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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 2,153.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st October 1873.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 12th August 1873, No. 1,310A :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Laccadive Islands attached to the district of South Canara.

G. O., 27th February 1868, No. 531, R. D.

2. The smallness of the district staff has precluded their being visited since 1869.

3. My present Assistant Mr. Stokes's report is enclosed. It is so thorough that it is neither necessary nor desirable that I should add to it more than can be avoided. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the few paragraphs which seem to call for them.

4. PLANTATION—*Paragraph* 6.—Measures will be taken to secure a correct return for each island.

5. EDUCATION—*Paragraphs* 9 *and* 10.—Neither the isolated position of the people, nor any of their avocations make much call for education, which is consequently at as low an ebb as in some parts of England; and a roll of four boys and one girl for a whole island is not a very promising spectacle. I am of opinion, therefore, that education should not be forced upon them, but such only as they need placed within their reach. In my view, the mean in this matter can best be reached practically by the modified results-grant system, propounded in my letter, No. 339, dated 13th June 1873*. It is out of the question that an educational officer should be sent to these islands for the purpose of examining them, and declaring the results on which the payments are to be made. The Monegar will be quite competent to make these elementary examinations and petty grants, and his proceedings will come under review when the islands are visited by a European officer.

* Addressed by me as President of the Local Fund Board.

6. SANITARY CONDITION—*Paragraphs* 12 *and* 13.—The want of a "Hospital Assistant" has been brought† forward separately, and I would now support the proposal for supply of an obstetric nurse for three years. The wife of the Hospital Assistant sanctioned can possibly qualify for this post for a lower payment than would satisfy a separate individual.

† Board's Procs., 21st June 1873, No. 1,074.

7. RECORDS—*Paragraph* 14.—Provision will be made in my estimate of extra charges for the additional boxes required to hold the records and for the office-furniture to be supplied to the Monegar.

8. RATS—*Paragraphs* 15, 16, *and* 17.—The pest of rats is an old standing evil. The reason for my sending mongooses were fully given in my former report‡. Mr. Stokes thinks they have made no impression on the rats; but the bare fact that

‡ Dated 2nd April 1870, No. 429.

"the mongooses have multiplied greatly" is, in itself, sufficient proof that they have been doing their work; for they could not have multiplied freely without liberal food, and their almost sole sustenance in the islands must be the rats they can catch. The rats being more seen in the trees than formerly is also an indication that the ground is dangerous to them, and that the dry grain crops are protected by the mongooses. The large owls I have now sent are calculated to supplement the powers of the mongoose by pursuing the rats in the trees. I am a little afraid that they may not take to the islands for want of large hollow trees in which to rear their young and rest. Natural remedies like the above are apt to be under-valued, because they are not well marked and noticeable in their action; but they are not the less sure, natural, and progressive. The harmless rat-snakes have evidently been slaughtered by the ignorance that looks upon every serpent with horror. If the mongooses and owls manage to ingratiate themselves better, they will in time suffice; meanwhile, it is not said that they are doing any harm.

For the white worm complained of, the right remedy is, I believe, the jay; but I have hesitated to move too much in this matter without the Board's approval.

A memorandum (enclosure No. 2), showing the charges incurred in connection with the owls, is submitted for sanction.

9. Pounds—*Paragraph* 19.—Fresh funds will be supplied for the construction of more durable pounds for the confinement of stray cattle. I have ascertained that a pound, with stone-walls, may be built on the islands for Rupees 25, and accordingly the required amount for four such structures will be forwarded to the Monegar by the first opportunity on the close of the present monsoon. The rate of fine was necessarily reduced on the introduction of the Cattle Trespass Act in the islands in 1871, but as Mr. Stokes states it has proved ineffectual; it must be increased.

10. Mr. Robinson's Charity—*Paragraph* 20.—I have already ordered the admission of four persons mentioned to the benefits of Mr. Robinson's Charity Fund, the proceeds of which are sufficient to cover the extra charge.

11. Export Returns—*Paragraph* 24.—The difference between export returns and the receipts of coir at Mangalore is, I understand, due to the coir not being properly weighed at the islands before shipment and the Moktessors being in the habit of generally under-stating the quantity with a view to defraud their tenants and the more ignorant of the inhabitants from whom the coir is purchased, or by whom it is shipped in their boats, and which persons, I hear, are paid for the nominal quantity entered in the islands, while the Moktessors receive full payment from Government on the mainland. It appears that no scales were ever supplied for the use of the islands. I have, therefore, separately submitted an indent for four pairs of scales, and on receipt will see that they are distributed and used on the islands in properly weighing the coir shipped.

12. Coir Monopoly—*Paragraph* 35.—The Statement No. 4, appended to the report, gives correctly the financial result of the coir monopoly system, showing an average annual net profit of Rupees 7,437. The cost of a Vaccinator maintained on the islands and medicines supplied for gratuitous distribution is not deducted by Mr. Stokes, but it cannot materially reduce the average. It must be observed that this average is much reduced by one unusual item in the charges, viz., the freight of a steamer sent to the islands with supply of rice in relief of the islanders in 1871.

13. *Paragraphs* 36 *to* 37.—Extra taxation for educational or other purposes is not contemplated.

14. Arguments against the Monopoly—*Paragraph* 39.—The question of the retention of the monopoly as the most suitable and popular form of realizing a revenue from the islands has long ago been decided* in the affirmative, and the time has not arrived for re-opening it.

* Honourable Court of Directors, 10th May 1847, No. 26; G. O., 2nd September 1867, No. 2,045; Revenue Board's Proceedings, 23rd October 1863, No. 6,812.

It must, however, be noted, with reference to Mr. Stokes's comparison of the rate of taxation on the islands with that on the mainland, that the former is the result of the comparatively high prices fetched for the coir by a system under which the coir is disposed of wholesale by auctions under Government superintendence; while, if the trade was left to the islanders, and they were permitted to retail their own produce, the same results could not be expected by them. Again, one single adversity such as necessitated the despatch of a steamer to the islands with provisions to avoid a famine in 1863 and 1871, swamps all gains derived by Government from the coir monopoly.

15. Harbour Improvements—*Paragraph* 57.—I concur with Mr. Stokes that harbour improvements are not wanted. As regards the proposal that the men whose land is being washed away in Chetlat should be allowed to plant on the accretions, this is only a piece of justice to the men; and, if the Board approve, I will issue an order abolishing the present custom under which the right to plant is claimed by the neighbouring owners of land.

16. Tenure in Land—*Paragraph* 58.—The questions raised in this paragraph, with reference to intermixed plantations, land-tenure, boundary-marks, and tenant-emancipation, being all within the personal knowledge of one Member of the Board who has visited the islands, suggestions from one who has not seen the islands would seem to be of little value.

17. That we may not be carried away by too exalted a view of the importance of these islands, it is as well to bear in mind that the total area of all of them together amounts only to a fractional part of Guindy Park for instance.

18. Civil and Criminal Administration—*Paragraphs* 52 *to* 56.—With reference to the future civil and criminal administration of the islands, Mr. Stokes suggests that in any arrangement made for this purpose the distance of the different islands from each other should be considered, and that separate Monegars should be appointed for Kiltan and Chetlat. This arrangement is feasible, and should, in my opinion, be carried out, as it will tend to the convenience of the islanders, while Government interests are not only not likely to suffer by the arrangement, but will be furthered thereby, as it seems that the presence of a Government officer on each island will secure better order and discipline therein; and perhaps these officers could by their personal efforts stimulate the islanders to increased industry and the manufacture of a larger quantity of coir than they have hitherto turned out.

19. Mr. Stokes's proposal for the reorganization of the present establishment and for allowing a small remuneration to the Ugranies for the performance of the Police duties will only involve an extra annual cost of Rupees 192. The number of Peons, both on the islands and the mainland, can be reduced as proposed, an extra hand being entertained on the latter for the few months during which coir is imported and when the services of an extra Peon are required. The following is the cost of the present and proposed establishment:—

Present Establishment.	Per Annum. Rs.	*Proposed Establishment.*	Per Annum. Rs.
1 Monegar for all four islands, on Rupees 70 per mensem	840	1 Monegar, on Rupees 50	600
8 Peons, on Rupees 6 each	576	4 Peons, on Rupees 6 each	288
4 Karanis, on 84 Mudahs of rice, average price	220	4 Karanis (average allowance) ...	220
		Allowance to 8 Ugranies for Police duties, at Rupees 2 each ...	192
		2 Sub-Monegars for Kiltan and Chetlat, on Rupees 25 each ...	600
	1,636		1,990
On the Mainland.		*On the Mainland.*	
1 Gumastah, on Rupees 15	180	1 Gumastah, on Rupees 15	180
1 Weigher, on Rupees 7	84	1 Weigher, on Rupees 7	84
4 Peons, at Rupees 6 each	288	3 Peons, at Rupees 6 each	216
	552		480
Total...	2,188		2,380
		Deduct present Cost...	2,188
		Increase...	192

20. Mr. Stokes strongly advocates, as suggested by the Board and Government, the introduction on the islands of an Act similar in provisions to the Agency Act No. XXIV. of 1839, and a system of mixed tribunals on each island for the administration of civil and criminal justice, these tribunals being independent of each other; in other words, that each island (except Kadamat) should have a separate Monegar for itself aided by Assessors for the transaction of all civil and criminal business, the powers of the Monegars on the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat being more limited than those of the Monegar to be appointed for Amini and Kadamat.

21. I endorse these proposals which are in general accord with my formerly reported view, that any scheme devised for the administration of these islands must, to be effective, give a local administration as independent as possible of the mainland. I accordingly beg to submit, for the Board's approval, draft of an Act and Rules, in which, I think, I have provided for all the existing wants of the islanders.

22. In the portion of the rules relating to the administration of civil justice, I have provided for the Monegar at Amini deciding all disputes up to the limit of Rupees 200, and the other Monegars, who will have to be called "Sub-Monegars," cases in which the value of the subject-matter in dispute does not exceed Rupees 100. This limit is, I think, necessary with reference to the comparatively lower status and inferior position of the officials who will occupy the latter two posts. Looking to the nature of civil disputes usually arising in the islands, and the general poverty of the inhabitants, it is but rarely that suits of a higher value will occur, and such suits may be decided either on the mainland or on the spot during the periodical visits of the Assistants.

23. In the Criminal Rules, provision is made for the Monegar in Amini exercising the powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 3rd class, and the Sub-Monegars the powers of a Village Magistrate; but in both cases I consider it desirable, owing to the isolated position of the islands and the peculiar character of the inhabitants, that the aid of Assessors should be sought in all trials, with a view to provide a check on an improper use of authority by the Monegars, who will be so far removed from all inspection or control of European officers; and I propose to encourage, to the utmost, the use of the Punchayat system, by which the intervention of the Government officers will be, in a great measure, rendered unnecessary, and the islanders trained to self-government.

24. The Ugranies mentioned in paragraphs 50 and 53, clause 4, of Mr. Stokes's letter, seem the fittest persons to be entrusted with Police duties, and I recommend the proposal to allow them a small monthly remuneration of Rupees 2 each.

25. In the Revenue Rules there seems no necessity at present for inserting any provisions beyond what is required for legalizing the existing coir monopoly, and rendering it penal for the inhabitants to dispose of coir otherwise than by sale to Government; at the same time, I have so worded the clause that any subsequent modifications of the monopoly that Government may see fit to make will not be contrary to law. Provision has been made for the performance by the Monegars of the duties of Customs officers in their respective ports.

26. Cattle pounds and adequate fines have been provided for and the calling of assemblages or koots for island purposes legalized.

27. Grievances of the Islanders.—*Paragraph* 59, *Clause I.*—Under the orders of Government quoted by Mr. Stokes, the price of supplies sent to the islanders in 1871 is recoverable in three annual instalments. The first has been paid up, and the second and third are due. I agree with Mr. Stokes in thinking that payment of these within the next two years will press unduly on the people, and recommend that the amount of the remaining two instalments be distributed over the next three years as follows:—

		Proposed Instalments. Rs.	A.	P.
Amount due, Rupees 7,754-9-0	1874	2,584	13	8
	1875	2,584	13	8
	1876	2,584	13	8
		7,754	9	0

28. Clause II.—On the retirement of the late Monegar, I found myself obliged, at the last moment, to send a Christian to fill up his post, simply because I could not find among the Mussalmans in this district a single man willing to go that I would dare to entrust with the unsupervised and practically uncontrolled power which the Monegar exercises, now that his powers are enhanced. I looked in vain among the willing Mussalmans for a man in whose character for uprightness I had suffi-

cient reliance to feel comfortable in trusting him in such a post. At the eleventh hour the present Christian Monegar offered his services, and it was quite a relief to me to find a man who, in the post of Municipal Inspector of Mangalore, had proved himself an *honest* as well as intelligent man. Considering that there is no caste objection to Mussalmans eating with Christians, I made the appointment as a temporary and tentative one, and the only satisfactory one open to me at the time. The man I sent had just joined his appointment at the time of Mr. Stokes's visit, and the objections made to his religion by the islanders must, in some measure, be attributed to the novelty of the appointment in their minds rather than to any disapproval of his management, of which they had had no time to judge. As, however, the salary of the post will now be reduced under the proposed scheme, the man will necessarily revert to his post on the mainland, and a Massalman can then be selected either from this or the Malabar District.

29. Clause III.—I readily admit that the circumstances of the islanders as regards the consumption of salt are different from those on the mainland where people are less dependent for their food on salted fish and other provisions which must be stored and secured for a whole monsoon. At present, they are allowed to purchase, at cost-price, 1 Indian maund of salt to every candy of coir imported. I would recommend that this quantity be raised to 1¼ Indian maund in future, provided that the quantity of coir delivered to Government each year does not fall short of the average of the last twenty years.

30. Clause IV.—With reference to the complaints about the quality and short weight of rice, I can only point out that the system of supply is as good as any I can devise, and that the islanders have been formerly found (Mr. Hall's report) all too ready to complain; in fact, they are in many ways very children to deal with. They cannot be trusted with the money to buy for themselves, and if, by any other system of credits, they were allowed to select and purchase their own rice, I fear those left in the islands would not thank the Government for having withdrawn from the arrangement of the supply and left it to their own people.

31. With reference to the proposal* which I had the honour to make in 1870, it is very satisfactory to see that it has fulfilled my anticipations. The promise to the islanders that if they manufactured a superior coir they should participate in any enhanced price it might obtain in the market has led to such an improvement that, whereas the former auction price† of coir was Rupees 40 and odd a candy, the price realized at auction in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) was Rupees 47-11-5, and in fasli 1282 (A.D. 1872-73) Rupees 56-13-5 per candy; resulting in an enhanced profit‡ to Government of Rupees 5,190-5-4 in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and Rupees 12,140-6-0 in fasli 1282 (A.D. 1872-73) over and above their former sale-proceeds. That the whole of this enhancement is due to improved manufacture I cannot positively say; some measure of it may possibly be due to the state of the market which I have not the means of testing. Coming as it does, however, simultaneously with the time* when I pressed them to improve their manufactures, and in such contrast with all former years, we may, I think, fairly attribute the bulk of the increased price to the value of the coir being directly increased by the better manufacture of the islanders; and they are, in my view, fairly entitled to a share of the profits resulting from their labour during all the years in which they brought us that profit; but as the Government order† forbids retrospective effect or payment for results being given for years fasli 1278 (A.D. 1868-69), 1279 (1869-70), and 1280 (1870-71), I deal only with fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (1872-73) as above quoted. I am very much ashamed, however, to find that, whether from oversight or hesitation, the promise has not, during my absence in England, been redeemed, and that amongst the islanders' grievances, is this complaint of breach of faith.

32. The cause for hesitation seems to have been the largeness of the sum to be given to the islanders under the Government order‡, namely, Rupees 3,788-11-2§ in fasli 1280 (A.D.1871-72) and Rupees 8,862-3-2§ in fasli 1282 (A.D. 1872-73), and the probable ill consequences of such a sudden accession of wealth to people so childish and indolent as the islanders.

33. My original proposal was that the islanders should have the same share of the increased income as they now have of the ordinary income, and to this the Government‖ consented. The Board, however, thought they should have only 25 per cent. of the net profits, and wished to see actual results. I have the honour, therefore, to enclose two statements (marked A and B), showing, from an average of twenty years' accounts, that in rice and salt the islanders have received 63·21 per cent. of the gross profits, leaving 36·79 per cent. to Government; that even after including all the items of increased expenditure, which it is proposed in this report to undertake, there would still remain a profit out of the old income of 6·59¶ per cent. to Government; so that those items of increased expenditure need not trench on the enhanced income shown in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (A.D. 1872-73), and are not dependent on its being maintained; and even out of the old income we could still afford, without direct loss, to give the islanders 6·59 per cent. If, according to the Board's view, we gave them 25 per cent. out of the enhanced net profits of fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (A.D. 1872-73), we should have to pay them Rupees 902-4-9 and Rupees 2,991-10-2 for fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (A.D. 1872-73) respectively.

34. Being thus assured that our expenditure, both present and prospective, is within our income, and not** desiring to make a profit out of these islands, we are in a position safely to grant the percentage incentive rewards proposed, and

* Since fasly 1278 (A.D. 1868-69).

† 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, Revenue Department.

‡ 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, paragraph 8.

§ *Vide* Statement B.

‖ Paragraph 8 of G. O., 9th September 1870, No. 1,428.

¶ This is exclusive of the amount of Peishcush remitted to the Cannanore Rajah.

* Paragraph 30 of my letter, 2nd April 1870, No. 429.

† As shown by the average of ten and of twenty years' sales.

‡ *Vide* Statement B.

** Mr. Blane's report to the Board, 22nd August 1816, No. 70, paragraph 3.

the only question that remains is the rate at which they should be calculated. The Board have suggested 25 per cent. of the net, and accepting this, the sums to be paid to the islanders in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and fasli 1282 (1872-73), respectively, will be Rupees 902-4-9 and Rs. 2,991-10-2.

