cocoanuts would not give the toughest fibre. It is highly probable that the causes alluded to in paragraph 44 have also affected the supply of coir. The fact of the simultaneously increased use of Nira (paragraph 41) would support this argument.

34. *Paragraphs 45, 46, 47 and 48.*—The information given in these paragraphs is valuable, and I have accordingly sent to let the Chetlat and Kadamat

Islanders know that Government Patamars from the main land can call for their coir if necessary; but I should be averse to taking this course if it can be avoided, lest it should discourage the Island. The Island boat-owners for an Island with impoverished boat-owners would indeed be a pitiful abode.

Boats.

35. *Paragraph 51.*—The lines of the Island boats are very well laid.

Implements for the manufacture of Coir.

36. *Paragraphs 54 and 55.*—It is the women's hands and not the men's that are hurt by the coir-making, and the majority of them are but "nicca" wives. It is not surprising, therefore, that the men have given no attention to implements for lessening the labour. A gentleman of Ceylon connections informed me that a certain firm there that has since failed spent thousands of pounds on machinery for separating and twisting the coir fibre; but such expensive machinery would be useless to our Islanders, and he knew of nothing simple and

inexpensive. Another gentleman whose letter* I enclose mentions the very

* Enclosure No. 3.
implement we are in search of, if only it is suited to the short and woolly fibre of the cocoanut. The implement is so simple and inexpensive that he was to have made me one; but death has removed him also. He personally informed me that it consisted of three wheels, so set that one man or boy could by means of an endless belt set them all revolving. Each wheel has in its side three hooks, to which the fibre to be twisted is fixed. Three men feed these three wheels from a lump of hemp at their waist, retreating as it is twisted up to them, and regulating the quality of the supply, and hence the thickness of the twine by a board in one hand with a hole in it. The whole contrivance might, it seems, be made by the Islanders at the cost of Rupee 1 or Rupees 2, and be worked by their women. I have the honour to suggest that two such simple implements as used in England be sent us as patterns and for experiment.

Flora and Fauna.

37. *Paragraphs 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63.*—Observing in the former reports that the Islands were seriously infested with rats, so much so that the Islanders suffered much from their devastations, and that general hunting parties had to be organized every month under Government superintendence for the sole purpose of keeping down these rats, it occurred to me that the cause of their being so numerous was probably to be found in the absence of natural enemies on the Islands. I have not been able to identify them, because the specimens which Mr. Hall was kindly bringing me have unfortunately been lost, but it may be presumed that they are not indigenous to Coral Islands, but are what is commonly, though incorrectly, called the Norwegian rat, which has now pretty well covered the globe, and that it was unwittingly carried to these Islands, as elsewhere, in the holds of the vessels that have been there shipwrecked, as well as with the stores of rice from the main land. Being thus deposited it would be quite without natural enemies, and as the rat begins breeding at fourteen weeks old, and has a litter of

from twelve to fourteen every seven weeks, it is not surprising that they should have overrun the Islands. New Zealand suffered in a similar way from the rats left there by Captain Cook. Thinking that mongooses and rat-snakes would be calculated to wage a more equal war against the rat than can men, I sent over a few as an experiment, taking care that the snakes should be none but harmless rat-snakes, and that the snakes and mongooses should be deposited in separate Islands, my object being to preclude their quarrelling, and to see which proved the more useful. With the snakes I had to send a cargo of live frogs, as their commissariat on the voyage, and they arrived with but few casualties. The snakes have since been sleek and sleepy; they are, therefore, clearly doing their duty, or they should not be alive. One snake took up its abode in the roof of a house, for in roofs the rats chiefly congregate. The owner was at first alarmed, but on the men who went with the snakes handling it and showing him it was not poisonous, he was subsequently well satisfied. Of the mongooses, one was tame, and losing no time in demonstrating its rat-killing propensities rapidly got into favour; but seeing how the Islanders demoralize their cats (paragraph 73) by over-feeding, I preferred sending wild to tame mongooses.

38. This experiment I made at my own private cost, but now that it has proved a success I will debit the amount to Government, and will send a second colony of wild mongooses and rat-snakes. As they multiply their usefulness will become more apparent.

39. The small Indian fox and the jackal are both excellent rat-killers, but the former does not thrive in this wet climate, or I should have preferred him. The latter I rejected, as being too omnivorous, and likely himself to eat sugar-cane and sometimes a little grain, but as I find there is no sugar-cane and very little dry grain on the Islands, the little harm the jackal may possibly do will be altogether incommensurate with the valuable assistance he will afford in thinning the Islands of their great trouble, the rats. I have, therefore, commenced sending a colony of jackals also to the Islands; there is ample cover for them.

40. I thought of sending some toddy cats also, because of their being able to follow the rats up to the tops of the cocoanut trees; but though nearly certain that they eat rats, and do not drink toddy, as they are accused of doing, I was not quite positive that they would be altogether harmless to the fruits of the Islanders, so I hesitated to introduce them. The large brown owl, however, if it can be caught and carried, would do this duty admirably.

41. There must be some bird, perhaps the Indian jay, whose business it is to destroy the cocoanut beetle. The right bird would be a valuable coadjutor to the Islanders.

42. *Paragraph 72.*—The proposed introduction of the pineapple, which is grown with such ease on this rainy coast, shall not be lost sight of.

43. *Paragraph 76.*—The departure from Bitra of the gulls, which were in such numbers that Mr. Robinson saw 30 to 50,000 eggs collected at one time, is probably to be attributed to the rats, which are great destroyers of eggs and nestlings, and similarly cleared Penguin Island in the channel of Penguins. I pre-

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sume there is no guana on the Island, or Mr. Hall would have mentioned it. The whales alluded to are probably the bottle-nosed whale. They and the porpoises mentioned being great fish-destroyers naturally seek Bitra, the favourite fishing ground of the Islanders.

Condition of the Islanders.

44. *Paragraph 85.*—With reference to education I notice that Mr. Sewell

* Paragraph 21 of his report, dated 15th April 1866, No. 27. reported* that the Islanders were then apathetic. Two years may have worked a change for the better, though I should

fear not, and I do not clearly gather from Mr. Hall's report, whether the Islanders are ready to help themselves in the matter, or only to accept assistance. I have therefore, caused the grant-in-aid and rate-school rules to be explained to them, and have sought an expression of their views. If a central school were established at Amindivi, it would be only in the fair weather that the Chetlat children could visit it, for in the monsoon each Island is cut off.

45. *Paragraph 88.*—I hesitate to interfere too hastily with customs that have the sanction of long usage, however baneful they may at the first blush appear. I have, therefore, instituted inquiries as to the cause or origin of the peculiar connection between the Islanders of Kadamat and Amini, and whether or not the Kadamat Islanders receive any equivalent for their labours, or would be likely to be subjected to any worse annoyance by the abrupt withdrawal of it.

46. *Paragraph 90.*—I have adopted Mr. Hall's proposal ordering the removal of the restriction, unless there be any proper cause for its continuance, which, in such case, is to be reported at once.

47. *Paragraph 91.*—With salt the Islanders are always supplied at the cost price thereof to Government; that that price has risen, is no fair subject for complaint against the Government.

48. *Paragraph 93.*—The supply of stamped weights and measures to the Monigar had perhaps better be deferred to the introduction of the uniform system of weights and measures to be shortly introduced, I believe, into India.

49. *Paragraph 94.*—This information will be borne in mind, but it is impossible that officered as the district now is the Islands can be visited this year.

50. Mr. Hall has appended to his report a statement showing the financial transactions of the coir monopoly during the period subsequent to Mr. Sewell's visit to the Islands. It represents a net revenue to Government of Rupees 46,035-10-1 for the four years embraced by the return, or a yearly average of Rupees 11,508-14-6, after deducting all charges, including the loss incurred by Government in supplying salt to the islanders at its cost price, instead of at the monopoly selling price. This is Rupees 3,000 in advance of the former average.

51. *Paragraph 95.*—It is to be regretted that, in submitting this report, I have not had an opportunity of conferring personally with Mr. Hall on several matters therein touched on; but the enclosed report was not finished even on the day he left the district, and I was at the time absent from head quarters. However, he has evidently given much close attention to his subject, and has supplied a full and interesting report.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Collector, to the Assistant Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 5th January 1869, No. 7.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a file of the correspondence relating to the Amindivi Islands, and a chart of the Islands for your perusal and to return to me, and with reference to Government Order, dated 2nd September 1867, No. 2,045, directing that a European officer should visit the Islands once in every two years, I have to request that you will undertake this duty, you ought to start from Mangalore early in January, and I trust you will be able to visit the different Islands and report fully upon their circumstances and progress.

2. I have written to the Collector of Carwar to endeavour to procure the loan of the Government boat for your trip, but should this not be available it will be necessary for you to freight a Patamar.

3. The particular points as to which information is required are as follow:—

1. The general condition of the Islands, noting any recent visible changes in shape or configuration.

2. The state of crime and the administration of civil and criminal justice, with your opinion as to the desirability of superseding the Monigar by an officer invested with the powers of a second-class Sub-Magistrate, and jurisdiction to dispose of civil claims up to a certain limit. The statistics should be brought up to date.

3. The state of the population, noting any increase or decrease in each of the Islands.

4. Are any of the uninhabited reefs rising so as to become habitable in time?

5. The condition of the people.

6. The prevalence of particular diseases, particularly cholera, fever and small-pox.

7. The operation of the Vaccinator who has been lately sent to the Islands. Is he favourably received by the people, you will endeavour to give him your support and encourage the people to avail themselves of his services.

8. I would request a report on the enclosed proposal of one Shaba Hadir to rent the Island of Bitra at Rupees 5 a year, and requesting a recoverable advance of Rupees 50. The Island has been hitherto uninhabited, because no fresh water was discovered there. The report of the Monigar is also forwarded.

9. The number of recent shipwrecks and their localities, with any particulars you may be able to procure. Do the Islanders seem in possession of articles they could only have procured by wrecking?

10. Are the laws of salvage generally understood by them? These should be proclaimed in each Island.

11. The number of boats belonging to each Island. Has the number increased?

12. What trade exists? To what markets is the surplus produce of the Islands conveyed, of what does it consist, and what is received in return? Statement wanted of exports and imports for seven years.

13. Does money circulate freely on the Islands? Is barter and exchange much practised?

14. What are the characteristics of the Fauna and Flora of the Islands. Note particularly the domesticated animals, and the cultivated produce.

15. What grain and other agricultural produce are raised, with a brief description of the system of cultivation and agricultural implements.

16. Is coconut planting on the increase? Are any other description of palm raised?

17. What has been the success of Mr. Thomas' experiment to send mongoose and harmless snakes to the Islands to keep down the ravages of the rats.

18. Is the Amindivi Port capable of improvement? What are the requirements, and at what cost would the works be effected? Are the people willing to supply the necessary labour? Would supervision be necessary, or would the work be given on contract?

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19. With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 7,552, dated 19th November 1867, you are requested to examine the coir manufactured this year, and report upon its quality, and impress upon the Islanders the necessity of improving the quality. You will also apprise them that all the coir that may reach Mangalore by 1st March will be paid for in future at the same rate as heretofore; that they will lose one per cent. per week on those rates for every week after time, and gain one per cent. per week for every week in advance up to six weeks.

20. You are requested to report on the implements which it may be desirable to introduce, for separating the fibre from the nut and for twisting it, as all is now done by hands.

21. The clerk of the Superintendent of Sea Customs, B. Brito, will accompany you, as also any other servant you may be desirous of taking, and also two peons and any Medical Dresser, if you wish his services.

22. The Monigar and other Government servants on the Island will be placed under your orders during the period of your stay.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 3rd September 1869, No. 71.

With reference to the letter of the Acting Collector of South Canara, dated 5th January 1869, No. 7, I have the honour to submit a report upon the present circumstances of the Laccadive Islands attached to this district, and their progress since last visited by Mr. Sewell in 1865-66.

2. During my tour among the Islands in January and February last, I visited the Islands of Chetlat, Kiltan, Kadamat, and Amini, and the uninhabited Island of Bitra, and made full inquiry into their state, and especially as regards the particular points mentioned in Mr. Boswell's letter of instructions.

Changes in configuration.

3. Changes of more or less importance are stated by the Islanders to be going on in Kiltan, Chetlat, and Bitra.

4. In Kiltan the land continues to advance steadily towards the western reef, and one more row of cocoanut trees has been planted ever since Mr. Sewell's visit. There is every reason to apprehend that the harbour of Kiltan will be seriously affected ere many years have elapsed, the deepest part of the lagoon being at present directly under the daily advancing land. At low tide, a spit of sand is left high and dry, which extends two-thirds across the lagoon, and this may be expected to increase until it connects the Island and the western reef. It is, however, possible that as the land advances, the current will create a new channel sufficiently deep to float Koondras and matters thus adjust themselves.

5. At Chetlat the inroads of the sea are the causes of complaint. During the last monsoon several cocoanut trees were washed away on the south-west of the Island by a strong current setting from the north-west opening of the western reef. To remedy this it is proposed by the Islanders to re-open a former breach in the north part of the reef, whereby they think that the current would be diverted from the point of the Island, and further damage prevented thus. They also speak of serious deterioration of their harbour since the great storm of 1847. I would recommend that the Monigar be directed to have this work effected without delay, as the cost would be but small, while the damage which may otherwise be anticipated is certainly great. The Island of Bitra is said to have undergone considerable changes in configuration within the recollection of my informants, the fishermen visiting the Island. A considerable extent of land has been washed away on the west side, while disproportionately small additions have been made upon the south-east side. Present appearances fully bear out these statements, for on the one side, the sea even in fair weather washes the roots of the cocoanut trees, while on the other the land is as yet destitute of the grass and brushwood which covers the rest of the island.

6. A rough survey of all the Islands would render changes in configuration more easily detected, and might be effected with great ease and at a small outlay.

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Civil and criminal justice.

Year.	PUNISHED.							Amicably settled.	Dismissed.	Total.	Offence.
	Confinement.	Fine levied in Coir.					Total.				
		2 bundles.	1½ bundles.	1 bundle.	¾ bundle.	¼ bundle.					
1866	3	2	...	2	...	...	7	7	6	20	Theft.
	...	8	2	4	2	1	17	25	2	44	Assault.
	...	3	1	12	5	2	23	20	3	46	Criminal trespass.
	...	4	7	9	6	6	32	6	7	45	Miscellaneous.
	3	17	10	27	13	9	79	58	18	155	
1867	2	2	...	...	...	...	4	2	3	9	Theft.
	...	1	1	4	...	...	6	6	2	14	Assault.
	...	2	1	7	1	4	15	10	4	29	Criminal trespass.
	...	...	1	9	3	7	20	...	7	27	Miscellaneous.
	2	5	3	20	4	11	45	18	16	79	
1868	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	5	Theft.
	...	2	1	2	...	...	5	5	4	15	Assault.
	...	1	...	3	...	...	4	4	4	12	Criminal trespass.
	...	...	...	4	3	6	13	...	5	18	Miscellaneous.
	3	3	1	9	3	7	26	9	15	50	
Grand Total...	8	25	14	56	20	27	150	85	49	284	

7. The present Monigar, appointed in November 1867, exercises the ordinary powers of a

Years.	1½ bundles of Coir.	1 bundle of Coir.	1 bundle of Coir.	Total.	Remarks.
1866...	2	5	21	28	A portion of the fine levied goes to the informer.
1867...	5	7	18	30	
1868...	3	4	13	20	
	10	16	52	98	

Village Magistrate under Regulations XI. of 1816 and IV. of 1821, and of a Village Moonsiff under Regulations IV. and V. of 1816, powers which, though in my opinion inadequate to the growing requirements of the Islands, have an advantage over the old régime, in that their exercise is legal. The Monigar has also power to inflict fines under the "Cattle Trespass Act III. of 1857." His power of punishment is thus

limited to twelve hours in the choultry, and six hours in the stocks.

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8. The criminal and civil statistics are appended, and if to be believed serious offences are of very rare occurrence in the Islands, I do not, however, think that they represent the real state of crime on the Islands. Rumours of cases unheard, the extraordinary precautions taken by the people in the protection of their cocoanut trees and gardens from thieves, their often repeated assertion that fear of thieves alone deterred them from extending garden cultivation, and the fact that they themselves have established a system of night watching, induce a belief that they have far more reason to apprehend offences against property than these returns would lead us to believe. Much more of this latent crime would, I think, be brought to light, if the Islanders felt sure that the matter would be settled on the spot, without necessitating the expense and trouble of a voyage to Mangalore. I agree with Mr. Sewell in thinking that grave crime is rare. I cannot help thinking, however, that some higher authority than that of a Village Moonsiff is now and then required in Amini.

9. Though almost unnecessary in the other Islands, I think that a proper place of confinement should be built in Amini, in which offenders from elsewhere could be confined.

10. The Monigar also complains of the inconvenience arising from the want of a cattle pound in each of the Islands, and I would recommend that the deficit be supplied as soon as possible, as by assisting in the rearing of young trees, it materially affects the prosperity of the Islands.

11. The punishment of imprisonment would, I think, prove more effectual than the present system of fining, for, as Mr. Robinson points out, the payment of it in coir, merely entails extra labour upon the female relations of the offender. The fines which are imposed in the Islands for cattle trespass, far exceed in amount those sanctioned by the Act. They range from half to one-and-a-half maund coir, according to the damage done, whereas the present value of coir to the Islanders under the monopoly is at least Rupees 1-6-0 per maund. I would recommend that the present Monigar be required to furnish a register of the cases in which he has used his authority at the close of every year, or once in six months, that some check on his proceedings may be kept.

12. In the administration of Civil Justice also some improvement is called for in Amini.

Years.	Case in which a decision was given.	Amicably settled.	Total.
1866	3	15	18
1867	2	11	13
1868	5	10	15
	10	36	46

The Moktesars complain of lessened authority, and the disputants murmur at the dilatoriness of the Moktesars, while disputes are becoming more and more frequent. The man of substance refuses to submit his dispute to the arbitration of a Punchayat of Moktesars, if he has any reason to apprehend an adverse decision, well conscious that his poorer adversary is unable to bring the matter into a Civil Court on the main land, and thus compels him to endure. It was stated by some that many of the disputes now pending were stirred up and fostered by a man who styles himself a Vakcel, but whose only known legal qualification was a period of six months recently spent in the Mangalore Jail. The cases arising chiefly concern the partition of property amongst members of families observing the Marmakatayan rules of inheritance, disputes as to the right of planting, and disputes regarding services claimed by landlords from their tenants, etc., etc. I do not think that it would be necessary to appoint a superior officer to these Islands permanently, but that the present provisions are deficient, and that the appointment of an officer invested with the powers of a Sub-Magistrate of the second class, and power to adjust disputes of the above nature, to reside at the Islands from November to March, is the least measure necessary to secure impartial justice to the Islanders in general.