35. But these payments should be subject to the condition that the annual supply of coir does not fall short of 674 candies, the average of twenty years, though it may be as much in excess thereof as their energies can make it. But though we may calculate the net profits to assure us of our position, I do not think it is a fair principle on which to pay the islanders; for it will make their *bonus* dependent not on their own energies, but on the extravagance of our administration, and I would prefer that no change be made in the rate or manner of payments, so long as the coir does not exceed 674 candies a-year in quantity, or fetch more than Rupees 40 a-candy, but that when it fetches more they shall receive a *bonus* of 25 per cent. of the increased prices in addition to the ordinary payments made in rate and manner as heretofore.

36. It will be remembered that Dr. Shortt also availed himself of the opportunity to visit the Laccadives in company with the party from South Canara and Malabar. His recommendation that a Hospital Assistant should be supplied has been approved* by Government. He is further good enough to promise me the simple machine we have so long desired for the manufacture of the coir yarn. When his sample machine is received, it will be given a thorough trial on the mainland, and, if approved, one pattern will be sent to each island.

* G. O., 10th July 1873, No. 717, R. D.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. STOKES, Esq., Assistant Collector, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Hosdrug, 22nd May 1873, No. 95.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 67, of the 16th January 1873, I have the honour to submit, for your perusal, the following report on the Laccadive Islands, visited by me in the month of February last.

2. The group consists in all of the islands marginally shown, of which the five first are attached to this district; the last four are under the Rajah of Cannanore. I visited all, except Minecoy. The islands under the Rajah of Cannanore are much larger, and more populous than those under this district. The total superficial area of the former islands is about seven and-a-half or eight square-miles, with a population of between 5,500 and 6,000, while ours have a superficial area of but from six and-a-half to seven square-miles, with a population of 3,725. The soil of the former islands also seems richer on the whole, and they are all, with the exception of Androt, surrounded by lagoons very much larger and deeper than those surrounding ours. The material condition of the people seems much better; they seem better housed and clothed. This is probably due to the fact that, during the last five or six years, the authority of the Rajah, and with it the coir and other monopolies, has been entirely disregarded, and the people trading freely with the coast, and paying no tax or impost of any kind, except import duties on their coir, have realized large profits. In addition to this, there is in these islands a large extent of land, probably one-fourth of the whole islands, which is only half planted, viz., the Pandarum lands, or those

1. Amini.	Attached to Canara.
2. Kadamat.	
3. Kiltan.	
4. Chetlat.	
5. Bitra.	
6. Agalti.	Under the Rajah of Cannanore.
7. Kowrathy.	
8. Kalpeni	
9. Androt.	
10. Minecoy.	

which the Rajah claims as his own, and lets out to the islanders at a rent of, I believe, half produce. This rent was collected by the Rajah's Agents, but when the islanders shook off his authority, they refused to pay any rent, and so for six or more years they have enjoyed this land rent-free.

3. There has been for some time past no government of any kind in these islands; the only mode of settling disputes being the arbitration of the Moktessors, who, being unrestrained in any way, have, it is to be feared, abused the authority which came into their hands. The people, therefore, are very anxious that some sort of government should be set up; and it is another proof of the popularity of the monopoly system in the islands, that, if asked, they petition with one voice that the same system prevailing in the Canara islands should be introduced among them, and with it some administration of justice. The fact that these islands have not fallen into a state of hopeless anarchy in the long period during which they have been absolutely without a government may fairly, I think, be adduced as a proof of the needlessness and unsuitability to the islands of this group of any system of criminal and civil administration, but one drawn up in the simplest and plainest form. With the above exceptions, there is no material difference, whether in physical characteristics or in the habits and customs prevailing among the people, between the Cannanore islands and those under this district. So very much alike are all these islands that the general description of the Government islands contained in Mr. Robinson's report might be applied to the other islands of the group almost verbatim. There is, perhaps, in the Cannanore islands more life and self-dependence than appears in those under this district, which I can only attribute to the time during which they have enjoyed the advantages and exciting influences of free trade.

4. With these few remarks on the general condition, etc., of the islands under the Rajah of Cannanore, I pass on to the more immediate object of this report, viz., the condition and requirements of the islands under this district. Avoiding as much as possible recapitulation of what is to be found in previous reports, I shall merely bring to your notice what seems to me to call for consideration at the present.

5. *General Condition, etc.*—In the general condition of the islanders, their social habits, style of houses and living, etc., no change is noticeable. Mr. Robinson's description of the islands is as true now as it was twenty-five years ago even to the smallest particulars. Though population has advanced of late years, it seems to have done so quite as rapidly as its means of subsistence; there has consequently been no rise in the general standard of comfort in the islands.

Plantation.

Names of Islands.	Cocoanut Trees.					Other Trees.				Gardens or Plantations, etc.		
	Bearing Trees.	Decayed Trees.	Large Plants.	Small Plants.	Total.	Bread-fruit Trees.	Lime Trees.	Honne.	Areca-nut.	Plantain.	Yellain.	Betel.
Amini... ...	44,069	5,976	12,420	18,512	80,977	696	340	68	85	117	134	135
Kadamat ...	5,301	563	3,025	6,284	15,178	33	14	5	...	...	4	13
Kiltan... ...	19,665	2,239	8,339	6,714	36,957	38	28	4	...	...	...	71
Chetlat ...	13,439	2,474	4,844	8,408	29,165	16	16	7	...	...	...	35
Total...	82,474	11,252	28,628	39,918	1,32,277	783	398	84	85	117	138	254

6. *Planting waste Land.*—The above are the returns of planting made by the Monegar and my Clerk. I was not present during the preparation of any part of these returns. They are

entirely useless, as, in opposition to my express orders, instead of counting the trees, they contented themselves with calling up the house-people and asking them the number of trees possessed by them. The islanders have under-stated the number by nearly 25 per cent. of the total, as planting is going on in the islands. In Amini, I noticed in the mainland some fenced off plots which have been planted in the waste land last year by one of the Moktessors. It is calculated that, at the present rate of planting, which is during the last year or two, about 100 trees per annum; previously to that, 200 per annum. All the waste land will be planted in ten or twelve years. In Amini, there is no waste land, except in the north-west corner. In the last five years, there have been twenty-three durkhast petitions; the custom being that if the place is not planted in three years, it is given on durkhast to another man. In Kadamat, it is calculated that they plant at the rate of about 1,000 trees per annum. The inhabitants of Kadamat plant about 700 of this number for themselves, about 300 are planted for the inhabitants of Amini. At this rate, they say that the island will be entirely planted in fifty years; only one-third of this island is planted. In Kiltan, there is a little waste land and some planting, but I got no satisfactory information as to the amount; from what I saw, I should say, it was progressing at about the same rate as in Amini. In Chetlat, there is a little waste land in the middle of the island. Each house, of which there are nine in the island, plants about twenty-five trees per annum in the whole island, about fifteen in the waste land. They calculate that, at this rate, all the waste land will be filled up in fifteen years. In this island, 10 per cent. of the young trees die. Now, as when a tree falls or dies, it is immediately removed, and one or more planted in its place; the above calculation shows an increase in Amini of 400 trees, in Kadamat of 4,000, in Kiltan of 400, and in Chetlat 490, or a total increase of 5,290 in four years. The probably quite correct returns given by Mr. Hall show an increase during the same period of 6,000. I would suggest that the Monegar be required to furnish, during the next fair season, correct returns on this point, as they are needed in calculating what the increased import of coir from the increased yield in cocoanuts ought to be.

Population.

Islands.	In 1869.	1873.			Increase.	Decrease.	Houses.	Mosques.	Occupation.					
		Males.	Females.	Total.					Carpenters.	Blacksmiths.	Goldsmiths.	Silversmiths.	Barbers.	Teachers.
Amini	2,213	1,058	1,131	2,189	...	24	424	34	15	1	2	6	2	6
Kadamat ...	205	111	97	208	3	...	35	4	5	...	...	...	...	...
Kiltan	722	382	384	766	44	...	195	14	8	3	1	1	2	4
Chetlat ...	544	261	301	562	18	...	150	9	12	2	...	...	1	4
Total...	3,684	1,812	1,913	3,725	...	...	804	61	40	6	3	7	5	14

7. *Population and Houses.*—The population shows some slight increase. In Amini alone has there been any decrease, for which I am unable to assign any reason. In all the other islands, there has been a slight increase. It is to be noticed that the population is lower than it was before the outbreak of cholera in 1863. The females still, as heretofore, slightly preponderate. The number of houses has increased with the population, the average being 4·6 persons per house.

Cattle in 1873.

Islands.	1873.	
	Cows.	Goats.
Amini	159	...
Kadamat	29	...
Kiltan	63	10
Chetlat	26	40
Total...	277	50

8. *Cattle.*—The number of cattle in all the islands has decreased since 1866; the last date on which any returns relating to them are shown. The cause of this may be inferred from what I shall relate in my remarks with regard to pounds; more particularly when it is remembered that, with the advance of plantation, the grazing ground of the cattle has necessarily diminished.

Education.

Islands.	Number of Teachers.	Pupils.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Amini ...	6	75	29	104
Kadamat ...	...	4	1	5
Kiltan ...	4	39	...	39
Chetlat ...	4	28	2	30
Total...	14	146	32	178

9. *Education.*—The above are the returns with regard to education. There has been no change in the number of teachers since Mr. Hall's visit. There has been a large increase in the number of boys shown as attending school, with a nearly proportional decrease in the attendance of girls. There is a slight increase since 1869 in the total number attending school. There are in Amini, according to the statement of the Moktessors, about 200 children, of whom but 104 attend school. Of the whole population, 2,089 in number, but 28, the Moktessors state, can read and write Malayalam in Arabic characters. The Moktessors mentioned these persons to me by name. There are 200 who can read the Koran only, which I suppose means that they have learned the portions needed in religious ceremonies by rote. In Kadamat about fifteen persons can read the Koran, and six can read and write out of a population of 208. There are thirty children who should attend school. In Kiltan, the teachers teach, in addition to reading the Koran, the keeping of accounts connected with the coondras. The people do not learn to read until they are twenty years of age. They then learn a bad Malayalam. There are but twenty men who can read and write this in the Arabic characters out of a population of 766; not many can read it. The Mupas, as the headmen are called in all the Government islands, except Amini, stated that in this island very many can read the Koran alone. In Chetlat, there are six men out of a population of 562 who can read and write Malayalam in the Arabic characters, and about sixty can read, many can repeat the Koran.

10. They stated in all the islands that they could give nothing towards the support of a school, alleging poverty as their reason. I am not aware what steps have been taken for constituting the islands a circle for educational purposes under the Local Funds Act, in accordance with the G. O., of 30th January 1872, No. 186, but nothing seemed to be known about it on the islands.

Boats.

Years.	Amini.			Kadamat.			Kiltan.			Chetlat.		
	Large.	Small.	Building.	Large.	Small.	Building.	Large.	Small.	Building.	Large.	Small.	Building.
1869...	28	118	...	3	13	...	24	85	...	32	60	..
1873..	22	119	5	3	11	...	23	80	1	33	49	2

11. *Boats.*—The above are the returns of the boats in the islands. I noticed a good deal of activity in boat-building in all the islands; this might be looked for from the amount of timber shown in the returns as imported into the islands in the last year. In Amini five new coondras

of the usual size, about fifteen tons, were building. In Kiltan one, in Chetlat two; some of those in Amini were for other islands, principally those under the Rajah of Cannanore. The number of boat-owners is in Amini 84, Kadamat 12, Kiltan 64, Chetlat 46.

12. *Disease.*—There has been no serious outbreak of disease since Mr. Hall visited the islands, nor has any disease other than those mentioned by him appeared. I saw in Amini alone of all the islands a serious case of dysentery. Ophthalmia has not decreased. Though partly to be attributed no doubt to the cause mentioned by Mr. Hall, I cannot but think that it is due in a still greater degree to the intolerable glare off the white sand of the islands, which must be felt to be appreciated. Mr. Hall's Dresser brought to his notice that want of proper nourishment after child-birth seriously retarded the recovery of the women of Kadamat. The Monegar in Amini told me, when inquiring into the matter, that the women in all the islands frequently died from want of nourishment, but still more so from the ignorant treatment to which they were subjected after child-birth, and suggested that an obstetrical nurse should be sent to the islands to teach the people the proper treatment. The suggestion, I think, deserves consideration. The Monegar is now supplied with medicines, which the islanders state were of great use. He dispenses quinine, chlorodyne, eyewash, and a few other drugs. The benefit of these is, however, entirely confined to the island of Amini.

13. The returns of vaccination are subjoined:—

Vaccination.

Year.	Island.	Under one Year.					Above one Year.					Total.			
		Males.	Females.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Males.	Females.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Grand Total.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1870...	Amini... ...	No work was done in this year in the islands.													
	Kadamat ...														
	Kiltan... ...														
	Chetlat... ...														
1871...	Amini... ...	9	10	17	2	...	74	25	82	17	...	118	99	19	...
	Kadamat ...	5	2	6	1	...	6	3	8	1	...	16	14	2	...
	Kiltan... ...	3	3	6	...	...	3	1	2	2	...	10	8	2	...
	Chetlat... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872...	Amini... ...	1	3	3	1	..	11	3	7	7	...	18	10	8	...
	Kadamat ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Kiltan... ...	1	1	2	...	..	4	2	6	...	...	8	8	...	...
	Chetlat... ...	6	8	14	...	...	52	29	79	2	...	95	93	2	...
1873...	Amini... ...	...	...	...	...	..	10	1	8	3	...	11	8	3	...
	Kadamat ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3
	Kiltan... ...	2	...	...	...	2	10	3	...	...	13	15	...	...	15
	Chetlat... ...	...	...	...	...	..	4	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	4

14. *Records.*—The records as when Mr. Sewell visited the Islands are still contained in two boxes. They are in a state of great confusion. There are no indexes of even the most modest description kept. They are merely tied up in bundles without regard to subject. There is, I believe, some sort of chronological arrangement, but what I was unable to detect. It was only by carefully searching through all the Records with the aid of the Karani and a peon, who alone seemed to know anything about them, that my clerk was able to prepare the Criminal and other Statistics required by me. The Monigar had no idea where any paper was; I accordingly directed the newly appointed Monigar to arrange the bundles during the monsoon in chronological order and according to the nature of the subject. The boxes are now too small to conveniently contain the records which have accumulated. So I directed the Monigar to indent for others, and also for some Office furniture which is much needed.

15. *Owls, Rats, Mungooses, etc.*—As directed by you, I took with me eight large horned owls. They were splendid specimens, measuring from beak to tail twenty-one inches, and from tip to tip of wing fifty. I purposed when starting loosing them, as suggested by you, in Bitra, but on enquiry on the Islands from the absence of good water, the small extent of the Island, and its great distance from the others, I thought it better not to risk them all on it, so I loosed two couples on Amini, the other four on Bitra. I endeavoured to impress as much as I could on the people of Amini their harmlessness and usefulness.

16. In Chetlat the people say that the Mungooses have multiplied greatly, but have merely driven the rats up the trees; this has also occurred in Kiltan; in neither Island therefore is there any sensible diminution of the rats from this cause. In Amini, I could hear nothing of the snakes. The Mungooses have not multiplied in Kadamut. In neither of these Islands is there any diminution of the rats from these causes. In Amini alone are there Kites, but I could not ascertain whether they live on rats or not. Apparently not so, as they are very few in number. In Amini the Islanders collect a koot to kill rats during the three months after the monsoon every fortnight. In Kadamut three days a month, in Kiltan every two or three days, and in Chetlat five days a month during the same period. We may conclude, therefore, that this pest is most felt in Kiltan. In Agatti, the proportion seemed to be about one rat to every dozen trees. Notwithstanding all efforts, however, the rats have not diminished in numbers.

17. The rats are not the Hanoverian rat I imagine. They are smaller in body, a light brown on the back, with quite white fur underneath, and a tail in some instances once and a half as long as their bodies, and very thick at the root. The head small, and feet very delicately formed. The insect mentioned by Mr. Hall which injures so largely the Cocoanut trees, is like a white worm, very thick in the body, about one or one-and-half inches long, with the head and tail slightly flattened.

18. *Dry Grain.*—The cultivation of dry grain has, I am given to understand, decreased greatly in the Islands. It is very little grown in the Tot in Amini now, the reason of which will be found below in paragraph 61. In Kadamut they still sow a little Ragi, Loba, and Millet. In consequence of the small rain-fall of the last ten years, the Islanders state that these crops have grown very badly; before that time they used to get about one Mudah to each house, that is in all about thirty or thirty-five Mudahs by the cultivation. Last year they raised but about ten Mudahs in all. Dry grain has not been cultivated at all of late years in Kiltan and Chetlat. The Import Returns show a variable but increasing importation of dry grains.

19. *Pounds, etc.*—In all the Islands there are great complaints of the damage done to the young Cocoanut trees by the cattle and goats. In Amini the goats caused so much damage (a tree once bitten ever so slightly by this animal will not, it is said, grow again) and yielded so little milk that the people in Koot assembled, determined that they should all be killed; the great majority did so kill their goats, and it was a complaint by the Muktessars on behalf of the people against the recusants which brought the matter to my notice. On my enquiring into the matter, the people complained against admitted having consented. On my pointing out to them that unless all the goats were killed the act of the other Islanders would be rendered nugatory; they said they would kill the goats as they had agreed to do, which I believe they have since done. In paragraph 10 of your letter, submitting Mr. Hall's report, quoted in Board's Proceedings of the 7th May, No. 3,036 of 1870. I notice you state that money for the construction of pounds was issued to the Monigar, you do not state how much. There are pounds in Amini and Chetlat. That in the former Island I did not see. In the latter it consisted of a [illegible] about ten feet by six, made of the stalks of Cocoanut leaves and cadjans. It cost prob[illegible] or 2 Rupees to build. In Kiltan the Islanders state that a pound was built there at a cost of 3 Rupees [illegible] that it had fallen

down during the monsoon. The same is the case in Kadamut. Should it be deemed expedient to erect others, I would recommend that proper pounds with stone walls should be built. However, the Islanders state that the pounds are very seldom used, alleging that the fine is too small. Formerly Mr. Robinson ordered a fine of one and a half maunds of Coir to be levied, which had the desired effect of making the people tie up their cattle to prevent trespass. When measures like that above told as resorted to in Amini are necessary, it seems imperative either to set aside the Act or increase the fine under it. The one is as difficult as the other. The complaint of the inefficacy of the present system was general.

20. *Mr. Robinson's Charity.*—I had the recipients of the above charity mustered before me. They were certainly very deserving objects, blind, and scarcely able to walk from old age. The Monigar himself distributes monthly rice sufficient for one month, at the rate of ½ a seer a day; yearly 4½ yards of cloth, one pound of tobacco, 24 lbs. of salt, 4 Annas worth of curry stuff. There are in all eleven recipients shown on the accounts, which I saw, and which seemed regularly kept. In reality twelve persons receive, two small children with their mother being entered as two recipients. There are in Amini five recipients, of whom the family abovementioned are two. They are all Androt people who obtained no trees in Amini at the time of the great storm of 1847. In Kadamut one person receives. In Chetlat five, three of whom came from Androt in 1847, one from Kowrathy, and one is an inhabitant of Chetlat who is "entirely alone in the world." In Kiltan there are no recipients in accordance, as I was informed, with an order of Mr. Robinson's.

21. In Kadamut an application was made by an old man to be put on the fund. I ascertained that the applicant was an ex-Headman who had been induced to make over his Mupaship and property to his nephew and heir, who immediately refused to support him. As the nephew when called before me promised publicly to support the old man, I did not think it necessary to take his name for recommendation. In Amini an application was made by the Muktessars with the Monigar's recommendation that Pallipere Kutti Patma might be put on the fund. In Chetlat a similar application was made on behalf of Athalore Pathama; as both applicants seemed deserving, I have the honour to recommend that they be put on the fund if the state of the assets will admit of it. In Chetlat also two recipients applied to be allowed to remove to Kadamut, remaining on the fund, as they had some friends in that Island. They were a mother and son both blind. The father was in Amini, but you are aware that it is very doubtful whether under the Aliya Santana system, maintenance of the offspring by the father or his family can be enforced, as the offsprings are in the mother's, an entirely distinct family.

I granted the permission sought subject to your approval. The above information as to the fund was obtained on the Islands from the Monigar, Muktessars, and recipients. It will therefore be of use in checking the accounts sent in by the Monigar. So far as I could see, there is no reason to suspect that the fund is improperly applied.

22. *Trade.*—The Returns of the Import and Export trade are appended. The Import Returns were not appended to his report by Mr. Hall, as he seems to have been under the impression that no Manifests were supplied to the boats when leaving the coast. This misapprehension you correct in your letter submitting Mr. Hall's report. On enquiry, therefore, in the Islands, I found that these Manifests have been regularly collected by the Karani of each Island, and were among the records at Amini. From them I had the Returns appended compiled. That some Manifests are missing, I think, cannot be doubted, but judging from the numbers of Manifests in each bundle, the number of boats in each Island, and the known average number of voyages of a boat, I am of opinion that not many are missing. These Returns are from the year 1862 up to date. The principal articles of Import seem to be rice, salt, betel-nuts, tobacco and timber. The import of timber seems steadily on the increase; a large quantity was imported into all the Islands last year.

Many Manifests were not in a printed form, but in the writing of the Karani, probably therefore the cargo was manifested at the time of landing, the Manifest given on the coast having been lost. The rule is, I believe, that stated in the text. There would invariably be a Manifest in the writing of the Karani in all cases of inter-island trade. Some articles shewn in the Return seem to show some such trade, but it is probably very little indeed.

23. The Export Returns for the years subsequent to those embraced in Mr. Hall's returns, are appended. The principal articles of export are of course coir, cocoanuts, jaggery, khopra and firewood. In all the Islands, a large increase in the export of nuts is observable, most of which go to Calicut. This is entirely in accordance with the statements of the Islanders, who alleged as the reason the high price of nuts during the last few years. Previously to last year, the price was very high, rising to 10 or 12 Rupees per 1,000. It has fallen last year to 7 or 8 Rupees per 1,000. We may look therefore for a diminution in the export of Cocoanuts in this year.

24. A very great difference exists between the amount of coir shown in the Export Returns and in the receipts at the Coir Depôt at Mangalore. It amounts to 10½ per cent., which is the average percentage calculated on the last four years. This is not to be wondered at, as the amount of the cargo is taken down by the Monigar and Karani from the statements of the owners of the Coondras who, according to the invariable rule in such matters, understate the amount. No attempt is made to ascertain it with any accuracy. These Returns, either Import or Export, are useless for the purpose of accurate deduction as to particular amounts, but we may, I think, safely deduce general conclusions from them.

25. There is at present no trade in fish; the Islanders only obtain as much as supplies the house demand. The Islanders of Chetlat catch more fish than any of the others. They store very little, eating it as they catch it. Their small store is consumed in the early part of the monsoon. In this Island and also in Kiltan, the practice is to divide the haul of fish among all the house or family. Indeed in these two Islands everything is done by houses, the manning, launching, drawing out of the water of the Coondras, etc.

26. The mode of fishing in the Islands is peculiar, and suited only for a lagoon. I saw two methods. In one case, a number of men having selected in the lagoon a small grove of coral which they thought could easily be broken, surrounded it with a large circle formed partly of net and partly of rope with cadjan leaves tied on it at short intervals, the rope being fastened to each end of the net; they then narrowed the rope and net in towards the grove of coral, the men being posted at equal distances along the rope until they finally enclosed the grove of coral, with the net only at a distance on all sides of about 5 yards or less. Five or six men then got inside the enclosure, broke away the coral, and drove out the fish against the net when they were caught by the hand. In this way I saw some eight or ten fish weighing from ¼ to 2 lbs. weight, caught in about an hour. This was in Amini. In the second, eight or ten men taking with them a wide mouthed basket, about 6 feet long, the mouth being about 3 × 1½ feet, went out on the lagoon. They had for sticks cocoanut leaf stalks stripped of the penants about 6 feet long. They chose out a grove of coral about 10 yards long by 5 or 6 wide. Having placed the basket at one end of the grove, one man kept it in position by standing on it. The others swimming beat the grove with the points of their sticks in the direction of the basket, into which the fish ran. They then having beaten the coral quite up to the basket, quickly lifted it into the boat. In this way I saw some eight or ten very small fish killed in about half an hour. This practice is common to all the Islands. They also use the harpoon and spears. Lines are not, I believe, much used in the Islands.

27. Even with improved methods of fishing instead of the above described very crude ones, I do not think that any trade in fish could ever be developed at the Islands. The shoals on which they stand are very peculiar. In almost every instance they are in shape as shown in the margin, where the outside line is the edge of the shoal, the dotted line, the reef, and the inside continuous line, the shore. The shoal is, however, in some instances more extensive. At the broadest part of the shoal, that is the middle on the west side, the water deepens quite gradually from about two fathoms close to the reef to twenty fathoms at the edge of the shoal. After that in a boat's length no bottom can be found with a 100 fathom line. From the shore to the outside edge of the shoal is on an average about 1½ to 2 miles, and the length



4 to 5 miles. As I believe it is a fact that fish are caught in any plenty only in shoal water, it will be seen, that the fishing grounds attached to the Islands are extremely limited. For this reason I do not think that more fish will ever be taken at the Islands, than will supply the Island demand. In some Islands they state that fish frequent the lagoon in much greater plenty during the monsoon than at any other time. The fish is hard and flavourless.

28. The Islanders seldom hunt the turtle though many frequent the Islands. It is not the true edible turtle, I believe, and is not eaten by the natives. Its shell is very inferior.

29. The coral found on the Islands is of a very poor description. The people of Kadamut stated that they found some red coral, but on close examination they said it dried white when exposed to the sun for a few days. The true red coral is said to be found in Andrat, but in very small quantities. The specimens of coral which I saw were all brittle, soft, and coarse in grain.

30. The curing of the Holothuria formerly practiced has been given up for many years.

31. Ambergris is scarcely ever found, and though I enquired on all the Islands, I could not obtain any of it. Shells of any value, except cowries, are not found, some few candies of shark fins are exported.

32. *Coir Manufacture.*—I am not sanguine that we shall be able to obtain and introduce machinery for the manufacture of coir. In this manufacture, there are four distinct operations; first, the separating the husk from the nut, next the breaking up of the husk into fibre, then the preparation of the fibre for twisting, and lastly, the twisting. For the first no machine is needed, as the nuts for immediate consumption alone are stripped, an average possibly of three nuts per day for each person in all the Islands. A nut is stripped of the husk with a large knife or small hatchet completely in about a minute. For breaking the husk into fibre, nothing but a wooden mallet and a short square piece of solid wood is required.

33. As to the preparation of the fibre for twisting, on the presumption that the market, value of the twisted coir is not to be depreciated, and arguing from the analogy of carding machines for hemp and wool, any machine to card coir fibre completely would have to be so very complicated and expensive as to be entirely beyond the means of the Islanders. I imagine that carding cocoanut fibre by hand would, from the thickness and strength of the fibre, be a matter of the greatest difficulty, if practicable at all. In fine fibres and for producing a cheap, inferior article where great evenness is not an object to be gained, and consequently careful feeding is not required. I can understand that the machine suggested by Mr. Hall which is known to me and which is used in England for twisting hemp ropes would answer the purpose of making an inferior article fairly well; but in coir fibre which while short is also coarse and stiff, any fault in feeding, resulting in the doubling of the fibre, would be fatal to the strength of the rope. It is essential in twisting coir that the fibres should each go into the rope, end first, and be evenly twisted in, not as frequently happens in the case of hemp and finer fibres which get drawn into the strand in doubles of shorter or longer length. Hence in order to the proper feeding of a twisting machine, previous carding would be indispensable, a matter of great difficulty if practicable at all as I have stated above. This difficulty is at present obviated by picking the separate fibres from the lump, as they are needed for twisting between the hands. This I find is also Mr. Swan's opinion (Enclosure No. 3 to Mr. Hall's report).

34. The rate of feeding a twisting machine would, with coir fibre, be a matter of great nicety, for from the coarseness of the fibre if over-twisted it is apt to kink, which causes it to snap at the first strain. If under-twisted it is equally weak. The machine should, therefore, be nicely regulated, hence highly and carefully finished, and therefore expensive. This supposes any other method of feeding than that mentioned below, viz., getting the coir twisted through the hand. Not much time would be gained in the manufacture nor the output much increased by the introduction of a twisting machine alone, as the delay lies now not in the twisting, but in the picking previous to twisting. The original cause of recommendation of machinery for twisting the coir was, I believe, that the women got sore hands from rolling as they do now the coir between their hands, and thus twisting it. It makes little difference in regard to the soreness of hand resulting whether one rolls coir fibre between their hands or gets it twisted through them by a machine (the only practicable mode in consequence of picking for feeding being necessary). These considerations account for its being necessary; for the Ceylon firm mentioned by you in paragraph 36 of your letter of 2nd April 1870, No. 429, submitting Mr. Hall's report, to spend thousands of pounds on their machinery. Their doing so seems to argue the impossibility of our finding a simple, effective, and inexpensive machine for Rupees 10, the utmost limit to which the Islanders say they could go in this direction.

35. *Monopoly.*—The statements relating to the Coir monopoly are appended. They show an annual nett gain of Rupees 7,437-4-4. I have stated and deducted in accordance with custom the probable advantage foregone by Government in selling salt to the Islanders at cost price. There has been no actual loss to Government, merely the foregoing of a tax which Government might have attempted to levy from the Islanders, but with the certainty almost of failure. There is, however, an item which must be set off against any calculation of gain from the Islands which has hitherto been omitted, viz., the actual remission of Rupees 5,525 per annum, from the Peishcush of the Rajah of Cannanore "on account of the trade to the Laccadive Islands" that is ours. This appears from the 9th paragraph of Mr. Robinson's report.

36. I.—*Tax paid per head on the main land, South Canara.*

Fasli.	Official year.	Imperial.	Local.	Municipal.	Total.	Population.	Average per head.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	NO.	
1275 ...	1865-66... ...	23,07,761	13,083	...	23,20,844	7,88,042	2·9
1276 ...	1866-67... ...	23,08,853	52,940	6,402	23,68,195	8,39,688	2·8
1277 ...	1867-68... ...	23,06,021	56,149	15,100	23,77,270	8,39,688	2·8
1278 ...	1868-69... ...	23,33,091	59,569	18,921	24,11,580	8,39,688	2·8
1279 ...	1869-70... ...	22,64,483	56,210	20,617	23,41,310	8,39,688	2·7
1280 ...	1870-71... ...	22,66,167	61,286	20,633	23,48,086	8,39,688	2·7
1281 ...	1871-72... ...	23,23,437	1,14,956	28,699	24,67,092	9,19,503	2·6
	Annual average.	...	...	...	...	...	2·785

	RS.	A.	P.
Or annual average tax per head	2	12	9·6

II.—*On the Island.*

Fasli.	Average Population.	Amount realized by sale of coir over that expended in purchasing it.	Annual average per head.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
	NO.	RS.		
1258—1260 ...	3,496	29,939	8·5	If we subtract Column 8 from Column 12 in the Coir Statement No. 4, we get 3,02,557, the total of Column 3 is 3,02,565. The difference arises from my having neglected the annas in computing this table, and also from an error in the statements as appears from comparing the entry in Column 12 of Statement IV. in the Returns appended to Mr. Hall's report, and those appended to Mr. Sewell's for Fasli 1275. The error is too slight to call for the correction of the calculations based on the first mentioned amount.
1261—1263 ...	3,496	16,192	4·7	
1264—1266 ...	3,688	50,833	13·5	
1267—1269 ...	3,880	35,389	9·1	
1270—1272 ...	3,982	41,922	10·5	
1273—1275 ...	4,085	25,748	6·3	
1276—1278 ...	3,877	30,495	7·9	
1279—1281 ...	3,707	49,606	13 8	
1282	3,725	22,441	6·0	
Total ..	33,936	3,02,557	80·2	
Annual average.	3,790·6	12,102·5	3·2	

	RS.	A.	P.
Annual average tax per head	3	3	2·4

Amount of Taxation, etc.—The first table above shown calculated on a period of seven years shows the taxation per head on the mainland to be Rupees 2-12-9·6. The second calculated for the last twenty-five years on the annual income obtained by Government from these Islands in triennial periods, and the average population during the same periods, shows the annual tax paid by each person on the Islands to be Rupees 3-5-2·4. It is necessary to take a long period for the latter table so as to take in all the ordinary fluctuations of the coir trade, thus the period of three years from 1261 to 1263, shows a very small average of taxation, that from 1264 to 1266, a very large. The Islanders therefore pay a tax 13·1 per cent. higher than the people on the mainland do. But when the arrangement directed to be carried out in Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, of the 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, is carried out, calculating the averages on the same period of twenty-five years, the tax which they will have to pay will be Rupees 1·24 or Rupees 1-3-9 per head, or a reduction of 61·2 per cent, or a rate of taxation 55·4 per cent. below that of the mainland.

37. If, however, we calculate the averages on the last five years only, it will be found that the Islanders have paid a tax at the rate of Rupees 5-1-7, per head, and that this arrangement will reduce this tax 60·8 per cent. or to Rupees 2-14-4·8. If, therefore, we regard the last few years as peculiarly favourable years to Government in the Coir trade, and prefer the longer period as our guide in this matter, we would be induced to say that an extra tax for educational or other purposes might be imposed with fairness. Should we take the later years as our guide, as the tax paid by them would still be 4·13 per cent. higher than that paid by the people on the mainland, even after the introduction of the arrangement abovementioned to levy such a tax, can scarcely be deemed fair.

38. When I speak above of the "average annual income" or "annual income" of Government or the "tax paid by the Islanders," I do not mean the net income of Government, but the difference between the amount paid by Government for the coir, and the amount for which they sell it again; therefore though this represents what comes out of the pockets of the Islanders, it by no means represents what Government gains from these Islands. Thus annually 5,525 Rupees go to the Rajah of Cannanore, and in 1871, Government paid Rupees 19,572-4-3 for the hire of a steamer to take rice to the Islands. I shall discuss below in paragraph 59, Part V. the effect on the net income of Government of the arrangement above mentioned, as directed to be introduced (G. O., Revenue Department, 9th September 1870, No. 1,428).