13. My remarks must for the most part be taken to refer to Amini, where the people are far more sophisticated than in the other Islands.

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14. From what I observed I should think the present Monigar has but little influence with the Islanders, and this may to some extent arise from the insignificant authority which he holds.

15. *Population.*

Islands.	Population in 1869.	Population in 1866.	Population in 1867.	Increase or decrease in 1869 as compared with 1866.	Per-cent-age.	Increase or decrease in 1869 as compared with 1867.	Per-cent-age.
1. Amini	2,213	2,123	2,199	Increase. 90	4.24	14	.63
2. Kadamat	205	179	183	26	14.52	22	12.02
3. Kiltan	722	692	727	30	4.33	5	.07
4. Chetlat	544	557	560	Decrease. 13	2.33	16	2.94
	3,684	3,551	3,669	133	Increase. 3.74	15	.41

The increase in Kadamat shows a larger per-centage than any of the other Islands; this is probably owing to the settlement there of the inhabitants from other Islands. In Chetlat only is there a decrease which is unexplained, the growth of population having received no check since 1866.

16. The population of each Island would be more accurately ascertained, if the census were taken during the monsoon, when all the Islanders must be at home. During the fair season great numbers of them are always away from the Islands.

Reefs.

17. I did not myself visit any of the uninhabited reefs, but from the Islanders I ascertained that no changes are at present observable. Most of the reefs are quite covered at high water.

Health.

18. In all the Islands great improvement in health is observable. The Dresser who accompanied me carefully examined the Islanders and found few cases of serious sickness. Ophthalmia seems to do more mischief than anything else, in many cases destroying or permanently injuring the eyesight. The Dresser thought that it arose simply from dirt, and treated some cases successfully with a very simple remedy.* It affects men, women, and children alike. The leprosy and other gangrenous diseases mentioned by Mr. Robinson, as prevalent throughout the group at the period of his visit, have to a great measure disappeared. No cases of cholera, fever or small-pox were to be heard of, though the faces of many young children proved how recently the Islanders must have been visited by the latter. A few cases of Hydrocele, Asthma, and still fewer of Elephantiasis and Ulcer, complete the list. The Amini Hakeem particularly asked for some English medicines, which were given to him. The practice of inoculation has been discontinued in Kiltan. The Islanders generally appear healthy and strong, and exceed in stature their brethren of the mainland. In Kadamat the children seemed ill-fed, and the Dresser informed me that inquiry showed want of proper nourishment seriously retarded the recovery of the Kadamat women after childbirth.

* A lotion containing Alum and Nitrate of Silver.

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Vaccination.

	UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.				ABOVE ONE YEAR OF AGE.				General total of males and females.
	Males.	Females.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Males.	Females.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	
1868. In the four Islands ...	25	26	49	2	825	384	1,091	118	1,260
1869. { 1. Amini ...	3	5	8	...	65	50	111	4	123
{ 2. Kadamat ...	...	1	...	1	7	4	11	...	12
{ 3. Kiltan ...	1	3	4	...	4	4	7	1	12
{ 4. Chetlat ...	...	1	1	...	15	14	29	...	30
	4	10	13	1	91	72	158	5	177
Total...	29	36	62	3	916	456	1,249	123	1,437

Careful examination of the Islanders proved that the Vaccinator who was sent to the Island last year did his work thoroughly. In the case of many young children small-pox itself had already rendered the operation unnecessary. So far from the Islanders being adverse to the operation, I found that its effects are thoroughly appreciated, the mothers only in some few cases showing a reluctance to bring forward young infants. The Vaccinator sent to the Islands this year was a Christian, and seems to have had some misunderstanding with the Amini Islanders, which, for a time, retarded his operations. The Dresser, however, who accompanied me, completed all he had left undone at Amini and Chetlat. Until some Islanders can be properly trained for the duty, I would recommend that Mahomedans only be employed as Vaccinators in these Islands, as being more likely to work on good terms with the Islanders.

At Amini there is an intelligent Hakeem, by name Kannoal Abdul Kader. Being already well versed in native pharmacy, he might easily learn the simple operation of vaccination, and be deputed to the work on the Amini Islands.

21. Since visiting the Islands I mentioned the matter to Dr. Shortt, who seemed to approve of the suggestion, being of opinion that he could safely be entrusted with the duty after a few month's practice on the main land with the vaccination staff. I would recommend the plan for consideration.

Bitra.

22. There are now on this Island 306 productive trees, half-grown trees 132, and 210 young plants, making a total of 648. Mr. Robinson mentions from 150 to 200 trees in his report.

23. These trees are claimed by the fishermen of Chetlat and Kiltan, who strongly oppose the grant of the Island to Shabu Haji of Amini, and state their readiness rather to pay the *teerwah* themselves. I myself can see no advantage whatever in giving the Island to the applicant, who can get as much land in the Island of Kadamat, only eight miles from his present abode.

24. The Island is nearest of the group to the reefs where shipwrecks are most frequent, and would doubtless afford a splendid basis of operations for pillaging wrecks, if no Government servant were posted there. Added to this serious objection is the inconvenience thereby entailed upon the fishermen visiting the Island, who have hitherto been accustomed to help themselves to the fruit of the trees as they liked.

Shipwrecks.

25. One shipwreck only has occurred since Mr. Sewell's visit. The *Abell Tasmon*, a Dutch vessel laden with cotton enroute from Bombay to London struck on the Pyramgore reef at

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10 A.M., and was set on fire and abandoned by the crew; ninety-two bales of cotton were saved by the Islanders and delivered at Mangalore, for which the Islanders received salvage and compensation.

26. The laws of salvage have been thoroughly explained and made known throughout all the Islands, and the only objection they raise to them is the length of time they have to wait for their reward.

27. In the early part of February of this year a native bark, commanded by European officers, sailing it appears from Coringa to Bombay, with a cargo of grain, etc., was wrecked on the reef called the "Baliya Pani;" the second day after the wreck a Portuguese vessel chancing to sail near the spot picked up the wrecked crew and took them to Goa. The news of the wreck came through Calicut, whither it was taken by one of the crew. No detailed account of the wreck has ever been received.

28. While in Amini I received information regarding the concealment of copper obtained by wrecking in several houses. I had a search made in my presence, but none was found. It was remarkable, however, that in all the suspected houses, there were large quantities of rice stored, although the annual supply in exchange for coir had not yet reached the Islands. I was told that some Patamars from the coast of Malabar had shortly before been cruising about the Islands. In one house I searched I found considerable quantities of old iron, and a six-dozen box of soap similar to that saved from the wreck of the *Lord Brougham*. There is every reason to believe that these articles had been appropriated by Abdul Razak, a Government Peon, posted in Chetlat, who was most scrupulous in delivering up to me a few small articles of little or no value. These things were found in the house of his wife at Amini, who said that her husband at Chetlat kept the key of the box in which the soap, etc., was found. Some punishment should, I think, be inflicted on Abdul Razak, as a warning to the other peons.

29. In other houses I observed articles of trifling value, which must have been obtained by wrecking, such as a pearl-handled dessert knife, a carriage lamp, a plated spoon, scented soap, a double eyeglass, etc., etc. Iron and wood obtained from this source are plentiful throughout the Islands. After a long search one sheet of copper was discovered in a soaking pit, covered over with new cocoanut husks, belonging to the nephew of a chief Moktesar. From private information given by an eye witness, I hear that it had been placed there by one Nurroddin, after the decease of his uncle would, in the ordinary course of things, succeed him as Moktesar. As I have not the least doubt that the copper was concealed there by him, I would recommend, as a wholesome warning to the other head inhabitants of the Island, that he be disqualified for the position of Moktesar for ever. It is now four years since the wreck of the *Lord Brougham*, and I am inclined to think there is but little copper or iron left in the Islands. Latterly, agents have been appointed for the recovery of property from wrecks. Some of the cargo of the *Lord Brougham* still remains to be brought to Mangalore from the Baliapani reef.

Trade.

30. The trade returns for the last seven years are appended. Little reliance can be placed upon them, however, as I fancy they have been kept but irregularly.

Enclosure I.

31. I find that Koondras leaving Mangalore and other places on the coast are supplied with a port clearance only and no manifest, consequently, no account has been kept of imports into the Islands. The Islanders take most of their produce to Calicut, stating that they find a far better market there than in Mangalore, where the market being limited prices soon go down if they bring a large quantity of limes or cocoanuts over at one time. The Islanders do not appear to have extended their trade since the visit of Mr. Sewell, and from the great variation in the amount exported, it may be inferred that they do not make the most of the resources of the Island.

32. Mr. Cadell, in the 10th paragraph of his letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1856, No. 89, contemplated establishing a more systematic account of the exports and imports

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of the Islands, but it does not appear that any written order on the subject has as yet been given to the Monigar. I would recommend supplying each Island with strongly-bound ledgers in the place of the shabby unbound books in which the accounts are now kept.

Circulation of Coin.

33. As far as I could ascertain money is but little used throughout the Amindivi Islands. Even in Amini there is not a single shop. If articles of small value are required coir or cocoanuts are given in exchange. Money is occasionally used in the purchase of cattle, and in paying fees to Mosques.

34. There are but very few in the Islands who lay in a surplus supply of combustibles, while the rest are careful to change all their money into rice ere finally leaving the coast before the monsoon, and there is thus but little call for circulating medium on the Islands.

Coir.

35. In each of the Islands I gave a particular attention to the coir, and did all I could to ascertain the causes of change in quality and fluctuations in quantity.

36. The Island of Chetlat continues to produce the best coir; that of Kiltan and Kadamat ranking next, and that of Amini last. The coir of the three first-mentioned Islands has the advantage of sea-soaking, while in Amini the lack of this advantage has always been the excuse for producing an inferior article. In Kiltan I noticed that a few soaking pits had been started in the middle of the Island, which I ordered to be filled up immediately. The Islanders can give no excuse but laziness for not availing themselves of the sea for soaking.

37. In the manufacture of the coir the Islanders have no inducement to improve, the classification and prices being in effect permanently fixed.

38. The inferiority of the coir may generally be traced to some neglect in its preparation, such as insufficient soaking, or washing, or carelessness in twisting it. In the coir supplied in 1868 and 1869 great improvements in preparation were observable.

39. A large purchaser informed me that the coir would, as a rule, fetch a far higher price in the London market, and, therefore, in Mangalore, if the yarn were slighter (less thick.)

40. Another circumstance affecting the quality of coir is the time at which the nut is so gathered. This, it appears from Mr. Robinson's report and from personal inquiries of the Islanders, should occur in the tenth month. The nut is not fit for khopra until twelve or thirteen months, and tender cocoanuts are not usually gathered as such, beyond the sixth or seventh month, so that the use of the nut for this purpose is inimical to the coir interest.

41. The statement of exports from Amini shows that a greater number of trees has been cut for neera than formerly.

42. As regards the disproportion between the increase in the number of trees and the increase of the supply of coir mentioned by Mr. Morris, in his letter quoted in Board's Proceedings of the 23rd October 1863, No. 6,812-A, I think it may to a great extent be attributed to the comparative sterility of the soil to which the recently made plantations extend. On the north-west side of Kiltan planting has of late years advanced considerably, but the trees, though in flower and producing nuts, are many of them perfect dwarfs, the fruit being often within reach of the hand. In other parts of the Island trees were pointed out which, in seven or eight years, had attained to a height of only a few feet.

43. Mr. Sewell is of opinion that the increase depends not only on the number of trees, but also on the number of population; but if we compare the proportion between population and cocoanut trees in Fusly 1253, and their proportional increase in Fusly 1270, we shall find them almost exactly similar. In both cases there are rather about twenty trees to each person. I could detect but a trifling waste of husks and nothing of illicit traffic in coir.

Fusly.	Population.	No. of trees.	Trees per head.
1253	3,609	69,254	19.18
1270	4,085	82,793	20.26

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44. There is yet another circumstance which of late may have affected the supply of Coir. The Islanders obtained large quantities of Copper, etc., when pillaging the wreck of the *Lord Brougham* in 1865, and this, instead of adding to their comforts, would, with these lazy Islanders, simply cause them to relax their ordinary efforts.

45. The Islanders are now fully aware of the inducement held out to them to bring their Coir early in the season to Mangalore. I am afraid, however, that, under their peculiar circumstances, the inducement will be almost inoperative. The boat-owners, and not the manufacturers of the Coir, are generally answerable for the delay. When I landed at Chetlat about the 1st February, in almost every house where I made inquiries the Coir was ready for despatch. The boat-owners again are dependant upon the wind which is favourable to the end of January, and then directly contrary for upwards of a month.

46. On my return from Amini to Chetlat at the end of February, so contrary was the wind that the whole distance of about 30 miles was of necessity done in a rowing boat.

47. Thus unless the Coir is despatched in January there is little chance of its reaching Mangalore until after the 1st March.

48. Were the boat-owners willing nine-tenths of the Coir might reach Mangalore before the end of January; and the only means I can suggest to make them accelerate their movements, would be to remind them that it is possible for the Government to send a Patamar in January to fetch the Coir, if the boat-owners are unable to bring it sooner.

49. Among other minor circumstances which interfere with an earlier despatch of the Coir is the manning of the Koondras. The early part of the season is occupied in petty trade with other ports on the main land and fishing expeditions, while only a limited number of crews are procurable. Only when all these minor matters have been disposed of do the Islanders deem it time to stir themselves for the great finishing transaction of the year—the conveyance of their Coir to Mangalore. The Chetlat Islanders gave a peculiar reason for not despatching the Coir sooner, viz., that if the Rice were brought too soon, it would be used without stint, and thus not last them through the monsoon.

50. The transactions of the Coir-monopoly are appended separately.

Enclosure II.

51.

Boats.

Islands.	1866.		1869.		INCREASE OR DECREASE.	
	Large.	Small.	Large.	Small.	Large.	Small.
Amini... ..	23	137	28	118	Increase. 5	Decrease. 19
Kadamat	...	12	3	13	3	Increase. 1
Kiltan	26	74	24	85	Decrease. 2	11
Chetlat... ..	6	92	32	60	Increase. 26	Decrease. 32
	55	315	87	276	32	39
	370		363		Decrease. 7	

The large boats are capable of holding from 750 to 800 Murahs, and can all be used in trading with the coast. Kadamat possesses only three coasting boats of small size, and as the Islanders are at present called upon to assist in manning the Amini boats, and live almost from hand to mouth, there is little or no chance of their building any more.

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52. Timber for boat-building is obtained from wrecks, and also brought from the coast. The Chirani (or Poorsamaram) is used in calking. At the launching of a new boat, the presence of the head Moktesar from Amini is deemed indispensable, and a fee apparently in acknowledgment of vassalage is paid to him by the owner, on which he accords his permission to launch the boat.

53. The coast-going boats belong to the chief men of the Islands who carry on terms most advantageous to themselves.

Implements for the manufacture of Coir.

54. The manufacture of Coir is conducted in precisely the same manner now as at the time when Mr. Robinson visited the Islands in 1846. No mechanical aid of the rudest description has as yet been contrived to lighten the labours of the Islanders.

55. The part of the process, which most urgently calls for improvement, is the twisting of the yarn which is now done entirely with the hands, and requires an amount of skill only to be acquired by long practice, whereas the soaking, beating, and cleaning, can be done by the skilled and unskilled equally well. The Islanders informed me that the women, who almost exclusively are employed in twisting Coir, have frequently to stop work on account of sore hands, thus considerably retarding the manufacture. Since my return from the Islands, I have whenever in Mangalore given my attention to the preparation of some instrument for facilitating the twisting process. I find that though no instrument is in general use on the coast, a machine of a rude description was formerly constructed by the Missionaries for twisting. In Ceylon also I hear that several different contrivances are in use for twisting the Coir. Information as to their nature would be invaluable in fashioning one for the use of the Islanders. I am now having a machine made, which, if it proves as effective as it is represented, will twist the fibre three or four times as fast as the process by hand.

56. I anticipate some difficulty in introducing a new method of manufacturing Coir into the Islands. The work of twisting falls upon the women, and the men, who alone visit the main land, have but an indirect interest in the success of the experiment themselves. Any machine, which it may be thought advisable to introduce, must be both simple and inexpensive, in order to find favour with the Islanders.

57. I propose reporting the result of my inquiries on the subject separately as soon as the machine now under construction is completed.

58. At the commencement of 1868 Mongooses were sent to Chetlat, Kiltan, Kadamata, and Fitra, and some harmless snakes to Amini, with a view to ridding the Islands of the rats which swarm there, and do much damage by eating the tender cocoanuts.

59. In Chetlat I found the Mongooses had multiplied, but had also shown an unfortunate preference for fowls.

60. In Kiltan a female Mongoose had been let loose at one end of the Island, and a male at the other, so that they had not increased their number.

61. In Kadamat the Mongooses had not been seen since first let loose, as might be expected from the thick cover prevailing throughout the Island.

62. In Amini the snakes were said to be alive, but I could learn nothing further about them.

63. No perceptible decrease of rats can be expected until the Mongooses have increased in number. The Islanders seemed to approve the experiment, notwithstanding the loss of a few fowls. I would recommend sending some more both to Kiltan and Amini.

Flora and Fauna.

64. The greater part of the Island of Kadamat is probably in the same state now that the other Islands were before cleared for planting. Except where this has been effected, it is covered with brushwood, chiefly consisting of a shrub termed *Kanni* by the natives, and so closely interwoven as to defy all attempts to penetrate, except by cutting a pass. So rapid is the growth of this

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brushwood that parts of the Island, which tradition says were formerly cleared for cultivation, are now so completely overgrown again as to be inaccessible. The brushwood jungle is varied with open spaces covered with rank grass, attaining sometimes a height of six feet.

65. Throughout the Islands the ground is covered with the Goats' foot Creeper (*Ipomoea caprae*), the Spike grass and a small plant of the Dandelion tribe, which is used as food in time of scarcity.

66. Almost every plant in the Islands is distinguished for some medicinal property. In Amini, I observed a greater variety of plants belonging to the main land.

67. The Screw-pine (*Pandanus*) forms a conspicuous feature of all the Islands, but especially of Amini where it attains a height of 20 or 30 feet.

68. I append a list of some of the trees and plants of the Islands.

Bread fruit	...	...	...	Artocarpus incisa.
Areca palm	...	...	...	Areca catechu.
Honne	...	...	...	Calophylla Inophyllum.
Banyan	...	...	...	Ficus Indica.
Poorsamaram	...	...	...	Butea frondosa.
Lime	...	...	...	Citrus bergamia.
Flamboyant	...	...	...	Poinciana Regia.
Pomegranate	...	...	...	Punica granatum.
Plantain	...	...	...	Musa paradisiaca.
Thorn apple (two varieties)	...	...	...	Datura.
Boppankai	...	...	...	Carica papaya or papaya vulgaris.
Nellikai	...	...	...	Emblia officinalis.
Horse-radish tree	...	...	...	Moringa.
Nekki (Five-leaved chaste-tree)	...	...	...	Vitex negundo.
Tekki	...	...	...	Calotropis gigantea.
Castor-oil (two varieties)	...	...	...	Ricinus communis.
Toomba	...	...	...	Phomis Indica.
Kepala	...	...	...	Ixora coccinea.
Tamarind	...	...	...	Tamarindus Indica.