39. *Arguments against monopoly.*—The arguments for the policy of retaining the monopoly have been frequently urged. It is, I think, certain that we could replace it by no system equally popular and equally advantageous on the whole for the Islander. The main argument against monopoly, viz. that it represses development is almost inapplicable, for very little development is possible in Islands capable only of producing cocoanuts, and with the exception of Kadamut, almost as thickly planted as they can possibly be, but looking at the transaction as a commercial speculation merely, it is one which it seems to me must eventually cause loss, for as with the increase of population on the mainland, the value of food, and all other products of the ground must rise with a perpetually increasing swiftness, amongst them, the value of the rice supplied to the Islanders will rise, and consequently the expense of supplying it to them will very soon leave but a small margin of profit to Government. That population is rapidly increasing on the mainland is shewn in the Statement above drawn up, for the purpose of shewing the incidence of taxation. That the cost of purchasing each candy of coir supplied by the Islanders as estimated in money, has risen, the appended Statement calculated on the average importation and cost for twenty-five years in successive periods of four years will show :—

Fasli.	Average number of candies.	Average cost of same.	Average price per candy.	Cost of part paid in rice.	Average for first and last period of six years.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.			
1258—1261	650	10,501	16 2 5	12 1 7·75	15 15 7·6
1262—1265	494	12,896	26 7 6	19 13 7·5	
1266—1269	487	16,343	33 15 6	25 7 7·5	
1270—1273	691	18,621	26 15 2	20 3 4·5	
1274—1277	691	21,835	33 0 6	24 12 4·5	20 12 1·25
1278—1281	697	15,228	22 5 1	16 11 10	
1282	803	19,807	24 10 8	18 8 1·5	

The Islanders are paid three-fourths of the price of their coir in rice and one-fourth in money; the rice is supplied at a fixed rate of 2 Rupees, per Mudah, and the total price is also fixed. Any variation, therefore, in the cost of purchasing the coir must be caused by a variation in the value of either money or rice. It cannot be doubted that the value of money has fallen, or in other words, that prices have risen in this country in late years, but this cause is quite insufficient to account for the rise of 30 per cent. on the cost of the part paid in rice during the first period of six years as compared with the last of the period above shown. It must lie therefore in the increase in the value of rice, or to argue thus: it is clear from the Returns that since 1263, the result of the transactions in rice has been in favour of the Islanders, that it is due to an increase in the value of the rice seems shewn by the above considerations, even if the actual percentage of the increase be not assented to. Again "the natural value of two commodities having a joint cost of production relatively to each other, are those which will create a demand for each in the ratio of the quantities in which they are sent forth by the productive process," or as this ratio must in the case of cocoanuts and coir be always constant, their values will vary inversely. But as cocoanuts are food, their value will, with the increase of population, continually rise; hence that of coir must fall. But further, as coir is a manufacture, its tendency is to fall in value. Thus there are two strong influences tending to force down the value of coir, so that Government retaining the monopoly is placed in this position that with the increasing population invariably attendant on peace and good Government, the value of what is given by it to the Islanders has a strong tendency to rise, whereas that which is taken in return has inherent in it two strong tendencies to fall. It is true that improvements in agriculture may stave off the evil day, but it must eventually come. The fluctuation in the profits realized on the sale of the coir, is also a very strong argument against retaining such a speculation as a source of revenue. Some definite idea of this fluctuation will be gathered from the nett income of Government, as shewn in the Returns appended to Mr. Hall's report for Faslies 1275—1278 copied into the margin. These considerations though perhaps not strong enough to overthrow a long established and popular monopoly, should, I think, be given their due weight in considering the question of introducing a new one.

Profits realized.	Loss.
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
24,598 17 4	... ...
... ...	1,224 1 4
3,045 14 5	... ...
22,897 14 5	... ...

40. *Some explanation of difference between Coir yielded by trees and that imported.*—The reasons given by Mr. Hall go a long way in accounting for the difference between the amount of coir which the trees should yield and that manufactured; but another reason seems to me to be, that if the Islanders have a large stock of rice left at the end of the year, consequent either on large takes of fish or increased consumption of cocoanuts or from any other cause, they do not care to make any exertion to increase their stock, and only produce so much coir as will serve to replenish it. The large importation of coir in late years would on this supposition be due to the takes of fish getting smaller or to a larger exportation of nuts, or both combined. The Islanders assured me that the amount of fish taken was decreasing, and an increasing exportation of nuts is shewn by the returns. This of itself tends largely to explain the matter. The Islanders argue that if they stored more rice than enough for one year's consumption, it would rot. Then why labour to produce coir to buy it.

41. *Civil and Criminal justice*—1. *Remarks on the Returns.*—I have appended Criminal Returns for the past twelve years in two forms. From one is seen the number of cases arising in each Island, the number of persons fined, imprisoned, or otherwise disposed of. From the other, the nature of the Criminal cases arising in all the Islands with the total number of persons involved, the number fined, imprisoned, persons involved in cases dismissed and amicably settled, in short it shews the total work done by the Monigar in each year. It is satisfactory that crime seems decreasing. The large number of persons involved in cases which have been either amicably settled or otherwise disposed of, compared with those who have been punished, is a striking feature in these returns. In the twelve years 642 persons were punished to 1,[illegible]

were involved in cases which were either amicably settled or dismissed, that is little over half were punished. This, I think, is sufficiently explained by a strong disposition on the part of the Islanders to complain on the slightest and most insufficient grounds. The lately superseded Monegar states that when he first came to the Islands, petty thefts of cocoanuts were very common in Amini, but by actively pursuing the delinquents, patrolling, and adopting the system of watching those who were once convicted, he has almost entirely stopped their depredations. The cases of criminal trespass arise from one man's planting his tree beyond his boundary which is quite undefined, on another's land. Many like cases are shown in the Civil and Revenue File, a copy of one year of which I have appended. The cases entered as miscellaneous are mostly disobedience of the Monigar's orders, neglecting to attend the koot for rat-killing, drawing up boats, a few for being out at night without leave, speaking harshly to one of the Priests, marrying without permission, leaving the island without permission, and others of the same kind. In one instance the Monigar has himself tried a case of false evidence. The almost entire absence of crime in 1871 is due to the fact that the Islanders were detained on the coast by stress of weather from February to November. It was in this year that Government sent rice from Bombay. It will be perceived that there is considerable difference between the Criminal Returns submitted by me and those by Mr. Hall for the year 1866-67-68. He seems to have given only the Returns of crime in Amini. Those given by Mr. Sewell for the earlier period do not correspond with those appended exactly, but the difference is very slight. The number of persons given by him as punished in the years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, is 243, that appearing from these Returns 240. The loss of or a mistake with regard to the record of one case would account for the difference. In 1865 he too seems to have given the Returns for Amini alone which, from the period of his visit, would be peculiarly likely to happen, as in consequence of his visit the Monigar would put off visiting Kiltan and Chetlat until February instead of going in December as is his usual custom, and hence* there would be in Amini only the records relating to that Island. The Returns which I have the honour to submit were compiled by my Clerk, with the aid of the Head Clerk in the Office of the Sub-Collector of Malabar, from the files of the Monigar, compared with the records, and from the records alone, the work occupying nearly a week. It seems probable, therefore, that they are fairly correct.

*The Monigar visits these Islands but once a year. See below paragraph 23, Part I.

42. *An estimate of the illegality of the late Monigar's proceedings.*—To examine what the extent of the late Monigar's jurisdiction was in the case of thefts. The thefts which occur are usually of cocoanuts from trees, to steal anything else is almost impossible. The rice they bury in their houses, their ornaments, and such clothes as they possess, they wear. Their oars, leaves, ropes, etc., are all kept in their houses in which there is always some one. The jurisdiction of the lately superseded Monigar in the case of theft extended to all cases in which the value of the property did not exceed 1 Rupee. Now 1,000 Cocoanuts fetch on the mainland only from 7 to 8 Rupees. Taking 25 per cent. of the value off for the expense of transport to the coast, the value of 1,000 nuts on the Islands would be from Rupees 5-4-0 to 6. Hence the Monigar would have jurisdiction in cases when the number stolen was less than 190, or 166. Now the average number of nuts in the best tree at one time is about eight nuts a tree. Hence 190 nuts would be the produce of twenty-four trees nearly, 166 of twenty-one nearly. But as the work is very hard, a man could not ascend and cut off the nuts from more than one tree in five minutes without being utterly exhausted before twenty-four were ascended. Hence to ascend and cut 190 nuts off twenty-four trees would be a work of two hours, and 166 nuts off twenty-one trees of about one hour and forty-five minutes. Again, it is not likely that the man would steal in the neighbourhood of his own house, the only place of concealment which he could have owing to the nature of the ground, nor within a distance of 200 yards from it, for fear of suspicion, his circumstances being perfectly well known to his neighbours, and any sudden increase in his store of cocoanuts, at once attracting suspicion to him in the neighbourhood of the theft. But as owing to the weight and unwieldiness of the cocoanuts, he could not carry at one time more than fifty nuts, and as to take away fifty nuts and come back would take at least fifteen minutes, to take away 190, would take one hour, and 166 nuts about the same time, as there would be more than three full loads. Hence this theft would occupy one man working almost as hard as he could three hours, and three persons one hour at the least to accomplish it. The average of seven cases sent to the mainland in 1869 shows a little over three persons engaged in each theft. Taking three persons as the average, a theft which would be beyond the late Monigar's jurisdiction would be an act occupying three persons one hour as hard as they could work. This is taking the best trees to be very close together, and all bearing in full order at the same time. This is never the case in reality, and it is probable that what with the delay arising from this cause and collecting the fruit and lifting it upon the man's back and going from tree to tree to climb, the time occupied would be nearly doubled. Hence the chance of interruption and detection is very great; this accounts for the great success attending the system of patrolling established by the late Monegar, and mentioned above. It would also, in my opinion, require a far greater return than that yielded by 190 nuts to make an Islander toil as hard as would be required in this instance for one hour, hence I am of opinion that cases of theft beyond the jurisdiction of the late Monigar were rare. Again his jurisdiction extended to "inconsiderable assaults and affrays." A considerable assault is almost unknown, as these Islanders scarcely ever strike in return, but at once complain. This is borne out by the Returns which show an extraordinarily large proportion of complaints dismissed to those punished. There was one case of wounding with a knife in 1868, but none since, in which any weapon of offence has been used, as the Monigar stated; none of these cases, therefore, seem to have been beyond his jurisdiction.

From what I have stated above, the cases shown as Criminal trespass seem civil not criminal in their nature, and so the acts of the Monigar in fining and imprisoning for them were illegal; part of the fine, however, went to the complainant, as civil cases they would also be beyond his jurisdiction (see below paragraph 55, Part V). As the great majority of the cases under the head "Miscellaneous" were disobedience of orders, not authorized by law, all the acts of the Monegar in fining and imprisoning in these cases were illegal. This will be equally the case should the present Sub-Magistrate punish in these cases. This is a fault of the system. From the above considerations, I think we may conclude that though criminal cases or cases which might be criminal beyond the jurisdiction of the late Monigar did occur, yet with the exception of those for disobedience of orders, they were few.

43. *Civil Returns.*—The main causes of Civil suits on these Islands are —

(1.) Concerning boundaries and the right of planting trees.
(2.) Claims to trees on the ground of being a tenant, etc.
(3.) About partition and inheritance.
(4.) Differences between husband and wife

I submit, herewith, two Statements of the cases on the Civil and Revenue file of the Monigar.

Civil Cases.

Year.	Amini.			Kadamut.			Kiltan			Chetlat.			Total.			Remarks.
	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	
1869	17	36	3	...	...	...	19	54	4	3	7	..	39	97	7	The cases sent to the mainland were entered in this file in 1869. They are shown separately.
1870	27	7	3	...	...	...	4	11	1	1	2	...	32	85	4	
1871	13	43	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2.	1	14	45	5	
1872	17	36	3	1	4	...	3	7	1	11	24	1	32	71	5	

Civil No. 2.

Year.	Suit relating to immoveable property. Total number Suits.	Number in which question at issue was the right in trees.	Number in which question at issue was right in land.	Number decided by Monigar.	Number dismissed or otherwise settled.	Total of all suits in the year.	Number of suits within present jurisdiction of Monegar.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1869...	26	20	6	.....	26	39	13
1870...	23	16	7	5	18	31	8
1871...	10	7	3	1	9	14	4
1872...	16	13	3	2	14	32	16
.....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	116	41
Average annual number ...	18·75	... ..	.....	.....	.....	29 0	10·25

In the year 1869 the Civil file and the Revenue were kept distinct; subsequently all cases, Civil in their nature have been entered in one file; this file is a strange jumble of Civil cases, some within, some without, the jurisdiction of the Monegar, of course not one case out of the whole having any connection with Revenue. In one year, a case of assault is entered in it. All the cases entered in it are of the most petty description. I append a copy of the file for 1872, an ordinary year; from glancing over this, a better idea of its nature will be obtained than from any words in which I could describe it.

44. *Criminal cases sent to the mainland.*

Year.	Number of cases.	Number of Prisoners.	Number of witnesses.	Amicably settled.	Nature of case.
1869	7	24	27	.....	Theft.
,, ...	1	1	2	.....	Assault.
,, ...	2	2	.....	1	Criminal Trespass.
Total...	10	27	29	1	.....
1870	No cases sent to the mainland.				
1871					
1872					

Four cases sent to the Mainland.—The above is the Return of Criminal cases sent to the mainland since Mr. Hall's visit. In the last three years none have been sent. In 1869 many occur. No one but the prisoner seems to have been sent in the Criminal Trespass cases. Since that year no case has been sent, probably because in some very few instances the value of the property stolen has been under-stated.

I am of the same opinion as my predecessor in reporting on these Islands that grave crimes are almost unknown on them. They must be visited in order that the stagnation and the monotony of the existence which the inhabitants drag along may be appreciated. In such a state of society, stagnant, civilised in some degree and orderly, experience in other cases go, I believe, to show that that grave crime is not found. It is not in retired country districts where the wheels of life move slowly, that grave crime is common, but in towns where life is busiest. The motives which urge to it are wanting; but further in this case, the people are all more or less intimately connected and personally known to each other.

45. *Criminal and Civil Administration.*—The question of most importance which has lately been discussed with regard to these Islands is that of their Civil and Criminal administration. To make clear the facts and recommendations which I have to make on this subject, I must describe the establishment and the duties performed by those servants maintained on the Islands as well as the present state of the question as to what form of tribunal or what jurisdiction should be established in the Islands.

46. *Establishment.*—The establishment at present sanctioned in Government Order of 14th December 1863, No. 2,231, and 30th January 1872, No. 186, consists of:—

	Rs.	
1 Monigar on Rupees 70 per mensem	840	per annum.
8 Peons on ,, 6 ,, ...	576	,,
4 Karanies on 84 Mudahs of rice costing on an average per annum	220	,,
	1,636	

On the Mainland.

1 Gumastah on Rupees 15 per mensem	180	per annum.
1 Weigher on ,, 7 ,, ...	84	,,
4 Peons on ,, 6 ,, ...	288	,,
	552	,,
Total...	2,188	,,

47. *Duties of Government Servants on the Islands*—(1.) *Of Monegar.*—The duties of the Monegar are to try cases civil and criminal from all the islands, to act as President of Panchayets, and to superintend the public business of the whole island. To be present when the boats go from and arrive at the islands, and, with the Muktessars, to get men to draw them up and down, to inspect them, to see that there is no clandestine removal of coir. To assemble Koots for rat killing, etc., to be present when the people are assembled, as on Mondays and Thursdays, at the mosque or when they meet to eat together, to prevent disputes, etc. To assist at ceremonies, as marriages, etc.; in fact it seems as if no act of at all a public character can be done in the island unless the Monegar, and, as a rule, the Muktessars are present. To give medicines. To visit Kiltan and Chetlat once a month during the fair season, which in practice is impossible as it takes one of the sailing boats of the islands about a week to go from one island to the other, unless the wind be quite fair. In reality he visits these islands once, sometimes during the months of October, November, December, and January, remaining there some ten or fifteen days until he has disposed of all the pending business. He goes to the coast in the early part of February with the coir, arriving about the middle of the month, and remains in Mangalore until it is landed, when he goes back with the last boats about the middle or early part of April. The voyage takes about a fortnight in coming, another in going, and he is about a month in Mangalore. He sometimes visits Kiltan and Chetlat when going back, but it depends on what island the boat he is in hits. The islanders try to get each to their own island as soon as possible, as squalls blow in the month of April and May in these seas. Visits on these occasions are therefore very hurried.

48. (2.) *Peons.*—The peons are eight in number; in Amini three, in Kadamat one, in Kiltan two, and in Chetlat two. They are present at the time of loading and unloading the boats. They, with the Karani, check the Government rice brought in the boats by the manifest. They inspect the coir, obtain the news of births and deaths; they make arrangements for rat killing, and head the people in pulling up the boats. They, with the Muktessars, assemble Koots. They look

after the property if a wreck takes place. They conduct preliminary Police inquiries into crimes, and arrest and bring before the Monegar any one who refuses to come when summoned. When a case arises in Kiltan or Chetlat they, with the Karani and Muktessars, read the complaint and keep things just as they are pending the Monegar's arrival. If the case is important they hold the man to bail and send to the Monegar. In short they perform in the absence of the Monegar all the duties of the Monegar, except the trial of cases.

49. (3.) *Of Karanis.*—The Karanis are four in number; in Amini one on 36 mudahs of rice per annum, in Kadamat one on 14, in Kiltan and Chetlat one each on Rupees 17. Their duties are those of a clerk; formerly they used to write down the depositions, but now they do not. They keep the Births and Deaths Register, the Import and Export Trade Returns, take the census and read those petitions to the Monegar which are written in the Arabic characters; they also look after and arrange the records, etc., prepare the Port clearance and manifests for the boats; inspect the boats on arrival.

50. (4.) *Of Ugranis.*—There are in addition to the above eight Ugranis; in Amini one Head Ugrani and four under Ugranis, in the other islands one each. Their duties are to assemble Koots, to draw up boats, kill rats, etc. They must summon the people who are required in a case. The Head Ugrani calls the Muktessars. If the Monegar, when travelling, requires anything they must get it. They receive no Government pay. They have, I believe, a few Circar trees, and privileges corresponding to the inams, etc., formerly enjoyed by the like village officials in the village on the mainland. The Monegar thus has under his orders in Amini nine persons; in Kadamat three, in Kiltan four, and in Chetlat four.