69. In the few gardens I saw there were Yams, Plantains, a few Betel vines and Chilly plants, though the pod is but little used in cooking.

70. I sowed some Casuarina seed in all four of the Islands, and when I left that sown in Chetlat had germinated.

71. Unsuccessful attempts to introduce the Jack, Mango, and Cashew, have already been made. Few trees I should think would grow in the Islands on account of the hard sub-stratum of limestone and the brackish water. There is, however, no doubt that the soil is capable of yielding many valuable vegetables which the Islanders are too lazy to cultivate, though only too glad to get them in any other way.

72. The Pine-apple has not yet been introduced, though I think it would grow easily, and be valuable both for its fruit and fibre.

73. Cows, Goats, Fowls, and Cats, are the only domesticated animals on the Islands, and the latter are rendered useless for rat-killing as the Islanders feed them.

74. Rats and beetles swarm in all the Islands, and do much damage to the young nuts and leaves.

75. I regret to say that some specimens of beetles and rats which I brought from the Islands have been lost. The latter is, I imagine, the species of beetle whose depredations on the young Cocoanut palms of Singapore, Penang, and on the Coromandel Coast, are described in Balfour's Cyclopaedia (page 409).

76. In Amini alone Crows abound, and I observed a few Hawks and Kogilies or Cuckoos. The flocks of birds mentioned by Mr. Robinson as visiting the Island of Bitra have now entirely deserted the Island, but are still seen about the reefs. Whales are frequently seen about the reefs, but the Islanders through fear do not attempt to capture them. The Tortoise, the Turtle, and the Porphise are also captured, though the export of Tortoise-shell has decreased of late years.

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Grain and other agricultural produce, etc.

77. The grains now cultivated in the Amindivi Islands are precisely the same as those cultivated at the time of Mr. Robinson's visit. By the way the Islanders spoke I should not think that the labour has a very abundant return.

78. In the Island of Kadamat there is much land which was apparently formerly cultivated, but has been now left waste.

79. I observed no agricultural implements, but a few mamoties and knives.

Port of Amindivi.

80. As regards the Amini harbour I would recommend that the efforts of the Islanders be confined to clearing and keeping clear two entrances only. There are now five entrances to the lagoon three on the east and two on the west.

81. The Islanders state that the coral stones have lately grown, but judging from the appearance of the stone itself, I should think that the coral formation is not now going on.

82. The Islanders have a tradition that the coral stone was formerly thrown into the lagoon to prevent pirates from entering for plundering the Island, and that the stone is now commencing to grow up.

83. I think that the Islanders are perfectly capable of conducting any improvement which it may be thought fit to have made to the harbour.

84. Coconut, etc., planting.

Islands.	COCOANUT TREES.						OTHER TREES.				GARDENS.				
	Total No. in 1866.	In 1869.					Bread fruit trees.	Lime trees.	Ponne trees.	Arecaut trees.	Plantain.		Millet.		Betel leaves gardens.
		Bearing.	Fast Bearing (Choki.)	Large plants.	Small plants.	Total.					No. of owners.	No. of gardens.	No. of owners.	No. of gardens.	
1. Amini...	95,636	52,065	4,461	16,850	27,629	1,01,005	643	219	27	104	215	260	194	289	37
2. Kadamat...	12,704	4,202	377	3,057	5,529	13,165	20	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	2
3. Kiltan...	53,500	23,656	2,663	11,318	21,630	59,267	20	26	7	...	...	...	...	...	15
4. Chetlat...	32,418	14,663	1,461	6,271	5,461	27,861	10	24	15	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total...	1,95,258	94,591	8,962	37,496	60,249	2,01,298	693	274	59	104	215	260	194	289	66
Increase...	...	...	...	...	...	6,040	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Condition of the Islanders.

Islands.	Teachers.	Boys.	Girls.	Total of Boys and Girls.	Nature of instructions.
Amini...	5	44	32	76	To read koran and to read and write Malayalam in Arabic character.
Kadamat...	3	8	1	12	
Kiltan...	3	40	15	58	
Chetlat...	3	18	13	31	
Total...	14	110	61	171	

* One female.

85. In the condition of the Islanders there has apparently been but little change. No attempt has as yet been made to educate the inhabitants, though I think that with very little difficulty they might be taught to read and write the language which they speak in its own character. The Amindivi Islanders express their readiness to build a school, free of expense, if a school be started there. The Islanders of Kiltan and Chetlat also expressed their readiness to send their children if a Central School be opened at Amini.

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86. All the Islands are well supplied with artizans, such as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Silversmiths, etc., etc., etc. The workmanship is rough.

87. In the Amini Island alone there are thirty-three Mosques, among them the chief one, the "Jumma Masjid," is a fine substantial building, and as large as any I have seen in Mangalore. The others for the most part belong to private families.

88. The people of Kadamat earnestly requested that the relationship which exists between themselves and their neighbours of Amini should be terminated. At present the people of Amini claim their services as *Calasies* to man their boats, and refuse to allow the Kadamat people to bring their own Coir to Mangalore. The Kadamat people have a few coast-going boats, in which they wish to be allowed to bring their Coir to Mangalore, to this the Amini people

Islands.	Carpenters.	Blacksmiths.	Goldsmiths.	Silversmiths.	Barbers.
Amini...	12	2	2	2	5
Kadamat...	10	...	...	...	3
Kiltan...	9	3	1	2	3
Chetlat...	10	2	...	4	...
Total...	41	7	3	8	11

Islands.	Houses.	Mosques.
Amini...	377	33
Kadamat...	32	4
Kiltan...	170	14
Chetlat...	135	8
Total...	714	59

very much object; but I am of opinion that this Island must always remain in its present backward state, unless public authority comes to the aid of the people of Kadamat.

89. Kadamat, which is probably the largest and the most fertile of the Islands, at present yields a comparatively insignificant amount of Coir. The Islanders, too, by sending their Coir together with the Amini Coir, lose the advantage of its superior quality.

90. The Islanders of Chetlat and Kiltan both complain that great inconvenience is caused to them by their having to wait for the permission of the Monigar who is stationed at Amini, before starting after the monsoon to go on fishing excursions and to get fresh supplies of Rice from the coast. I recommend that the restriction be removed.

91. The Islanders also complain of their having been required to pay a higher price for Salt than formerly. As far as I can see they are very ready to complain, but most unwilling to work.

92. I would recommend that the Monigar be called upon to report on those who receive the benefit of Mr. Robinson's charity.

93. I would also recommend that the Monigar be supplied with stamped approved iron Measures and Weights, as I think it would be a great protection to the poor against the wealthy in Coir transactions.

94. I would also suggest to you that future expeditions to the Amindivi Islands should not leave Mangalore later than the end of December as the winds are then most favourable.

95. In conclusion, I must express my great regret that the report has been so long delayed, and is now only sent, but at the same time I must state that I have had no opportunity since my return to write it, and now at the last, when I expected a few clear days in order to complete it, I have been completely prostrated by fever. I commenced to write it immediately upon my return from the Islands, and purposed submitting it as quickly as possible. I must, however, plead an inefficient office and continual magisterial work as my excuse.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Export Returns.

No. 1.—Exports of Amini and Kadamat Islands.

Year.	Coir.	Cocoanuts.	Coppra.	Tortoise shells.	Kowries.	Jaggery pots.	Pickle pots.	Limes.	Chunam stones.	Chunam.	Cocoanut leaves.	Vinegar pots.	Shark-fins.	Firewood billets.	Tomb stones.
	Bundles.	No.	Bundles.	Bundles.	Measures.	No.	No.	No.	Candies.	Murahs.	Bundles.	No.	Bundles.	No.	Pair.
1862	7,990	2,82,550	316	7	49	854	93	95,500	121	2	11	548	11	4,000	
1863	7,600	6,90,900	554	8	30	1,718	48	60,000	32		10	688	19	700	
1864	8,110	5,67,100	449	5	50	3,100	130	86,000	195	1	20	619	22	6,000	
1865	8,645	4,70,000	1,109	4	11	2,355	229	66,000	23	118	126	1,700	9	19,500	
1866	7,020	4,66,200	465	9	36	4,506	142	95,000	295		20	462	21	4,000	7
1867	7,365	4,05,000	423	3	24	1,787	53	49,000	30	251	4	261	4		
1868	8,685	8,90,930	343	7	31	3,433	47	†21,000			20	386	20	30,000	
Total...	55,415	37,72,080	3,659	43	231	17,753	742	4,72,500	696	372	211	4,664	106	64,200	7
Average...	*7,916.4	5,38,954.3	522.7	6.1	33	2,536.1	106	67,500	99.4	53.1	30.1	666.3	15.1	9,171.4	1

* The average weight of a bundle of Coir is about one Maund of 28 lbs.

† Owing to the decrease of the produce.

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No. 2.—Exports of Chetlat Island.

Year.	Coir.	Cocoanuts.	Coppra.	Tortoise shells.	Kowries.	Jaggery pots.	Pickle pots.	Vinegar pots.	Limes.	Chunam stones.	Cocoanut leaves.	Shark-fins.	Firewood billets.	Tomb stones.
	Bundles.	No.	Bundles.	Bundles.	Measures.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Candies.	Bundles.	Bundles.	No.	Pair.
1862	1,325	66,862	84	4	64	54	2	2	130	543	316	38	20,000	2
1863	1,635	26,000	77	4	28	6	2	1		277	248	10		
1864	1,120	55,500	154	1	37	41				429	167	6	429	
1865	1,725	18,300	233	2	7					420	231	1		4
1866	1,370	21,300	93	1	22	51			6,200	527	283	43		1
1867	1,650	53,780	212	1	47	2				1,003	206	14		
1868	1,560	54,000	145	3	15	5		22	500	520	367	9		2
Total...	10,385	2,95,742	998	16	220	159	4	25	6,830	3,719	1,818	121	20,429	9
Average...	*1,483.5	42,248.9	142.6	2.3	31.4	22.7	.5	3.5	975.7	531.3	259.7	17.3	2,918.4	1.3

* The average weight of a bundle of Coir is about one Maund of 28 lbs.

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No. 3.—Exports of Kiltan Island.

Year.	Cair.	Cocoanuts.	Coppra.	Tortoise shells.	Kowries.	Jaggery pots.	Pickle pots.	Vinegar pots.	Limes.	Chunam stones.	Cocoanut leaves.	Shark fins.	Fire-wood billets.	Tomb stones.
	Bundles.	No.	Bundles.	Bundles.	Measures.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Candies.	Bundles.	Bundles.	No.	Pair.
1862 ...	2,510	37,400	975		43	86	6	4		311	528	30		
1863 ...	2,115	27,000	98	2	77	129	15			84	387	27		2
1864 ...	2,485	43,800	718	1	9	4	1		200	133	40	8		2
1865 ...	2,215	41,500	179	2	25	29		7		227	269	18	1,600	2
1866 ...	2,350	43,700	370		25	97		2		102	546	32		
1867 ...	2,590	50,460	823		18	21				219	69	11		2
1868 ...	2,435	13,450	666		42	82		2		280	323	24		2
Total...	16,730	1,80,810	3,829	5	239	448	23	15	200	1,356	2,162	150	1,600	10
Average...	*2,390	26,687.1	547	7	34.1	64	3.3	2.1	28.6	1,93.7	308.9	21.4	228.6	1.4

* The average weight of a bundle of Coir is about one maund of 28 lbs.
† 11,250 have been exported to other islands.
‡ 8,810 do

(Signed) F. E. HALL,
Assistant Collector.

(True Copy.) (Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Acting Collector.

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ENCLOSURE No. II.

No. 1.—Statement showing the amount of Coir received annually at Mangalore from the Amin-divi Islands from Fusly 1275 to 1278.

Fuslies.	COIR IMPORTED.								
	From Amindivi and Kadamat Islands.			From Kiltan and Chetlat Islands.			Total.		
	Candies.	Mds.	lbs.	Candies.	Mds.	lbs.	Candies.	Mds.	lbs.
1275 ...	501	17	17½	230	4	21	732	2	10½
1276 ...	406	2	2½	252	11	27½	658	14	2
1277 ...	504	3	18	238	11	19	742	15	9
1278 ...	456	10	12	220	...	7	676	10	19
Total ...	1,868	13	22	941	8	18½	2,810	2	12½
Yearly average ...	467	3	12½	235	7	4½	702	10	17½

No. 2.—Statement showing the annual quantity of Rice given to the Islanders since Fusly 1275, the value thereof at 2 Rupees a Murah, and the prices at which the same was purchased each year by the Government.

Fuslies.	Quantity of Rice given each year.	Value at 2 Rupees a Murah.	Paid for the same each year by Government.	Cost per Murah to Government.	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLUMNS 3 AND 4.	
					In favour of Islanders.	In favour of Government.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Murahs.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1275 ...	5,581	11,162 0 0	16,896 9 9	3 0 5	5,734 9 9	
1276 ...	5,032½	10,065 8 0	14,997 1 10	2 15 8	4,931 9 10	
1277 ...	5,664	11,328 0 0	17,282 6 9	3 0 10	5,954 6 9	
1278 ...	5,158½	10,316 8 0	15,371 1 9	2 15 8½	5,054 9 9	
Total...	21,436	42,872 0 0	64,547 4 1		21,675 4 1	
Total loss to Government ...					*21,675 4 1	

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No. 3.—Statements showing the amount of Coir sold annually either to the Bengal or Bombay Government, or by public auction since Fusly 1275, with the prices which it has realized.

Fuslies.	Amount of Coir sold to Bengal Government.	Rate per candy.	Amount of price paid.	Amount of Coir sold to Bombay Government.	Rate.	Amount of price paid.	Amount of Coir sold in the market.	Average Rate.	Amount of price realized.	Total receipts.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1275 ...	CS. M. LBS. 400 0 0	RS. A. P. { 50 0 0 } { 40 0 0 }	RS. A. P. 17,200 0 0	CS. M. LBS. 4 0 0	RS. A. P. 50 0 0	RS. A. P. 200 0 0	CS. M. LBS. 800 5 14	RS. A. P. 37 4 9	RS. A. P. 29,816 0 0	RS. A. P. 47,216 0 0
1276 ...	280 0 0	37 0 0	10,360 0 0				235 4 14	37 0 0	8,704 0 0	19,064 0 0
1277 ...	400 0 0	37 0 0	14,800 0 0				209 11 0	37 0 1	11,085 13 7	25,885 13 7
1278 ...	400 0 0	58 0 0	23,200 0 0				350 0 0	58 11 3	20,546 4 0	43,746 4 0
To Al...										1,35,942 1 7
Yearly Average...										33,985 8 5

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No. 4.—STATEMENT showing the transactions of the Coir Department in the district of South Canara.

PAYMENTS MADE TO THE ISLANDERS														
Fuslies.	Quantity of Coir received from the Islands.	In rice or its value at the stand and rate of 2 Rupees per Murah.	Actual cost to Government.	Profit or loss to Government.		Portion paid in Cash.	Total of columns 4 and 7.	Establishment.	Contingencies.	Total expenditure.	Sale-proceeds of Coir credited to Government.	Result.		Remarks.
				Profit.	Loss.							Profit.	Loss.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1275 ...	C. M. LBS. 732 2 10 1	RS. A. P. 11,162 0 0	RS. A. P. 16,896 9 9		5,734 9 9	RS. A. P. 3,722 14 6	RS. A. P. 20,619 8 3	RS. A. P. 1,802 15 2	RS. A. P. (a) 225 0 9	RS. A. P. 22,617 8 2	RS. A. P. 47,216 0 0	RS. A. P. 24,593 7 10		(a) Consists chiefly of charges attending the visit of an Assistant Collector to the Islands.
1276 ...	638 14 2	10,065 8 0	14,997 1 10		4,931 9 10	3,356 9 10	18,353 11 8	1,596 9 3	37 13 5	20,288 1 4	19,064 0 0		1,224 1 4	
1277 ...	742 15 9	11,328 0 0	17,262 6 9		5,934 6 9	3,776 10 4	21,059 1 1	1,753 2 1	27 15 3	22,840 2 5	25,885 13 7	3,045 11 2		
1278 ...	676 10 19	10,316 8 0	15,371 1 9		5,054 9 9	3,417 0 10	18,788 2 7	1,983 8 6	76 10 6	20,848 5 7	43,716 4 0	22,897 14 5		
Total...	2,810 2 12 1	42,872 0 0	64,547 4 1		21,675 4 1	14,273 3 6	78,820 7 7	7,436 3 0	367 6 11	86,624 1 6	1,35,942 1 7	50,542 1 5	1,224 1 4	
Net profit												49,318 0 0		
Deduct—												...		
Loss to Government on Salt supplied to the Islanders at cost-price instead of at the monopoly selling-price.												...		
Fusly 1275												RS. A. P. 743 15 7		
" 1276												701 0 6		
" 1277												988 4 0		
" 1278												846 1 11		
Actual Net profit...												3,283 6 0		
Yearly average...												46,035 10 1		
...												11,508 14 6		

(Signed) F. E. HALL, Assistant Collector.
(") H. S. THOMAS, Acting Collector.

(True Copy.)

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ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Mr. W. M. SWAN, Manager, to the Acting Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore,
26th June 1869.

In reply to that part of your letter, No. 647, dated 9th instant, relating to Coir, I have the honour to inform you that I can have made and supply you with such a wheel as in England is used for spinning twine and yarns for Hemp and Manilla ropes by hand, or I could give you such an explanation of it as would enable you to have one made under your personal superintendence; this latter plan would admit of your effecting any improvement that might suggest itself to you.

2. I am unable to say that the wheel as used for hemp, etc., would answer equally well for Coir fibre, it being so short and woody, but as the expense of such a wheel would be very inconsiderable, I consider it worthy of a trial.

3. I do not know of any machine extant for separating the fibre from the nut and cleaning it, nor can I venture to suggest any thing for the purpose, not having seen any such work being performed.

4. I will, however, make inquiries about this, and should any thing satisfactorily result, will report it to you.

With this letter the Collector of Canara submits his Assistant's report on his visit to the Islands of the Laccadive group subject to the district of Canara, during the early part of 1869. It will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The changes in the lagoons and configuration of one or two Islands described by Mr. Hall are such as most Coral Reef Islands are subject to, and little could be done to mitigate the inconvenience, save at disproportionate cost. But as the sea-going boats are hauled up high and dry as soon as they return from a voyage, the natural silting up of portions of the small lagoons is not of serious consequence. A survey of a character which would show minute changes in soundings, etc., would be too costly and troublesome to be worth undertaking.