51. The history of the question hitherto is as follows:—

The question of the Civil and Criminal administration of these islands was raised by Mr. Hall's report, in which he stated that the then powers of a Monegar, viz., those of a Village Magistrate and Munsif under Regulation XI. of 1816, VI. of 1821, and IV. and V. of 1816, were insufficient. This led to the proposal* by you, then Acting Collector, of one of two alternatives, (1st) either to appoint a 2nd Class Sub-Magistrate to the islands as Monegar, which was open to objection on account of his "uncontrolled and practically irresponsible position," and the difficulty of obtaining a fit man; (2nd) or to establish one general Council in Amini to be entrusted with jurisdiction in all civil suits and criminal powers, extending to one month's rigorous imprisonment, 50 Rupees fine and 50 lashes. No cases to be brought to trial on the mainland except murder, and such as the Council preferred to send.

* *Vide* letter, 2nd April 1870, No. 429, to Board of Revenue, paragraph 9.

On this the Board of Revenue remark,† that "as the cases disposed of by the Monegar were few and trifling no case seemed to have been made out for incurring larger expense of making any change in the mode of administering criminal and civil justice." The Government in their Order of the 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, directed that as the first alternative suggested by you seemed impracticable from the nature of the objections urged by you "the Board should discuss the proposal for a Council submitted by the Acting Collector with him as his scheme needed elaboration." Meanwhile you had left the district on furlough, and the elaboration of the scheme fell to the Acting Collector, Mr. Webster.

† *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 7th May 1870, No. 3,036, paragraph 3.

He reviewed the alternatives suggested by you, pointing out that‡ the objection to the first alternative, viz., the impossibility of appeal and the difficulty of obtaining a suitable man were not so cogent, remarking with regard to the first objection that, under the then Code of Criminal Procedure, the period of appeal was practically unlimited, appeals being admissible after the prescribed period on sufficient cause shown, and that the Assistant Magistrate especially empowered for this purpose might hear them when visiting the islands; and with regard to the second, that though highly qualified men could not be obtained yet that men of the class of present Monegar were competent to discharge the most essential part

‡ *Vide* letter to Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1871, No. 738A.

of the duty of a Magistrate, to decide whether a man has or has not committed the offence with which he is charged, but that if additional security were considered necessary he should be required to try criminal cases with the Karnomars as Assessors but with power to over-rule their verdict, the records being submitted to the Assistant Magistrate visiting the islands. This recommendation has been adopted. He also elaborated the scheme for a Council proposed by you, but to carry out his suggestions legislation would have been necessary, and upon it the Board of Revenue remarked, that "it included a fresh classification of offences with reference to the [illegible] fixed by the criminal law, an alteration of the punishments and other anomalies which could not possibly commend themselves to the legislature of India; the provisions of the Indian Council's Act precluding local legislation on such matters (paragraph 11, Board's Proceedings, dated 25th July 1871, No. 3,108)". The Board therefore recommended Government to confer the powers of a Sub-Magistrate of the 2nd Class (3rd Class Magistrate) on the Monegar for the investigation, punishment, and committal of charges under the criminal law, adding as a matter of procedure that in any case beyond his jurisdiction under Regulation XI. of 1816, and within his summary jurisdiction as 2nd Class Magistrate, he shall sit with not less than three of the Karnomars of the island in which the trial is held as Assessors who shall, for the information of the supervising Magistrate, record their view of the evidence, etc., quite apart from the Monegar's finding if they disagree with him or have anything to represent. The Board could not recommend Government to give the Monegar the powers of a District Munsiff, as the opportunities of appeal against orders were so few and as any increase of powers was unnecessary, and they stated that in their opinion the Headmen could not be relied on.—Board's Proceedings, dated 25th July 1871, No. 3,108. They also said that the true and most simple solution of the difficulty was to place the islands under the Agency Act XXIV. of 1839, and the rules relating thereto. The Government adopted this recommendation in its entirety. Thus the principle of a mixed tribunal has been deliberately adopted rightly, I think, as being that form of tribunal from whose decision there is the least likelihood of a need of appeal. The islands are placed in that position that appeal must always be a matter of serious difficulty. To obviate its need therefore is an important consideration, the legality of the order constituting this tribunal may, however, be questioned, as a Magistrate appointed under Criminal Procedure Code sitting with Assessors is not, I believe, contemplated in that enactment.

52. As I gather from the G. O. of the 30th January 1872, No. 186, that the lately adopted measure of appointing a 3rd Class Magistrate to the islands is but a temporary one, I would put forward the following objections to it and proposals to meet the difficulty. The important point of the structure of the tribunals being settled the proposals which I have to make are—

1*st.*—*Proposals for the amendment of Criminal and Civil Administration.*—That whatever system of Civil and Criminal administration be maintained or adopted there should be appointed in each of the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat a Government servant, checked by the Karnomars as above, exercising the same powers as the former Monegars did in Civil and Criminal matters, and an Officer exercising the same powers as a 3rd Class Magistrate, checked as above in the trial of all cases, for Amini and Kadamat with jurisdiction in criminal matters only; in the other islands in cases beyond the powers of the officer located there. If, as I also propose, the islands be brought under the operation of the Agency Act this tribunal should try all Civil suits in which moveable and immoveable property is involved to an amount limited in each case.

2*nd.*—That the Agency Act be extended to the islands as recommended—See Board's Proceedings of 25th July 1871, No. 3,018, paragraph 14, and G. O. of 30th January 1870, No. 186. This I put after the other recommendations because I wish to recommend the first proposal, whatever system of Civil and Criminal administration be introduced, and also because the rules which, if the Agency Act be applied to these islands, will have to be framed will of course be based on the regulations and laws in force on the mainland.

53. The grounds on which I bring forward the first proposal as above are—

(1.) That it seems to me that a most important element in the consideration of the question has been lost sight of, viz., that it is nearly as difficult to get from one island to the other as it is to get from the mainland to them even in the fair weather owing to the long distances which they are apart; Kiltan being between twenty and twenty-five miles from the nearest point of Kadamat, and Chetlat being nearly forty miles from Kiltan, and also because the prevailing winds in these seas blow in an easterly and westerly direction. This is a serious difficulty, as the boats of these islands are unable to sail, except with a fair wind. Further, they are absolutely cut off from all communication with the mainland and each other for five months in the year with the exception of Kadamat and Amini, between which communication is interrupted for but from one to two months. As during the fair season the Monegar's duties keep him away from the islands during three months the important islands of Kiltan and Chetlat are necessarily left without Government supervision for eight months in the year, and practically are visited for about ten to fifteen days each in the twelve months. The evil of this will be better appreciated when I point out that, as shown in the Civil and Criminal Import and Export Returns given above, at least one half if not more of the Monegar's work arises in Kiltan and Chetlat.

(2.) As the necessary consequence, what has been stated in paragraph 48 as occurring, happens, namely, that almost all the Monegar's duties are performed by the peons, who being necessarily taken from a low class, are ignorant and incapable men, perhaps of all others the least fit to exercise any such power.

(3.) As the Monegar's duties are Judicial, Police, anaolgous to those of a Sea Customs Superintendent, and as the Karani only acts under his orders, it is most essential to their due discharge that he should be continuously or very frequently present where the work lies, which is, as above stated, impossible owing to the reason urged in paragraph 53, part 1.

(4.) These proposals would entail but small expense on Government, for whatever system be in force the establishment of peons is entirely excessive when the very small extent of the islands and the small number of houses on them is taken into account. There are in all on the Coir Establishment twelve peons, eight on the islands and four on the mainland. Those on the islands might be reduced to four, one on each island, who with the aid of the Ugranis would be quite equal to performing all the work required of him, especially when a properly authorized Government official was on the island to perform the greater part of the work now done by these men. Those on the mainland might also be reduced to three, their sole duty is to watch the coir godowns, this is most difficult when the coir is being received into store; should it be found necessary, though from what I can learn I greatly doubt its being so, a temporary hand might be employed during the two or three months during which it is being received. As by the proposal under discussion the work of the officer stationed in Amini would be greatly reduced, but as a superior class of man would be required I would reduce the pay of the officer exercising the same powers as a 3rd Class Magistrate, who it is proposed should be stationed at Amini, to Rupees 50 a month; under the present system a man very clever and very honest is needed under the simple and plainer system consequent on the introduction of the Agency Act, the latter is the more important qualification; such a man ought to be found without difficulty, if not in the South Canara District at any rate in Malabar, who would serve gladly for the above pay. On this subject I would call attention to the remarks of Mr. Webster in paragraph 5 of his letter of the 31st May 1871, No. 738A., quoted in Board's Proceedings of 25th July 1871, No. 3,108, and to paragraph 4 of that Proceedings. There would thus be effected a saving of 50 Rupees a month, which would supply the amount needed to pay Rupees 25 a month each to the Monegars stationed in Kiltan and Chetlat. A small extra expense would have to be incurred in case the temporary peon above alluded to were required, and it might perhaps be found necessary to increase the pay of the Ugranis in Kiltan and Chetlat; this I have no hesitation in recommending, for as Mr. Robinson states, "he is except the Monegar the most important servant of the Island and has considerable influence." If it be considered that the peons are needed as Police mention

want could easily be supplied by giving the Ugranis some small extra pay, say 2 Rupees a month each, and requiring them to perform the duties. Force would not often be required with prisoners, as the Monegar states that to confine a man it is only necessary to tell him to sit in a corner with his face to the wall and he does so. There is no place of confinement in Amini, the building of one has been sanctioned but none has been built.

(5.) As "the importance and population of the islands attached to Canara are much below those of the islands attached to Malabar, and the condition and wishes of the inhabitants of the latter would need to be considered in any change of Procedure or Law"—Board's Proceedings of 14th October 1870, No. 6,133—I would point out that a separate representative in each island has always been the custom, and was one of the things expressly stated by the people of the Cannanore islands as necessary, if Government took over the administration of the islands as they wished it to do.

(6.) It is undoubtedly an old custom that the Karnomars of Amini should supply boats to take the Monegar from island to island once annually. This is a great hardship and expense. It is stated by the Karnomars that the expenses of the crew of large Coondras going to the coast are Rupees 100. On the annual trip they would therefore be at least 50 Rupees, no small consideration to such poor people. If (which is the only alternative to appointing Monegars there) the Monegar is required to go oftener to Kiltan and Chetlat he must himself pay this expense, which is a great hardship on him.

54. I am aware that a Sub-Monegar was in former years appointed for the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat and it was not found that the arrangement worked well; but the above proposal is that an independent Monegar should be appointed in each of these islands, the authority of the Monegar of Amini only extending to those criminal cases which, while arising in these islands and being beyond the jurisdiction of a Village Magistrate, are within that of a 3rd Class Magistrate. In all other respects the Monegar in these islands would be independent of any interference from the Monegar of Amini, corresponding direct with the Huzur and receiving orders from it direct.

55. Secondly, I propose the introduction of the Agency Act because of the difficulties which lie in the way of carrying out the system of civil and criminal administration in force on the mainland, and which arise from the peculiarities of the people and the place. The main difficulties seem as follow :—

(1.) It having been found that some of the criminal cases arising in the islands were beyond the jurisdiction of a Village Magistrate Government appointed a 3rd Class Magistrate to the islands, directing that, in cases beyond the jurisdiction of a Village Magistrate, he should associate with himself three Karnomars as assessors. Now, as I have shown above in paragraph 42, the majority of cases arising in the islands are within the cognizance of a Village Magistrate; but the present Monegar being a 3rd Class Magistrate must proceed as such under the Procedure Code. Hence the anomaly that while on the mainland a Village Magistrate may dispose of a case of theft of (say) ten cocoanuts without delay or difficulty the Magistrate on the islands must in the same case take a complaint, write down the evidence, judgment, finding, and prepare a calendar which must reach the District Magistrate in a time so limited as to be absolutely impossible. If he does not do all this he acts with such illegality that if it occurred two or three times in the case of a Magistrate on the mainland it would end in his dismissal or degradation. Again, it seems waste of power to employ such a procedure in such a case. It is as if we were to employ a steam-hammer to crush a fly. As I have remarked above, the tribunal is in itself anomalous, as assessors are only known in the Sessions Courts in criminal cases.

(2.) Again, it is a matter of great importance to these islands that the present system of Koots should be kept up. The hauling up of the large boats requires a great number of men, the killing of rats the same. It is, therefore, necessary that should any one, being bound to attend, fail to do so and all on these occasions he should be punished. But no public servant can give

a lawful order unless he is expressly authorized by the Regulations or Acts or their authoritative interpretations to give it. Hence the necessary action which has been taken by the Monegar in this matter for many years past has been grossly illegal.

(3.) Again, the Monegar has no Police powers. They were taken away from him in 1862 by the Repealing Act, but any private perron can arrest only for a non-bailable and cognizable offence committed in his view. This theft is not, assault is not. Hence in every case of this nature, almost the only ones occurring in the islands, an arrest, unless the Monegar be present will be illegal. He cannot patrol, his doing which has, as above stated, been of the greatest use. They cannot maintain order.

(4.) But the great anomaly, and the one of the greatest importance of all, is the coir monopoly. Under the existing state of the law the coir monopoly cannot now be maintained as such monopolies have been abolished. The only protection which exists is a heavy import duty on coir as 7½ per cent. is levied on all coir imported in any shape from the Laccadives or Maldives. Thus there is at present no legal mode of enforcing the monopoly, and our islanders might at any moment refuse to bring their coir to Mangalore, and our whole system of deriving a revenue from them would pass away and together with it the greater part of the revenue.

(5.) To turn again to the system of civil justice, the powers enjoyed by the present Monegar are those of a Village Munsif as laid down in Regulations IV. and V. of 1816. But by Sections 6 of Regulation IV. of 1816 and 12 of Regulation V. of 1816 suits for damages on account of personal injuries or for personal damages of any nature are expressly exempted. This forms a large number of cases when the plaints of the islanders are put into a proper form. Also all suits relating to immoveable property, taking "personal" to mean moveable, are beyond the jurisdiction of the Monegar. From this reason it appears from the returns of the last four years that out of an average number of 29·0 suits 18·75 were beyond the jurisdiction of the Monegar. He decided, on an average, but two of these suits, illegally no doubt, but yet the parties obtained some kind of justice. From what has been said in paragraph 41 almost all the criminal trespass cases seem to be of a civil nature, but in them the Monegar has no jurisdiction, so that all these cases ought to go to the mainland for decision. Thus by far the greater number of civil suits cannot be legally decided on the islands. And while, if one man claims from another a debt of 200 Rupees, he can get his claim adjudicated in the islands, if he sues for the recovery of five trees (a very common number), he must come to the mainland though the value of the property involved in the latter case is about one-fourth of what it is in the former. But further, in the former case no stamp duty will have to be paid, whereas in the latter a heavy one must be paid as he must proceed in the District Court of Mangalore.

56. Then comes the question, to what is all this owing. The answer, I think, is that the system of both civil and criminal justice suited for, and necessary on, the mainland is not suited for these islands. It is too broad in some things, too narrow in others. The jurisdiction of the Courts of the mainland as applied to these islands includes and excludes classes of cases which it should not include or exclude on these islands, and the law requires forms of procedure, etc., which are needless and superfluous there. It remains, therefore, since the civil and criminal jurisdictions of the Courts and their modes of procedure cannot be changed without a mass of special and local legislation to suit them to the requirements of these islands, but to adopt that course by which the same result can be attained by one law, in which not only such modifications and changes of existing laws as may now be necessary can be introduced, but, should future changes in the state of the society of the islands need it, such changes as may be required can be made with much greater facility. This will at once be attained by bringing these islands under the operation of the Agency Act. Should this course be adopted the rules could be so framed as to provide for the detailed structure of the tribunals, *e. g.*, the election of assessors, etc., the number of such tribunals, their jurisdiction both as to amount and classes of cases, the Police powers of the Monegar, his position in relation to the Sea Customs Department and to authorities on the mainland, etc. Another great difficulty in the administration of civil justice, the legal enforcing of the decree (see Board's Proceedings of 25th July 1871, No. 3,108, paragraph 6) could also be provided for by legal machinery; in short, all the requirements of the case could be met by a legal remedy. With these remarks I quit this subject.

57. *Changes in Configuration and Harbour Improvements.*—The changes mentioned by Mr. Hall in paragraph 3 of his report are still going on. In Kiltan I noticed another row of trees planted apparently a year or so. The lagoon of Kiltan is still decreasing in depth and is shallower than that of any other islands visited by me. As the islanders have cleared a passage from the main entrance to the shore a laden Coondra can get out easily enough at high water still. There is also another entrance on the east side. In Chetlat the islanders also state that the harbour is filling up, they say at the rate of four fingers in eight years, which may be interpreted to mean slowly. The map which I received from your office shows correctly the changes which are taking place in the islands. These changes are, in my opinion, due to the wash of the waves which break over the reef during the monsoon, and which run with great force against the island which is close to the reef at that point, the reef also being low. It is not, in my opinion, due to currents prevailing in the sea, because the opening in the reef is so very small and shallow when compared with the amount of still water inside the lagoon that while the main body of the currents must flow outside the lagoon owing to the reef being above water, any part of it which got inside the reef would produce little or no effect, and because, though currents towards the north prevail during the whole year in these seas in the neighbourhood of the islands, these changes take place only during the monsoon. Mr. Robinson says that "the body of the island is the more perfect development of the eastern and protected side of the coral formation," and "under the protection of the shoal the east rim gradually developed itself towards the centre and formed an island," the sand accumulated being that worn down by the action of the waves on the reef. This is what seems to have occurred in the case of Amini and Andrat, where the circular reef is still traceable, but the body of the island now extends to within from 50 to 100 yards of it. They have, therefore, no lagoons, so it seems probable that the filling up of the harbour of Kiltan and Chetlat is due to the same forces which originally formed the island. Neither is the harbour shoaling in any one place apparently but over its whole extent. It seems probable, therefore, that any improvement of the harbour would have but a temporary effect and require renewal after a very short time. In considering the question of harbour improvement it should be remembered that the Coondras could be laden just as well outside the reef as inside it, except for the distance, as the sea is quite smooth for five months in the year. The harbour is not needed for shelter as the Coondras are drawn up on the beach immediately after their return from a voyage and during the whole monsoon. I can sugges no work to prevent the washing away of the land in Chetlat, as any work to be effectual would have to be expensive and the loss which is incurred is small. It would be, in some measure, compensated if the man whose land is being washed away were given the right of planting in the accretions which are taking place at the other end of the island. The owner of the land against which the accretion takes place has at present the right of planting it. As the islanders through the Koot possess a means of carrying out projects for the public good they would be quite capable of themselves carrying out any temporary improvement which may be needed. I would submit, therefore, that, while education and the administration of the islands call for improvement as they do, money spent on harbour improvement would be wasted.

58. *The tenure of Land.*—The right in land is in a very uncertain state. This uncertainty exists in two forms—

(1.) The rights of the inhabitants as against each other.

(2.) The rights of landlords and their tenants.

(1.) The first is a question of some importance because it affects a large body of people in all the islands, but more especially in Amini and Kadamat, and also because it is a fertile source of quarrels. Mr. Robinson says on this subject that "each ryot planted as he was able and claimed no other right than that of replanting where his tree had formerly stood." In Amindivi, where the whole soil has been long fully occupied, immemorial enjoyment has given certain persons a pre-

scriptive right to plots of ground, but in the other islands no proprietary rights in certain parts of the soil as against each other is contended for. This further right is now asserted, that a man can plant a tree or trees in any part of the land overshadowed by his tree, which is again supposed to be corrected by the mamool that if a man plants a tree so near the edge of the plot of ground thus claimed as that the tree when grown overshadows another's land so as to interfere with the growth of vegetation in that other's plot the latter is entitled to half the produce of the overshadowing tree. This is a fertile source of litigation, and its effect is perceived in the enormous number of criminal trespass cases shown in the criminal returns and also in the number of cases which relate to trees shown in the Civil Form No. II., a fair proportion of which assume the form of a complaint that "the defendant plucked up young plants which the plaintiff had planted in his own ground." This state of things might, to some extent, be corrected in Amini by requiring the people to put down boundary stones, and in Kadamat also by marking off the boundaries when new plantations take place. In all the islands, indeed, since Mr. Robinson's visit, this system has been carried out in obedience to an order by him that all waste land should be planted in plots, but in the older plantation in Kiltan and Chetlat I can suggest no remedy as "the properties in trees are detached and intermixed in the most extraordinary manner, often single trees at great distances from each other and known only to the proprietor."

(2.) The second form of uncertainty is perhaps of greater importance than the above as it is caused by a change in the manner of regarding the position of the higher castes by the lower and is a struggle for emancipation on the part of the latter. This question is, I may say, confined to Amini and Kadamat. It is of importance as it affects a large body of people in these islands, but as yet it has not often come before the Courts. It affects a large body of people because in Amini the whole of the fourth caste, in number about 1,173, are tenants, or more than half the population. In Kadamat ninety males out of 111 are tenants, whose masters live in Amini. In Kiltan they are but five or six persons in all, in Chetlat one. The small number in the last two islands is due to the system prevailing there of doing everything by houses, of which there are eight in Kiltan, nine in Chetlat. I have said above that as yet this question has not come often before the Courts. In later years, however, there is a tendency to bring this matter into Court, and in 1872 three cases founded on this relationship are entered in the file. Formerly the Moktessars, who are the great landlords, had influence enough probably with the tenant to get the matter referred to the arbitration of some of their own order; but latterly the tenants not liking the decision of this body, which can hardly be looked on as unprejudiced, defied the Moktessar or landlord, who was driven to bring the matter into Courts. This is a sign of the growing strength of the tenants who aim at evading the performance of the service which they are bound to perform.

The relationship is stated by Mr. Robinson as follows:—

"The large tree-owners let trees to those who have none on service rents only, stipulating that the tenant carry on his master's dry cultivation, serve in his boat, and, though he has the enjoyment of the whole produce of the trees and receives also the price of the coir produced on them, he is obliged to export all his coir in his master's boats" paying twenty per cent. of the coir as freight while the independent coir-exporter pays but ten per cent. They must also pay some small nuzzer to the master on the occasion of a marriage or death in the master's family; the master, however, also gives something to the tenant on the happening of similar events in his family. From this it will be perceived that the tenant of, say, fifty trees stands in a very much worse position than the small independent holder of the same number of trees, and hence the struggle which the tenants are now making. My grounds for stating that this feeling is spreading among the tenants are the statements of the Monegar and Moktessars to that effect and what has already occurred in the case of Kadamat coupled with the fact that it is an old ground of dispute. In Kadamat a few years ago it took the form of refusing to send their coir in the Amindivi people's boats. This was stopped by the late Acting Collector, Mr. Webster, issuing an order in 1871 that the Kadamat people were to send their coir according to mamool in the Amini boats. This was probably in consequence of

Vide Mr. Robinson's report, paragraph 13.

the remark in paragraph 12 of the Board's Proceedings of the 7th May 1870, No. 3,036. In Amini it now takes the form of the tenants claiming the absolute right in the trees. They have, I believe, succeeded in gaining this concession in some instances. It is but one step more to refuse to perform the service. As this is a question affecting a large number of people and lying at the root of the society in the island, and as, unless the right of the tenant is recognized, there is a danger that he may be reduced to the same condition as a collier in Ireland previous to the great famine of 1847-48, owing to the limited extent of the land in these islands, and the dislike of the people to emigration, while the population seems steadily increasing, in justice to both parties I would recommend that before the question gets involved the landlords and tenants be required to reduce their agreements to writing, to be filed and registered by the Monegar in the same way as is done with leases on the mainland under the same penalty, and that they be induced as much as possible to commute their service rents into one in money or kind. These agreements might be shown in the land register which I have recommended above. This inclination on the part of the lower castes to rise at the expense of the upper I also noticed in Andrat and some of the other islands under the Rajah of Cannanore. I am much encouraged in bringing forward this question as I notice that Mr. Logan, in paragraphs 15 and 37 of his report on the Cannanore Islands written in 1870, also adverts to it. It is, in my opinion, one of much importance.

59. *Complaints by the Islanders.*—In all the islands I gave the Moktessars twenty-four hours to consider and bring forward any grievances which they wished redressed. In all the islands the complaints were—

(1.) That four years should be given them to pay for the rice supplied in 1871, instead of, as now, when the debt must be discharged in three.

(2.) That the Monegar should be a Mussulman, the man just sent being a Christian.

(3.) That more salt should be supplied to them at the cheap rate.

(4.) That, while formerly they got suggi rice from Government, they now get rice of an inferior quality and even of that short weight.

(5.) That, while they have improved the coir, no increase in price has been given them as promised.

(6.) That the entrances to the lagoon should be cleared.

(7.) That the time of bringing the coir to Mangalore should be extended.

(1.) As to the first complaint. In 1871, the boats having started for the islands unusually late, were driven back by contrary winds. They failed to reach the islands at all before the monsoon, and had to stay on the coast until after it was over. To prevent a famine in the islands Government sent a steamer, chartered at an enormous expense, to take rice to the islanders. Some went to our islands, and some to those under the Rajah of Cannanore. It is with reference to this rice that this petition is made. It must be noticed that the case of the islanders is not nearly so hard as might be supposed at first glance, for as not many of their boats were lost they had the rice supplied before the monsoon almost untouched. Again, Government ordered, in G. O. of the 4th May 1872, Revenue Department, No. 724, that no charge for freight should be made against the islanders. The cost of the rice supplied, however, amounted to Rupees 11,664-3-6, and the first instalment levied this year amounts to Rupees 3,909-10-6, or an impost of about Rupees 1-0-9 per head of the population; the second instalment to be levied in 1874 amounts to Rupees 3,877-4-6; the third to the same. To recover these an impost of about Rupees 1-0-7·5 per head will have to be levied. As I have shown above that the islanders pay an amount of taxation now estimated at Rupees 3-3-2·4, or Annas 12-7·4 a-head more than the people on the mainland pay, it seems probable that an impost of Rupees 4-0-9·9 would press unduly on people who are much poorer than those of the mainland. I would recommend, therefore, that the indulgence sought be granted them. The case is still stronger if we take the amount of taxation shown above in paragraph 37.

(2.) As to the second. This they desire as the Monegar must, by the custom of the island, be present in the mosque on the occasions of marriage, divorce, moollad, *i. e.* the ceremonies per-

formed on the anniversary of Mahomet's death and birth and at many other ceremonies. As by the custom of the island also Punchayets, consultations, etc., are always held in the mosque, and as none but a Mahomedan may enter, great inconvenience will be the result of appointing a man of any other faith. You very truly remark in your covering letter to Mr. Hall's report, dated 2nd April 1870, No. 429, paragraph 20, "that whether as vaccinator, Monegar, or peon, no officers seem to succeed in these islands unless they hold the same faith as the islanders, who are, without exception, Mussulmans." The common argument that Government should withdraw as much as possible from interference in such ceremonies should, I think, be allowed no weight in this instance. These customs have prevailed in the islands from the memory of man, and to alter them is a revolution of the most startling nature among a people unaccustomed to change. The Monegar derives much of his influence and claims to reverence from his holding a high position in the ceremonies of the mosque. I think any change in this matter or any other connected with the social relations on the islands cannot be too strongly deprecated. No doubt a Mussulman suitable in all respects for this office can be found, if not in this district at any rate in Malabar.

(3.) As to the third complaint. The islanders at present receive at cost price something more than one maund of salt to each candy of coir imported. If they want more they can purchase it at the monopoly price. They received in the past year 851 maunds of salt at cost price; this with a population of 3,725 would give each person 6 lbs. and 4 oz. nearly per annum for all purposes. This is much lower than the average consumption of each person on the mainland, which is, I believe, for this Presidency 14 lbs., for Bengal from 8 to 9 lbs.; on the other hand, it is essential, to prevent smuggling, that the quantity supplied should be short of that required; but, as there is apparently a very great difference in the consumption of salt in the islands and the mainland, assuming that they get salt from nowhere else, and as the islanders are taxed very much higher than the people on the mainland I would recommend that the amount of salt supplied to them at cost price be slightly increased.

(4.) As to the fourth complaint. The system pursued at present is that of selling the contract for supplying the islanders with rice according to a fixed sample by public auction. The actual cost to Government as shown in the form is the amount paid to the contractor, but at the market price then prevailing he had to pay for every 110 Rupees, the price contracted for, contained in it, 117 Rupees the market price per corgee. Hence his apparent loss amounts to about 680 Rupees. In six out of the last ten years heavy losses have been thus sustained, yet the competition for this contract is most keen. This coupled with the complaints of the islanders seems to point to some endeavour, more or less successful, on the part of the contractor to recoup his losses at the expense of the islanders. It is, however, difficult to see how this can occur, as the system devised for the protection of the islanders seems to be carried out by the subordinate Customs officials with perfect integrity. The sample is given to them, and the weights for weighing the rice are kept by them. When the amount of coir brought by each islander has been determined he is given an order on the contractor for the amount of rice due; he then takes the weights, which are kept in the Custom-house, and gets the rice weighed out to him or weighs it himself. Should he be dissatisfied he can take some of the rice and compare it with the sample, and, should the Sea Customs Superintendent consider the rice not according to the sample, different rice must be supplied. Under these circumstances it is difficult to see how short weight can be supplied to the islanders. The complaint of the deterioration of the quantity of the rice supplied has probably no better foundation. The Monegar might, however, be required to attend to see the rice weighed out; he has little to do when he comes on shore.

(5.) As to the fifth. The claim of the islanders seems in this respect well founded. In paragraph 30 of your letter, dated 2nd April 1870, No. 429, quoted in Board's Proceedings of 7th May 1870, No. 3,036, you propose to give the islanders "the same percentage of the enhancement in the prices that they have hitherto had of the average market prices of the last ten years," and you proposed to give the arrangement a retrospective effect. The Board of Revenue in the above-quoted Proceedings recommended in favour of the proposal. The Government, in their Proceedings in the Revenue Department, dated 9th September 1870, No. 126, say that "the first measure to grant the islanders a percentage on the increased profits which have been realized by Government on the sale of coir which will give the islanders an interest in improving the manufacture for the future appear to Government extremely judicious, and the Acting Collector is authorized to carry it into effect, but Government see no reason to give the arrangement a retrospective effect." This arrangement has not been carried out as appears from this petition, and I am also given to understand the same on inquiry at Mangalore. To examine what the effect of this arrangement will be on the net annual income of Government; the average market price up to Fasli 1278, the year in which the arrangement under discussion was proposed, for twenty years is Rupees 37-3-0, the average price per candy; from Fasli 1278 to 1282 is Rupees 58-8-0, or an increase of Rupees 21-5-0. The average annual importation for the period of twenty-five years has been 659 candies a-year, and the rate at which the islanders are at present paid is Rupees 20-4-0. Therefore, under the above arrangement, the islanders are to get the same percentage of Rupees 21-5-0 that Rupees 20-4-0 is of Rupees 37-3-0 or fifty-two per cent. of Rupees 21-5-0 or Rupees 11-2-0 increased price per candy, consequently the amount which will on this calculation be annually given up by Government will be Rupees 7,380-8-0; but the average annual income for twenty-five years is Rupees 12,102-5-0, hence the average annual income will be reduced to Rupees 4,721-7-0 or 64·6 per cent., but the average annual expense of establishment since Fasli 1274 when last increase was sanctioned, and contingencies during the last twenty-five years preceding and inclusive of Fasli 1282 is Rupees 1,764. This in considering future expenses must be increased by Rs. 436 per annum, the increase of pay of the Monegar sanctioned in G. O. of 30th January 1872, No. 186. The annual remission to the Rajah of Cannanore amounts to Rupees 5,250, hence the total annual average deductions amount to Rupees 7,750, or leaves a deficit of revenue of Rupees 3,029. This deficit will be annually slightly increased by the charge which may arise from the necessity of sending a steamer with rice to these islanders. If, however, we take the last five very favourable years, not making any deductions, we find that the annual average income of Government under the present arrangement is Rupees 19,401; that the annual importation is 718 candies, and the deduction under the arrangement under discussion Rupees 8,041-6-0, or that the annual income of Government will be Rupees 11,360, from which we must deduct an establishment costing, on an average, Rupees 1,595, which in estimating future expenses must be increased to Rupees 2,031; this with the remission to the Rajah of Cannanore will make the total reductions Rupees 7,281 and, therefore, the net income of Government but Rupees 4,079. As I cannot but regard the last few years as exceptionally favourable I would recommend that the percentage of increase sanctioned be reduced before the arrangement is brought into operation.

(6.) As to the sixth. With reference to this question I have already expressed my opinion in paragraph 57 that to clear the entrances to the lagoons would be futile; in a short while the entrance would again become choked. To break away the reefs so as to make a channel practicable at all seasons of the year would be a labour of great expense unattended with corresponding advantage to the islanders. Any minor work the islanders can do themselves.

(7.) As to the seventh. The table marginally shown gives the times of arrival of the first coir boats at Mangalore since 1867, when the bonus system was first introduced. The principal cause of delay is the wind. They also state they cannot make up the coir, as, if they did so, it would get spoiled by the rats. The first difficulty is not insuperable as the boats from the Cannanore Islands leave at five different times between October and May. The second also seems groundless because in '281, the Fasli in which they began to arrive earliest as shown in the above statement, we find an importation of coir very much above the average. As any extension of the time would lay Government open to risk of serious loss I cannot recommend any extension of the time for arrival.

Memorandum of the Dates on which the first Boat arrived from the Amindivi Islands

Before the issue of orders.	After the promulgation of orders in 1867.
Fasli 1274, 3rd March	Fasli 1277, 7th March
,, 1275, 7th ,,	,, 1278, 23rd February
,, 1276, 5th ,,	,, 1279, 5th March
	,, 1280, 27th February
	,, 1281, 5th ,,
	,, 1282, 19th ,,

60. These petitions were presented from all the islands. But the people of Kadamat further prayed that they might be allowed to export their coir in their own boats. They have advanced much of late years in planting, population, and in the material condition of the people. They now desire to trade for themselves. In 1871 the people tried to shake off the yoke of the people of Amini as I have explained above in paragraph 58, Part II., of this report. As there are ninety tenants of the Amini people in this island out of a population of 111 males it materially affects the prosperity of the whole island. It means to the people of Kadamat that they have to pay twenty per cent. instead of ten per cent for freight in the export of their coir as houses are found in this island as in Kiltan and Chetlat. It presses on them again from the other side, because their coir being imported in Amini boats only seventy per cent. is classed as first class, but the coir of Kadamat is acknowledged to be quite as good as that of Kiltan and Chetlat, but of the coir imported from the latter islands eighty per cent. is received as first class. Thus the people of Kadamat get twenty per cent. less profit on the exportation of their coir than the people of any other island. It is hardly, therefore, a matter of wonder that Kadamat has always been so backward. This unfairness to the people of Kadamat would be, in some measure, removed by Government receiving all coir imported direct from Kadamat at a fixed rate, the quality being fixed once for all as in the other islands. The whole injustice, of course, cannot be removed without a disturbance of inter-island relations forbidden in paragraph 12 of Board's Proceedings, dated 7th May 1870, No. 3,036.