3. Criminal and Civil Justice is administered by the Monigar, who has power under Regulations IX. of 1816 and IV. of 1821, and under Regulations IV. and V. of 1816. The cases which fall under his cognizance are few and trifling, offences against property consisting chiefly of theft of cocoanuts from standing trees. Under these circumstances the Board do not think that any case has been made out for incurring larger expense, or making any change in the manner of administering Criminal or Civil Justice. The principal inhabitants or Mokyastens settle most of the local disputes about property, and they had better continue to do so without more interference than is unavoidable on the part of public servants, notwithstanding occasional dilatoriness, and perhaps occasional partiality. Any change in the mode in which fines are levied seems unnecessary. Coir is the circulating medium of the Islands, and when paid in the form of fines keeps well, and is brought to account on the coast. Cocoanuts will be found apt to deteriorate and necessitate careful keeping.

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4. The returns indicate a more or less stationary condition of the population, but public health has improved since the Islands were reported on in 1844. Vaccination has been successfully practised, and is not unpopular.

Census taken in 1844 ... 3,609
Population in 1869... 3,684
Collector's letter, paragraphs 17 to 21.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 16 and 18 to 21.

5. The Board think it desirable to forbid absolutely any grant of the small Island of Batra Par to any private individual, as is apparently under consideration. The little Island is without good water, and is not suited for permanent occupation. It is the principal fishing ground of the northern Islands.

Collector's letter, paragraph 22.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 22 to 24.

6. The Board are of opinion that the punishment inflicted on Abdul Razah and one of the Mokyastens, in connection with the discovery of some trifling articles supposed to have belonged to a wreck of some years back is excessive, and should be reduced to six months' suspension.

Collector's letter, paragraphs 23 to 26.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 28 and 29.

7. The trade of the Islands is not large, and consists chiefly of Coir and Cocoanuts. The exports of the former have been more or less stationary, but a large increase has taken place since 1844 in the export of nuts, which now amounts to about 600,000 against 375,000 as estimated about that time. No important increase has taken place in the number of boats* in the Islands.

	Large boats.	Small boats.
*1846 ...	88	229
1869 ...	87	276

8. Mr. Hall carefully observed the method of manufacturing Coir, on which the revenue of the Island mainly depends, and the instructions on the subject which he issued are judicious.

Collector's letter, paragraphs 29 and 30.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 36 and 37.

The use of Salt-water steeping pits should be encouraged as much as possible, but ancient customs should not be needlessly interfered with either in this respect or in respect to claims to transport of the Coir of their dependants to the coast on the part of the principal boat-owners. This matter is specially connected with those social conditions and land tenures of the people, which must be respected. This remark has special reference to paragraph 34 of the Collector's letter. Patamars should not be despatched as contemplated to bring the Coir to the Coast.

Collector's letter, paragraph 34.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 45 to 48.

9. The Board approve (Collector's letter, paragraph 30) of allowing the Islanders a bonus of 25 per cent. on the net profit to Government from the improved quality and market price of the Coir thereby secured, if practical difficulties can be removed; the Collector should explain more fully how it could be arranged, and state the financial effect of the measure, calculated for the last five

Collector's letter, paragraph 30.

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10. The Board will be glad to hear that the Islanders adopt any really improved method of cleaning or twisting Coir which may be shown to them. But it must be borne in mind that the work of Coir-spinning is specially suited to the female population, and affords them full and useful employment, while the male adults are engaged in fishing and trading expeditions. This division of labour is by no means objectionable, and any serious or sudden derangement of it is to be deprecated.

11. Plantation industry has made satisfactory advance, as shown by the number of trees which have been added since 1844, say sixty-five per cent. And in other respects the advance in comfort is satisfactory. But much judgment is required in introducing rat-eating vermin. The Islanders' wishes should be consulted before the measures commenced are further continued.

	1844.	1869.
Amindivi	61,172	1,01,003
Kadamat	3,319	13,165
Kiltan	29,297	59,267
Chetlat	25,665	27,861
	1,22,453	2,01,298

Collector's letter, paragraphs 37 to 46.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 58 to 63.

12. The Board would await further report on the subject of education, etc. They consider that inter-island relations should not be disturbed by any action of the Collector. The island of Kadamat* is progressing favourably as it is, and evidently is not yet in a condition to stand by itself altogether independent of its richer and more populous neighbour Amindivi.

Collector's letter, paragraphs 44 and 45.
Mr. Hall's do. do. 85 to 88.

	* Population.	Increase.
1844... ..	133	3,319
1869... ..	183	13,165

13. The Board consider that the report is on the whole very satisfactory, and evidences the late Mr. Hall's care and attention to the duty entrusted to him.

No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 9th September 1870, No. 1,428.

Miscellaneous.

THE principal features in Mr. Hall's report on the Laccadive Islands which call for the notice of Government are—

- (1.) The changing configuration of the Islands and the formation of fresh Coral Reefs.
- (2.) The judicial administration of the Islands.
- (3.) The trade in Coir.
- (4.) The education of the Islanders.

2. In regard to the first point the Government do not consider that the necessity of improving the harbour of Kiltan has been sufficiently demonstrated to warrant any outlay for the purpose. The Acting Collector has taken steps for ascertaining the cost of checking the inroads of the sea on the Island of Chetlat by carrying out a project which was suggested to Mr. Hall by the Islanders. Some efforts in this direction appear necessary, and the Government are prepared to encourage the proposed scheme by providing the cost of supervision and materials, but labour should be supplied by the Islanders whose condition under British rule does not call for further aid.

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3. The present system of judicial administration, particularly in regard to the repression of crime, appears ill-suited to the growing wealth and population of the Islands. A Monigar who exercises the powers of a Village Magistrate under Regulations XI. of 1816 and IV. of 1821, and of a Village Moonsiff under Regulations IV. and V. of 1816 is the only resident officer of Government. On the criminal side his primary jurisdiction is limited to the punishment of trivial offences with imprisonment not exceeding twelve hours and confinement in the Stocks not exceeding six hours, and to the infliction of fines under the Cattle Trespass Act; while he can in addition exercise powers akin to those of a Police Officer. On the civil side he can only try Suits, the subject of which does not exceed ten Arcot Rupees in value, but he can, if both parties consent, summon Panchayets for the decision of Suits without limitation as to amount or value.

4. With respect to magisterial administration Mr. Thomas writes: "It will be remembered that the nearest Islands are, in the fair weather, three days' sail from the main land; that even then no vessel will set out for them, except under the conduct of an Islander well acquainted with their navigation; that during the greater part of the year they are altogether unapproachable; that they are separated some of them a few days' sail from each other; that practically they are not visited more than once in two years; and that they are inhabited by Mussal-mans." Under these circumstances it must be in all cases difficult, and in some nearly impossible, to secure the punishment on the main land of offences committed in the Islands, and that criminal returns having reference to a population of 3,684 should, during three years, exhibit none but petty offences is a circumstance not to be wondered at.

5. In remedy of this state of things the Acting Collector points out two alternatives, viz., either the location in the Islands of a second-class Subordinate Magistrate, or the selection from among the Islanders themselves of individuals qualified to conduct a system of justice partially independent of that in force on the main land.

6. Even in the absence of the difficulty referred to by Mr. Thomas in paragraph 9 of his letter, the first alternative could not be adopted, because, owing to the interposition of the sea, it would be impossible in a large majority of cases for appeals to be preferred from the decisions of the Subordinate Magistrate.

7. The second alternative proposed by Mr. Thomas is that each Island should possess a separate Council "with criminal powers extending for the present to one month's rigorous imprisonment with 50 Rupees fine or fifty lashes with a cat-o'-nine-tail, and that no cases should be brought for trial on the main land, except murder, and such as the Council preferred to send." This is indefinite, and Mr. Thomas does not state to what class of the inhabitants he would entrust these important duties. On reference, however, to Mr. W. Robinson's report (paragraph 72), the Government observe that in all the Islands there are hereditary heads of families termed Karoomars, who, up to 1846, settled all petty disputes, and, especially in Amindivi, possessed considerable local influence, and, possibly, this class might supply the requisite material for a Council. It appears to the Government worthy of consideration whether it would not be expedient that the present Panchayet system should be altered, that a certain number of influential persons should be nominated to act as jurors, and that settlement of Civil actions within a certain

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th September 1870.*

limit should be rendered compulsorily adjudicable by the Panchayet presided over by the Monigar. In criminal cases the Monigar might be invested with larger powers, and the Panchayet converted into a jury. An Assistant might visit the Islands yearly, examine the record of each case tried, and generally investigate the progress of affairs under the new regime. It is probably some arrangement of this kind which is contemplated by Mr. Thomas; but his whole project requires elaboration, and the Board should discuss the question with the Acting Collector.

8. The quality of the Coir supplied by the Islanders has been for some years the ground of complaint. This probably results from the system under which the Coir is paid for at an unvarying price, and without regard to the quality of each consignment. As a remedy the Acting Collector proposes to grant the Islanders a per-centage on the increased profits which have been realized by the Government on the sale of the Coir, and he would also grant them the arrears of this per-centage which have accumulated during the last four fusties to the amount of Rupees 4,401. The first measure, which will give the Islanders an interest in improving the manufacture for the future, appears to the Government extremely judicious, and the Acting Collector is authorized to carry it into effect, but the Government see no reason to give the arrangement retrospective effect.