61. *Petitions received, orders issued, etc.*—In Amini one man brought a complaint that his trees had been unlawfully taken away. I found that the case had been decided previously to Mr. Hall's visit. Another petition for some Circar trees which had been given away after the great storm of 1847 to one of the Andrat people, and which were about to become vacant on the return of the holder to Andrat, was presented to me. The petitioner was represented as entirely without means of support, so I directed that ten trees should be given to him when they were available. In Kadamat none were presented. In Kiltan, one petition, a claim to trees, was presented to me. As it presented no extraordinary feature I referred it to the Monegar. In Chetlat I was asked to issue an order prohibiting the people from going to the reef on which the *Lord Brougham* was wrecked on the ground that they went there to pillage. I declined issuing any such order, but had the salvage laws carefully explained to the people in my presence. The entire absence of petitioners goes far to induce a belief in the late Monegar's fair administration of justice though his knowledge of law was apparently slight. In the islands of Kadamat and Kiltan the practice of steeping the coir in freshwater pits still prevails though Mr. Hall issued orders in 1868 that they should all be stopped up—an instance of the worthlessness and laziness of the peons, who, not being directly responsible, of course do not care whether the orders are carried out or not. As the only excuse which the islanders could give for making the pits in the middle of the islands was the labour entailed in taking the husk about 100 yards to the sea-shore, I gave strict orders to the Monegar to see that they were all filled up at once. In Amini it was brought to my notice by the Moktessars that, in consequence of the high prices lately prevailing for nuts, planting had received so great an impulse that the Tot was getting filled with cocoanut plants, the reason being that when one man plants cocoanut plants in his piece of land his neighbour is in self-defence compelled to plant them also as in consequence of the shade nothing will grow on his land. As the Tot has hitherto been as carefully preserved as possible for the cultivation of dry grains I issued strict orders to the Monegar that the mamool prevailing with regard to overshadowing trees, and mentioned above in paragraph 58, Part I., should be as strictly enforced as possible. I also suggested to the Moktessars that this question should be disposed of in the same way as they had settled that with regard to goats, as related above in paragraph 19.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Memorandum of Charges incurred in procuring Owls sent to the Laccadive Islands.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

ABSTRACT.—Draft of an Act and Rules for the administration of the Amindivi Islands.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

ABSTRACT.—Statement showing the financial results of the Coir Monopoly in the District of South Canara during the last twenty years.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

ABSTRACT.—Statement showing the Quantities of Amindivi Coir purchased and sold during Faslis 1281 and 1282.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

ABSTRACT.—Copies of Statistics forming Enclosures to Mr. Stokes' Report on Amindivi Islands, dated 22nd May 1873, No. 95.

WITH this letter the Collector of South Canara submits, with his comments, Mr. Stokes' report on the Laccadive Islands, which were visited by him in the early part of the year. Mr. Stokes visited as well the islands attached to the Malabar District and belonging to the Rajah of Cannanore; but a separate report upon them by an officer of that district is, the Board believe, to be submitted to Government.

2. Mr. Stokes states that the Cannanore Islands are practically without government of any kind, that the people seek to have some regular administration set up at once amongst them, and desire to have the system prevailing in the northern islands introduced amongst them with a proper administration of justice. It appears to be incumbent on the Government to step in and restore order and right by assuming the administration. It is essential that this political question should be solved before extensive revision of the administrative organization of the Canara Islands is undertaken, for it is obvious that the occupation of the southern islands must restore to the Malabar District the northern islands which have been separated from the rest, and that an organization must be devised with reference to the requirements of the whole group.

3. As regards the islands to which these papers especially relate it is evident that no rapid movements either of population, industry, or wealth can be looked for. Still Mr. Stokes' observations enable him to assert that plantation is steadily extending, though the tale of trees returned to him by the people was understated. The Board deprecate the frequent counting of the trees which has occurred of late years. It serves no useful object, and is calculated to disturb the minds of the people. Population shows a slight increase, but has scarcely recovered the outbreak of cholera in 1865. Activity in boat-building, shown by large imports of timber, indicates improvement in material welfare. The substitution of cocoanut plantation for dry grains is not to be regretted. The Collector should endeavour to introduce some vegetable productions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, and perhaps tapioca, which would probably thrive under the cocoanut trees.

4. The educational wants of the islands will be best met by introducing, as occasion opens, the system of elementary schools proposed by Mr. Macgregor for the similar Moplah population in Malabar. The proposals alluded to by Mr. Thomas are entirely unsuited to the conditions of the islands.

5. The Board recommend, for favourable consideration, the suggestion that a skilled midwife should be employed for a time on the islands. They see no reason why the peons resident on each island should not be supplied with a stock of the simple medicines now entrusted for distribution to the Monegar of Amini alone. There is nothing on record excluding the poor of Kiltan from participating in the Poor Fund alluded to in paragraph 20 of Mr. Stokes' report. Such distinctions should cease in future.

6. The charges incurred in sending owls to the islands are sanctioned. Mr. Thomas is at liberty to send jays as he proposes. The rats are stated not to have diminished in numbers. The borer worm alluded to is a serious pest.

Exports.

Years.	Cocoanuts.	Copra.	Jaggery.	Coir.	Limes.
	Thousands.	Candies.	Candies.	Candies.	Thousands.
1869 ...	1,298	221	49	608	78
1870 ...	397	116	39	657	163
1871 ...	1,450	245	49	606	106
1872 ...	2,514	203	21	650	88

Imports.

Years.	Rice.	Salt.	Tobacco.	Timber.	Grain.
	Moorahs. Hundreds.	Maunds. Hundreds.	Candies.	Cubits.	Moorahs.
1862 ...	62	12	6	353	60
1863 ...	41	5	3	184	39
1864 ...	82	25	10	51	18
Average.	62	14	6	196	39
1870 ...	107	6	7	2,582	116
1871 ...	155	17	10	1,552	42
1872 ...	127	8	7	5,937	158
Average.	130	10	8	3,357	105

7. The progress of trade in the most important articles is shown in the margin, and indicates improved comfort and consumption. It is to be hoped that the Returns are not swelled by inter-island manifests. Such are as much out of place as would be Rowannahs between village and village on the coast.

8. The coir monopoly continued to yield a moderate annual revenue to Government. The Statements submitted by Mr. Thomas show that the islanders received payment at the rate of about Rs. 30 per candy during the last ten years, the price realized by Government being about Rs. 46 The difference pays all the ordinary expenses of administration as well as the compensation to the Cannanore family and leaves a surplus which goes to recoup such extraordinary charges as were incurred in 1871. It is unnecessary for the Board to follow Mr. Stokes' arguments against the extension of the monopoly. It would probably be impossible to devise a system which would be so acceptable and so well suited to the people of these islands and to existing conditions.

9. The Returns as to civil and criminal justice show a condition of things on the whole satisfactory. No serious crime occurs, and there is no indication of abuse of authority, though apparently a sufficiency of technical irregularity. Under the head of "Disobedience to orders" appears the breach of certain local prohibitions which have merely customary sanction. The enforcement of some of these by criminal sanction should be checked, but care should be taken to maintain indispensable usages such as "Koots" for rat-hunts, launching and drawing up boats, etc.

10. In paragraph 48 Mr. Stokes enumerates the duties of the several officials. Those of the Monegar are of a mixed kind—some rather social than official—but no formal change is called for. It is evident, however, that he fails to move about sufficiently among the islands. The difficulties of intercommunication are much exaggerated; large rowing boats are constantly passing between the islands, and the Monegar should be required to visit every one of them three or four times in the year at least. The real obstacle the Board believe to be the requiring the islanders to carry the establishment *gratis*. The Monegar should be empowered to demand, on payment of hire and batta, to be furnished with a boat and men when needed for public service.

11. The Collector and Mr. Stokes submit proposals for increasing the establishment in the islands by giving in effect separate staffs to Kiltan and Chetlat. After certain reductions in the staff of peons and in the pay of the Monegar the cost of the island establishment would be Rupees 1,900 per annum. Considering the size and importance of the islands, the largest of which is but equal in population to a moderate-sized village, the Board doubt the necessity for this outlay. They would have a headman in each island corresponding to the head of the village on the mainland and paid perhaps Rupees 10 per mensem; but, as stated above, this matter must be settled in connection with the decision of Government as to the Cannanore Islands.

12. Mr. Thomas submits a draft Act and Rules for securing the objects aimed at by extension of the Agency Act, which are very carefully prepared and in the main right. They should, however, be referred to the Collector and Magistrate of Malabar for consideration, and should be made the subject of careful and full discussion between the Collectors of the two districts and the Board, apart from the general review of the condition of the islands.

13. In paragraph 58 Mr. Stokes treats accurately of the two most important questions—proprietary and social—which occasionally give rise to litigation as to civil rights. As regards property, the existing conditions of things undoubtedly arose out of the original commonable character of the whole land of the community, and, though these are theoretically anomalous, disputes which arise chiefly as to occupation rights in the common land are easily disposed of in practice under long-established and well-understood customary usages. As regards further appropriation of waste, the proper application of the Darkhast Rules would supply a remedy. The Board see no need for State interference as to questions of proprietary right.

14. The social question treated of in Clause II of the same paragraph probably arise rather from the ancient condition of prædial serfdom of the lower castes than from the relation of landlord and tenant, and it chiefly occurs in those islands in which, like Kadamat, there has been intermixture of race. So far as the social arrangements and dependent rights within each island is concerned

the settlement must be left to the ordinary development of society; but relations of dependence as between islands, *e. g.*, of Kadamat on Amini, should cease. The Board regret to observe that Mr. Webster has thrown back the advance of the former island by practically refusing to allow the inhabitants to use sea-going boats of their own. This order should be cancelled, and restrictions should be withdrawn except when individual private rights are concerned.

15. As regards the special petitions of the islanders the Board would allow the balance of the cost of the rice sent by Government to the islands to be paid in three instalments, as proposed, instead of two.

16. The Board regret that the Collector sent a Native Christian to the islands as Monegar. This man should be forthwith withdrawn and a Mahomedan sent, a native either of Canara or Malabar.

17. The increase in the quantity of salt proposed by the Collector to be furnished to the islanders at cost price should be allowed as an experiment. Either an excessive or a deficient supply is likely to excite smuggling, but it is desirable to attempt to induce the islanders to salt their fish.

18. There seems no necessity for change as to the arrangements for supplying rice.

19. The Collector proposes that twenty-five per cent. of the net profits on coir should be paid to the islanders provided that the quantity does not fall below 674 candies and the price realized is not less than Rupees 40 per candy. The Board think that this proposal is fair and offers sufficient stimulus to improvement. They recommend that it be sanctioned with effect in arrears from and including 1871-72.

20. The Board agree with Mr. Stokes as to the demand for harbour improvements and time fixed for the arrival of the boats at Mangalore.

21. Mr. Stokes' interesting and exhaustive report merits the commendation of the Board.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H Elliott

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with five original enclosures.

" the Collector of South Canara.

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

No. 230. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1873, No. 2,153 :—

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 12th August 1873, No. 1,3[illegible]A :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Laccadive Islands attached to the district of South Canara.

2. The smallness of the district G. O., 27th February 1868, No. 531, R. D. has precluded their being visited since 1869.

3. My present Assistant Mr. Stokes's report is enclosed. It is so thorough that it is neither necessary nor desirable that I should add to it more than can be avoided. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the few paragraphs which seem to call for them.

4. PLANTATION—*Paragraph* 6.—Measures will be taken to secure a correct return for each island.

5. EDUCATION—*Paragraphs* 9 *and* 10.—Neither the isolated position of the people, nor any of their avocations make much call for education, which is consequently at as low an ebb as in some parts of England; and a roll of four boys and one girl for a whole island is not a very promising spectacle. I am of opinion, therefore, that education should not be forced upon them, but such only as they need placed within their reach. In my view, the mean in this matter can best be reached practically by the modified results-grant system, propounded in my letter, No. 339, dated 13th June 1873*. It is out of the question that an educational officer should be sent to these islands for the purpose of examining them, and declaring the results on which the payments are to be made. The Monegar will be quite competent to make these elementary examinations and petty grants, and his proceedings will come under review when the islands are visited by a European officer.

* Addressed by me as President of the Local Fund Board.

6. SANITARY CONDITION—*Paragraphs* 12 *and* 13.—The want of a "Hospital Assistant" has been brought† forward separately, and I would now support the proposal for supply of an obstetric nurse for three years. The wife of the Hospital Assistant sanctioned can possibly qualify for this post for a lower payment than would satisfy a separate individual.

† Board's Procs., 21st June 1873, No. 1,074.

7. RECORDS—*Paragraph* 14.—Provision will be made in my estimate of extra charges for the additional boxes required to hold the records and for the office-furniture to be supplied to the Monegar.

8. RATS—*Paragraphs* 15, 16, *and* 17.—The pest of rats is an old standing evil. The reason for my sending mongooses were fully given in my former report‡. Mr. Stokes thinks they have made no impression on the rats [illegible] the bare fact that

‡ Dated 2nd April 1870, No. 429.

Received 31 Oct 73

Rec'd 1873 Oct 24
No. 34/39
1873.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST OCTOBER 1873, No. 2,153.

Dep 28 Oct 73

Encl. 5-

OCTOBER.
No. 2,153.

Laccadive Islands.—Letter from Collector of South Canara forwarding report of Assistant-collector Mr. Stokes on his visit to —, submitted to Government with remarks. Orders passed on certain points noticed in report.

S.O. No. 384 — 26 Mar 74

Meanwhile we may let Mr. Thomas's pars. 5 - 15 - 17 - 19 of Mr. Stokes's pars: 1 & 2 go

Mr 10/2

* In what state is the question? I attempted to lie over, pending the decision on the Polekent dept, on the general question of the form of Administration proper for these Islands. 3/12/73.

Mr 10/2

"the mongooses have multiplied greatly" is, in itself, sufficient proof that they have been doing their work; for they could not have multiplied freely without liberal food, and their almost sole sustenance in the islands must be the rats they can catch. The rats being more seen in the trees than formerly is also an indication that the ground is dangerous to them, and that the dry grain crops are protected by the mongooses. The large owls I have now sent are calculated to supplement the powers of the mongoos by pursuing the rats in the trees. I am a little afraid that they may not take to the islands for want of large hollow trees in which to rear their young and rest. Natural remedies like the above are apt to be under-valued, because they are not well marked and noticeable in their action; but they are not the less sure, natural, and progressive. The harmless rat-snakes have evidently been slaughtered by the ignorance that looks upon every serpent with horror. If the mongooses and owls manage to ingratiate themselves better, they will in time suffice; meanwhile, it is not said that they are doing any harm.

For the white worm complained of, the right remedy is, I believe, the jay; but I have hesitated to move too much in this matter without the Board's approval.

A memorandum (enclosure No. 2), showing the charges incurred in connection with the owls, is submitted for sanction.

9. Pounds—*Paragraph* 19.—Fresh funds will be supplied for the construction of more durable pounds for the confinement of stray cattle. I have ascertained that a pound, with stone-walls, may be built on the islands for Rupees 25, and accordingly the required amount for four such structures will be forwarded to the Monegar by the first opportunity on the close of the present monsoon. The rate of fine was necessarily reduced on the introduction of the Cattle Trespass Act in the islands in 1871, but as Mr. Stokes states it has proved ineffectual; it must be increased.

10. Mr. Robinson's Charity—*Paragraph* 20.—I have already ordered the admission of four persons mentioned to the benefits of Mr. Robinson's Charity Fund, the proceeds of which are sufficient to cover the extra charge.

11. Export Returns—*Paragraph* 24.—The difference between export returns and the receipts of coir at Mangalore is, I understand, due to the coir not being properly weighed at the islands before shipment and the Moktessors being in the habit of generally under-stating the quantity with a view to defraud their tenants and the more ignorant of the inhabitants from whom the coir is purchased, or by whom it is shipped in their boats, and which persons, I hear, are paid for the nominal quantity entered in the islands, while the Moktessors receive full payment from Government on the mainland. It appears that no scales were ever supplied for the use of the islands. I have, therefore, separately submitted an indent for four pairs of scales, and on receipt will see that they are distributed and used on the islands in properly weighing the coir shipped.

12. Coir Monopoly—*Paragraph* 35.—The Statement No. 4, appended to the report, gives correctly the financial result of the coir monopoly system, showing an average annual net profit of Rupees 7,437. The cost of a Vaccinator maintained on the islands and medicines supplied for gratuitous distribution is not deducted by Mr. Stokes, but it cannot materially reduce the average. It must be

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th March 1874.

observed that this average is much reduced by one unusual item in the charges, viz., the freight of a steamer sent to the islands with supply of rice in relief of the islanders in 1871.

13. *Paragraphs* 36 *to* 37.—Extra taxation for educational or other purposes is not contemplated.

14. Arguments against the Monopoly—*Paragraph* 39.—The question of the retention of the monopoly as the most suitable and popular form of realizing a revenue from the islands has long ago been decided* in the affirmative, and the time has not arrived for re-opening it.

* Honourable Court of Directors, 10th May 1847, No. 26; G. O., 2nd September 1867, No. 2,045; Revenue Board's Proceedings, 23rd October 1863, No. 6,812.

It must, however, be noted, with reference to Mr. Stokes's comparison of the rate of taxation on the islands with that on the mainland, that the former is the result of the comparatively high prices fetched for the coir by a system under which the coir is disposed of wholesale by auctions under Government superintendence; while, if the trade was left to the islanders, and they were permitted to retail their own produce, the same results could not be expected by them. Again, one single adversity such as necessitated the despatch of a steamer to the islands with provisions to avoid a famine in 1863 and 1871, swamps all gains derived by Government from the coir monopoly.

15. Harbour Improvements—*Paragraph* 57.—I concur with Mr. Stokes that harbour improvements are not wanted. As regards the proposal that the men whose land is being washed away in Chetlat should be allowed to plant on the accretions, this is only a piece of justice to the men; and, if the Board approve, I will issue an order abolishing the present custom under which the right to plant is claimed by the neighbouring owners of land.

16. Tenure in Land—*Paragraph* 58.—The questions raised in this paragraph, with reference to intermixed plantations, land-tenure, boundary-marks and tenant-emancipation, being all within the personal knowledge of one Member of the Board who has visited the islands, suggestions from one who has not seen the islands would seem to be of little value.

17. That we may not be carried away by too exalted a view of the importance of these islands, it is as well to bear in mind that the total area of all of them together amounts only to a fractional part of Guindy Park for instance.