9. From Mr. Hall's report it may be inferred that the Islanders are beginning to appreciate the advantages of education which has not as yet received any attention, for they expressed to Mr. Hall their willingness to build a school at Amindivi without the co-operation of Government. The Acting Collector is requested to report whether a teacher qualified to instruct the children in reading and writing the Vernacular, and generally to aid the growth of their intelligence, can be induced to reside at Amindivi on a suitable salary from Government. If such a man can be found, the Islanders should be at once encouraged to build a school.

10. The Government deem it unnecessary to pass orders on the numerous questions of inferior moment raised in the report, the disposal of which is left to the Board and Collector. Mr. Thomas's plan for checking the multiplication of the rats, which threatened to become a source of serious mischief to the prosperity of the Islands, was well devised, and appears to promise successful results. The Government will await the further report promised by the Collector in paragraph 45 of his letter on the complaints of the Kadamat Islanders. The Government think it desirable that some simple machine should be introduced for spinning Coir. The use of such a machine would not derange the existing division of labour, while it would improve the product and lighten the work. The Board might inquire along the coast whether such a machine is known.

11. The Islands should continue to be called the Laccadive, and not the "Coral" Islands.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,

Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

Edw. F. R. Bantleman.

186

Rev. 1870. Oct
Board of Revenue
MADRAS. No. 1642

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH MAY 1870, No. 3,036.

Sept 2 June 70
Received 3 Encl.

Sept 14 28-9 Sept 70

MAY.
No. 3,036.
No to be despatched to the the Collector
Coral Islands—attached to South Canara District.—Letter from Collector submitting late Assistant Collector, Mr. Hall's report on, forwarded to Government, with remarks.

Pro 14 Dec 13 ho 234-35
- 2 Sep 67 - 3-4
- 8 Dec 67 - 150-57
- 22 Sep 68 - 336-37
- 5 Oct 68 - 91-92

126
C. B. May 70 No. 24

Reported to England
of 21st Oct 1834-1870 No.

25.6.97
26.7.97

Original
Bolt. of 1870
MADRAS.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy, Secy, Secy

Dated September, 9th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 9th September, 1870, No. 1,428.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 126-127.

1870 No. 141. Nos.
21st Oct 1870

Laccadive Islands.—Proceedings Board of Revenue submitting Mr. Hall's Report in connection with them, reviewed.

29. Revenue Report
No. 1428

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 9th Sept 1900

Read the following
Pr. of the B. of Revenue.

Forwarding with
renewal letter from both
subing late Mr. Collyer & Mr.
Hall's report on the Amendin
Islands attached to the
South Canara District -

M.E. 7th May 1900 No. 3036.

Laccadive

N.
L.O.S.
M.A.

The principal
features in Mr. Hall's
report on the ^{Laccadive} Amendin
Islands which call for
the notice of Govt are

- (1) The changing con-
figuration of the islands
and the formation of
fresh coral reefs.
- (2) The judicial
administration of the
islands.
- (3) The trade in Coir

(4) The education of the islanders.

2. In regard to the first point, the Govt do not consider that the necessity of improving the harbour of Kiltaw has been sufficiently demonstrated to warrant any outlay for the purpose. The M^r. Collector has taken steps for ascertaining the cost of checking the inroads of the sea on the island of Che Hat, by carrying out a project which was suggested to M^r. Hall by the islanders. Some efforts in this direction appear necessary, and the Govt are prepared to encourage the proposed scheme

scheme by providing the cost of supervision and materials, but labour should be supplied by the islanders whose condition under British rule does not call for further aid.

3. The present system of judicial administration, particularly in regard to the repression of crime appears ill-adapted to the growing wealth and population of the islands. A Muniger who exercises the powers of a Village Magistrate under Regulation XI of 1806, and IV of 1821, and of a Village Munsiff under Regulations IV and V of 1816, is the only resident

resident officer of Court.
On the criminal side
his primary jurisdiction
is limited to the punish-
ment of trivial offences,
with imprisonment not
exceeding twelve hours and
confinement in the
stocks not exceeding six
hours, and to the imposi-
tion of fines under the
Cattle Trespass Act, while
he can, in addition ex-
ercise powers akin to
those of a Police officer.
On the Civil side he
can only try suits, the
subject of which does not
exceed ten Acre Rupees
in value, but he can,
if both parties consent,
summon ⁵⁰⁰ punchayats
for

for the decision of
suits, without limita-
tion as to amount or
value.
4. A decided change ap-
pears impending. With respect
to Magisterial ad-
ministration Mr.
Thomas writes "I will
be remembered, that
"the nearest islands
"are in the fair weather
"three days' sail from
"the main land, that
"even then no vessel
"will set out for them
"except under the con-
"duct of an islander
"well acquainted with
"their navigation, that
"during the greater
"part of the year they
"are altogether unap-
"proachable, that
"they are separated
"some of them a few
"days' sail from each
"other, that practi-
"cally they are not
visited

"visited more than once
"in two years, and that
"they are inhabited
"by Mussalmans." Under
these circumstances
it must be in all cases
difficult, and in some
nearly impossible
to secure the punish-
ment on the main-
land of offences
committed in the
islands, and that
criminal returns
having reference to
a population of 3,684
should, during three
years, exhibit more
but petty offences,
is a circumstance
not to be wondered
at. —

5. — In remedy of
this state of things,
the Acting Coll^o points
out two alternatives:

viz

37
viz — either the loca-
tion in the islands
of a second class sub-
ordinate Mag^{te}, or
the selection from among
the islanders themselves
of individuals quali-
fied to conduct a
system of justice
partially independent
of that in force on
the mainland. —

6. Even in the
absence of the dif-
ficulty referred to
by Mr. Thomas in
para. 9 of his letter,
the first alternative
could not be adopted
because owing to the
interposition of the
sea, it would be
impossible in a
large majority of
cases for appeals
to be preferred from
the decisions of the
the

the subordinate Ma-
gistrate. —

4. The second alter-
native proposed by
Mr. Thomas is that,
each island should
possess a separate
Council "with primi-
"val powers extending
"for the present to one
"month's rigorous im-
"prisonment with 50 R.
"fine or fifty lashes
"with a cat-o-nine tails,
"and that no cases should
"be brought for trial
"on the mainland &
"except murder, and
"such as the Council
"preferred to send".

This is indefinite
and Mr. Thomas
does not state to
what class of the
inhabitants he
would entrust
these

3
these important duties. In
reference, however, to Mr. W.
Robinson's report (para 78)
the Govt observe that in all
the Islands there are
hereditary heads of families
termed Haroomars who
up to 1846 settled all
petty disputes, and especially
in Amindivi possessed con-
siderable local influence,
& possibly this class might
supply the requisite ma-
terial for a Council.

It appears to the Govt
expedient that the
present Panchayet
system should be
altered, that a certain
number of influential
persons should be nominated
to act as jurors, & that
settlement

worthy of consideration
whether it is used or not

settlement of Civil actions
within a certain limit
should be rendered compul-
sory adjudicable by the
Punchayet presided over
by the Munigar. In criminal
cases the Munigar might
be invested with larger
powers, & the Punchayet
converted into a jury.
An Assistant might
visit the islands every year,
examine the record of each
case tried and generally
investigate the progress of
affairs under the new
regime. It is probably
some arrangement of this
kind which is contemplated
by Mr. Thomas, but his
whole project requires
elaboration, & the Board
should

should discuss the question
with him. ^{6/4}
The quality of
the Coir supplied by the
Islanders has been for
some years the ground
of complaint. This probably
results from the system
under which the coir
is paid for at an un-
varying price and
without regard to the
quality of each consign-
ment. As a remedy
the Aff. Collr. proposes
to grant the Islanders
a percentage on the
increased profits which
have been realized by
the Govt in the sale of
the Coir, and he would
also prevent them the
carriers

arrears of this percentage
which have accumulated
during the last four months
to the amount of \$250.00
The first measure which
will give the Islanders
an interest in improving
the manufacture for the
future, appears to the
Govt extremely judicious,
and the H. C. is
authorized to carry it into
effect, but the Govt has
no reason to give the
arrangement retrospective
effect.

9. From Mr. Hall's
report it may be in-
ferred that the
Islanders are begin-
ning to appreciate the
advantages of education
which has not as yet
received

with the cooperation
of Govt.
R.P.

received any attention, for
they expressed to Mr. Hall
their willingness to build
a school at Amundiv
(free of expense.) The H. C.
Collector is requested to report
whether a teacher quali-
fied to instruct the children
in reading and writing
the vernacular and
generally to aid the
growth of their intelligence
can be induced to reside
at Amundiv on a
suitable salary from Govt.
If such a man can be
found, the Islanders
should be at once en-
couraged to build a school
10. The Govt deems it
unnecessary to pass upon
the numerous
questions

questions of inferior moment
raised in the report, the
disposal of which is left
to the Board of Collectors.
Mr. Thomas' plan for
checking the multipli-
cation of the rats which
threatened to become a
source of serious mischief
to the prosperity of the
Islands was well devised
and appears to promise
successful results. The
Govt. will await the
further report promised
by the Govt. in para 45
of his letter on the com-
plaints of the Kodomat
Islanders. The Govt.
think it desirable
that some simple machine
should be introduced
for

Spinning Coir. The use
of such a machine would
not derange the existing
division of labor while
it would improve the
product and lighten
the work. The Board
might enquire along the
Coast, whether such a
machine is known.
11. The Islands should
continue to be called the
Amendivi & not the
"Coral" Islands.
M

To the Board of Collectors
6. - Aceto General

40
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