18. Civil and Criminal Administration—*Paragraphs* 55 *to* 56.—With reference to the future civil and criminal administration of the islands, Mr. Stokes suggests that in any arrangement made for this purpose the distance of the different islands from each other should be considered, and that separate Monegars should be appointed for Kiltan and Chetlat. This arrangement is feasible, and should, in my opinion, be carried out, as it will tend to the convenience of the islanders, while Government interests are not only not likely to suffer by the arrangement, but will be furthered thereby, as it seems that the presence of a Government officer on each island will secure better order and discipline there, and perhaps these officers could by their personal efforts stimulate the islanders to increase industry and the manufacture of a larger quantity of coir than they have hitherto turned out.

19. Mr. Stokes's proposal for the reorganization of the present establishment and for allowing a small remuneration to the Ugranies for the performance of the Police duties will only involve an extra annual cost of Rupees 192. The number of Peons, both on the islands and the mainland, can be reduced as proposed, an extra hand being entertained on the latter for the few months during which coir is imported and when the services of an extra Peon are required. The following is the cost of the present and proposed establishment :—

Present Establishment.	Per Annum. Rs.	*Proposed Establishment.*	Per Annum. Rs.
1 Monegar for all four islands, on Rupees 70 per mensem	840	1 Monegar, on Rupees 50	600
8 Peons, on Rupees 6 each		4 Peons, on Rupees 6 each	288
4 Karanis, on 84 Mudahs of rice, average price	220	4 Karanis (average allowance) ...	220
		Allowance to 8 Ugranies for Police duties, at Rupees 2 each ...	192
		2 Sub-Monegars for Kiltan and Chetlat, on Rupees 25 each ...	600
	1,636		1,990
On the Mainland.		*On the Mainland.*	
1 Gumastah, on Rupees 15	180	1 Guinastah, on Rupees 15	180
1 Weigher, on Rupees 7	84	1 Weigher, on Rupees 7	84
4 Peons, at Rupees 6 each	288	3 Peons, at Rupees 6 each	216
	552		480
Total...	2,188		2,380
		Deduct present Cost...	2,188
		Increase...	192

20. Mr. Stokes strongly advocates, as suggested by the Board and Government, the introduction on the islands of an Act similar in provisions to the Agency Act No. XXIV. of 1839, and a system of mixed tribunals on each island for the administration of civil and criminal justice, these tribunals being independent of each other; in other words, that each island (except Kadamat) should have a separate Monegar for itself aided by Assessors for the transaction of all civil and criminal business, the powers of the Monegars on the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat being more limited than those of the Monegar to be appointed for Amini and Kadamat.

21. I endorse these proposals which are in general accord with my formerly reported view, that any scheme devised for the administration of these islands must, to be effective, give a local administration as independent as possible of the mainland. I accordingly beg to submit, for the Board's approval, draft of an Act and Rules, in which I think, I have provided for all the existing wants of the islanders.

22. In the portion of the rules relating to the administration of civil justice, I have provided for the Monegar at Amini deciding all disputes up to the limit of Rupees 200, and the other Monegars, who will have to be called "Sub-Monegars," cases in which the value of the subject-matter in dispute does not exceed Rupees 100. This limit is, I think, necessary with reference to the comparatively lower status

and inferior position of the officials who will occupy the latter two posts. Looking to the nature of civil disputes usually arising in the islands, and the general poverty of the inhabitants, it is but rarely that suits of higher value will occur, and such suits may be decided either on the mainland or on the spot during the periodical visits of the Assistants.

23. In the Criminal Rules, provision is made for the Monegar in Amini exercising the powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 3rd class, and the Sub Monegars the powers of a Village Magistrate; but in both cases I consider it desirable, owing to the isolated position of the islands and the peculiar character of the inhabitants, that the aid of Assessors should be sought in all trials, with a view to provide a check on an improper use of authority by the Monegars, who will be so far removed from all inspection or control of European officers; and I propose to encourage, to the utmost, the use of the Punchayat system, by which the intervention of the Government officers will be, in a great measure, rendered unnecessary, and the islanders trained to self-government.

24. The Ugranies mentioned in paragraphs 50 and 53, clause 4, of Mr. Stokes's letter, seem the fittest persons to be entrusted with Police duties, and I recommend the proposal to allow them a small monthly remuneration of Rupees 2 each.

25. In the Revenue Rules there seems no necessity at present for inserting any provisions beyond what is required for legalizing the existing coir monopoly, and rendering it penal for the inhabitants to dispose of coir otherwise than by sale to Government; at the same time, I have so worded the clause that any subsequent modifications of the monopoly that Government may see fit to make will not be contrary to law. Provision has been made for the performance by the Monegars of the duties of Customs officers in their respective ports.

26. Cattle pounds and adequate fines have been provided for and the calling of assemblages or koots for island purposes legalized.

27. Grievances of the Islanders.—*Paragraph* 59, *Clause I.*—Under the orders of Government quoted by Mr. Stokes, the price of supplies sent to the Islanders in 1871 is recoverable in three annual instalments. The first has been paid up, and the second and third are due. I agree with Mr. Stokes in thinking that payment of these within the next two years will press unduly on the people, and recommend that the amount of the remaining two instalments be distributed over the next three years as follows:—

		Proposed Instalments. Rs. A. P.
Amount due, Rupees 7,754-9-0	1874	584 13 8
	1875	584 13 8
	1876	584 13 8
		7,... 9 0

28. Clause II.—On the retirement of the late Monegar, I found myself obliged, at the last moment, to send a Christian to fill up his post, simply because I could not find among the Mussalmans in this district a single man willing to do that I would dare to entrust with the unsupervised and practically uncontrolled power which the Monegar exercises, now that his powers are enhanced. I looked in vain among the willing Mussalmans for a man in whose character for uprightness I had suffi-

cient reliance to feel comfortable in trusting him in such a post. At the eleventh hour the present Christian Monegar offered his services, and it was quite a relief to me to find a man who, in the post of Municipal Inspector of Mangalore, had proved himself an *honest* as well as intelligent man. Considering that there is no caste objection to Mussalmans eating with Christians, I made the appointment as a temporary and tentative one, and the only satisfactory one open to me at the time. The man I sent had just joined his appointment at the time of Mr. Stokes's visit, and the objections made to his religion by the islanders must, in some measure, be attributed to the novelty of the appointment in their minds rather than to any disapproval of his management, of which they had had no time to judge. As, however, the salary of the post will now be reduced under the proposed scheme, the man will necessarily revert to his post on the mainland and a Massalman can then be selected either from this or the Malabar District.

29. Clause III.—I readily admit that the circumstances of the islanders as regards the consumption of salt are different from those on the mainland where people are less dependent for their food on salted fish and other provisions which must be stored and secured for a whole monsoon. At present, they are allowed to purchase, at cost-price, 1 Indian maund of salt to every candy of coir imported. I would recommend that this quantity be raised to 1¼ Indian maund in future, provided that the quantity of coir delivered to Government each year does not fall short of the average of the last twenty years.

30. Clause IV.—With reference to the complaints about the quality and short weight of rice, I can only point out that the system of supply is as good as any I can devise, and that the islanders have been formerly found (Mr. Hall's report) all too ready to complain; in fact, they are in many ways very children to deal with. They cannot be trusted with the money to buy for themselves, and if, by any other system of credits, they were allowed to select and purchase their own rice, I fear those left in the islands would not thank the Government for having withdrawn from the arrangement of the supply and left it to their own people.

31. With reference to the proposal* which I had the honour to make in 1870, it is very satisfactory to see that it has fulfilled my anticipations. The promise to the islanders that if they manufactured a superior coir they should participate in any enhanced price it might obtain in the market has led to such an improvement that, whereas the former auction price† of coir was Rupees 40 and odd a candy, the price realized at auction in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) was Rupees 47-11-5, and in fasli 1282 (A.D. 1872-73) Rupees 56-13-5 per candy; resulting in an enhanced profit‡ to Government of Rupees 5,190-5-4 in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and Rupees 12,140-6-0 in fasli 1282 (A.D. 1872-73) over and above their former sale-proceeds. That the whole of this enhancement is due to improved manufacture I cannot positively say; some measure of it may

* Paragraph 30 of my letter, 2nd April 1870, No. 429.

† As shown by the average of ten and of twenty years' sales.

‡ *Vide* Statement B.

possibly be due to the state of the market which I have not the means of testing. Coming as it does, however, simultaneously with the time* when I pressed them to improve their manufactures, and in such contrast with all former years, we may, I think, fairly attribute the bulk of the increased price to the value of the coir being directly increased by the better manufacture of the islanders; and they are, in my view, fairly entitled to a share of the profits resulting from their labour during all the years in which they brought us that profit; but as the Government order† forbids retrospective effect or payment for results being given for years fasli 1278 (A.D. 1868-69), 1279 (1869-70), and 1280 (1870-71), I deal only with fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (1872-73) as above quoted. I am very much ashamed, however, to find that, whether from oversight or hesitation, the promise has not, during my absence in England, been redeemed, and that amongst the islanders' grievances, is this complaint of breach of faith.

* Since fasly 1278 (A.D. 1868-69).

† 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, Revenue Department.

32. The cause for hesitation seems to have been the largeness of the sum to be given to the islanders under the Government order‡, namely, Rupees 3,788-11-2§ in fasli 1280 (A.D.1871-72) and Rupees 8,862-3-2§ in fasli 1282 (A.D. 1872-73), and the probable ill consequences of such a sudden accession of wealth to people so childish and indolent as the islanders.

‡ 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, paragraph 8.

§ *Vide* Statement B.

33. My original proposal was that the islanders should have the same share of the increased income as they now have of the ordinary income, and to this the Government‖ consented. The Board, however, thought they should have only 25 per cent. of the net profits, and wished to see actual results. I have the honour, therefore, to enclose two statements (marked A and B), showing, from an average of twenty years' accounts, that in rice and salt the islanders have received 63·21 per cent. of the gross profits, leaving 36·79 per cent. to Government; that even after including all the items of increased expenditure, which it is proposed in this report to undertake, there would still remain a profit out of the old income of 6·59¶ per cent. to Government; so that those items of increased expenditure need not trench on the enhanced income shown in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (A.D. 1872-73), and are not dependent on its being maintained; and even out of the old income we could still afford, without direct loss, to give the islanders 6·59 per cent. If, according to the Board's view, we gave them 25 per cent. out of the enhanced net profits of fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (A.D. 1872-73), we should have to pay them Rupees 902-4-9 and Rupees 2,991-10-2 for fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and 1282 (A.D. 1872-73) respectively.

‖ Paragraph 8 of G. O., 9th September 1870, No. 1,428.

¶ This is exclusive of the amount of Peishcush remitted to the Cannanore Rajah.

34. Being thus assured that our expenditure, both present and prospective, is within our income, and not** desiring to make a profit out of these islands, we are in a position safely to grant the percentage incentive reward proposed, and

** Mr. Blane's report to the Board, 23rd August 1846, No. 70, paragraph 3.

the only question that remains is the rate at which they should be calculated. The Board have suggested 25 per cent. of the net, and accepting this, the sums to be paid to the islanders in fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72) and fasli 1282 (1872-73), respectively, will be Rupees 902-4-9 and Rs. 2,991-10-2.

35. But these payments should be subject to the condition that the annual supply of coir does not fall short of 674 candies, the average of twenty years, though it may be as much in excess thereof as their energies can make it. But though we may calculate the net profits to assure us of our position, I do not think it is a fair principle on which to pay the islanders; for it will make their *bonus* dependent not on their own energies, but on the extravagance of our administration, and I would prefer that no change be made in the rate or manner of payments, so long as the coir does not exceed 674 candies a-year in quantity, or fetch more than Rupees 40 a-candy, but that when it fetches more they shall receive a *bonus* of 25 per cent. of the increased prices in addition to the ordinary payments made in rate and manner as heretofore.

36. It will be remembered that Mr. Shortt also availed himself of the opportunity to visit the Laccadives in company with the party from South Canara and Malabar. His recommendation that a Hospital Assistant should be supplied has been approved* by Government. He is further good enough to promise me the simple machine we have so long desired for the manufacture of the coir yarn. When his sample machine is received, it will be given a thorough trial on the mainland, and, if approved, one pattern will be sent to each island.

* G. O., 10th July 1873, No. 717, R. D.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. STOKES, Esq., Assistant Collector, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Hosdrug, 22nd May 1873, No. 95.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 67, of the 16th January 1873, I have the honour to submit, for your perusal, the following report on the Laccadive Islands, visited by me in the month of February last.

2. The group consists in all of the islands marginally shown, of which the five first are attached to this district; the last four are under the Rajah of Cannanore. I visited all, except Minecoy. The islands under the Rajah of Cannanore are much larger, and more populous than those under this district. The total superficial area of the former islands is about seven and-a-half or eight square-miles, with a population of between 5,500 and 6,000, while ours have a superficial area of but from six and-a-half to seven square-miles, with a population of 3,725. The soil of the former islands also seems richer on the whole, and they are all, with the exception of Androt, surrounded by lagoons very much deeper and deeper than those surrounding ours. The material condition of the people seems much better; they seem better housed and clothed. This is probably due to the fact that, during the last five or six years, the authority of the Rajah, and with it the coir and other monopolies, has been entirely disregarded, and the people trading freely with the coast, and paying no tax or impost of any kind, except import duties on their coir, have realized large profits. In addition to this, there is in these islands a large extent of land, probably one-fourth of the whole islands, which is only half planted, viz., the Pandarum lands, or those

1. Amini.
2. Kadamat.
3. Kiltan.
4. Chetlat.
5. Bitra.

} Attached to Canara.

6. Agalti.
7. Kowrathy.
8. Kalpeni
9. Androt.
10. Minecoy.

} Under the Rajah of Cannanore.

which the Rajah claims as his own, and lets out to the islanders at a rent of, I believe, half produce. This rent was collected by the Rajah's Agents, but when the islanders shook off his authority, they refused to pay any rent, and so for six or more years they have enjoyed this land rent-free.

3. There has been for some time past no government of any kind in these islands; the only mode of settling disputes being the arbitration of the Moktessors, who, being unrestrained in any way, have, it is to be feared, abused the authority which came into their hands. The people, therefore, are very anxious that some sort of government should be set up; and it is another proof of the popularity of the monopoly system in the islands, that, if asked, they petition with one voice that the same system prevailing in the Canara islands should be introduced among them, and with it some administration of justice. The fact that these islands have not fallen into a state of hopeless anarchy in the long period during which they have been absolutely without a government may fairly, I think, be adduced as a proof of the needlessness and unsuitability to the islands of this group of any system of criminal and civil administration, but one drawn up in the simplest and plainest form. With the above exceptions, there is no material difference, whether in physical characteristics or in the habits and customs prevailing among the people, between the Cannanore islands and those under this district. So very much alike are all these islands that the general description of the Government islands contained in Mr. Robinson's report might be applied to the other islands of the group almost verbatim. There is, perhaps, in the Cannanore islands more life and self-dependence than appears in those under this district, which I can only attribute to the time during which they have enjoyed the advantages and exciting influences of free trade.

4. With these few remarks on the general condition, etc., of the islands under the Rajah of Cannanore, I pass on to the more immediate object of this report, viz., the condition and requirements of the islands under this district. Avoiding as much as possible recapitulation of what is to be found in previous reports, I shall merely bring to your notice what seems to me to call for consideration at the present.

5. *General Condition, etc.*—In the general condition of the islanders, their social habits, style of houses and living, etc., no change is noticeable. Mr. Robinson's description of the islands is as true now as it was twenty-five years ago, even to the smallest particulars. Though population has advanced of late years, it seems to have done so quite as rapidly as its means of subsistence; there has consequently been no rise in the general standard of comfort in the islands.

Plantation.

Names of Islands.	Cocoanut Trees.					Other Trees.				Gardens or Plantations, etc.		
	Bearing Trees.	Decayed Trees.	Large Plants.	Small Plants.	Total.	Bread-fruit Trees.	Lime Trees.	Honne.	Areca-nut.	Plantain.	Yellain.	Betel.
Amini	44,069	5,976	12,420	18,512	80,977	96	340	68	85	117	134	135
Kadamat ...	5,301	563	3,025	6,284	15,173	33	14	5	...	...	4	13
Kiltan	19,665	2,239	8,339	6,714	36,957	58	28	4	...	...	...	71
Chetlat ...	13,439	2,474	4,844	8,408	29,165	16	16	7	...	...	...	35
Total...	82,474	11,252	28,628	[illegible]	1,61,277	783	398	84	85	117	138	254

Planting waste Land.—The above are the returns of planting made by the Monegar and my Clerk. I was not present during the preparation of any part of these returns. They are

entirely useless, as, in opposition to my express orders, instead of counting the trees, they contented themselves with calling up the house people and asking them the number of trees possessed by them. The islanders have under-stated the number by nearly 25 per cent. of the total, as planting is going on in all islands. In Amini, I noticed in the mainland some fenced off plots which have been planted on waste land last year by one of the Moktessors. It is calculated that, at the present rate of planting, which is during the last year or two, about 100 trees per annum; previously to that, 200 per annum. All the waste land will be planted in ten or twelve years. In Amini, there is no waste land, except in the north-west corner. In the last five years, there have been twenty-three durkhast petitions; the custom being that if the place is not planted in three years, it is given on durkhast to another man. In Kadamat, it is calculated that they plant at the rate of about 1,000 trees per annum. The inhabitants of Kadamat plant about 700 of this number for themselves, about 300 are planted for the inhabitants of Amini. At this rate, they say that the island will be entirely planted in fifty years; only one-third of this island is planted. In Kiltan, there is a little waste land and some planting, but I got no satisfactory information as to the amount; from what I saw, I should say, it was progressing at about the same rate as in Amini. In Chetlat, there is a little waste land in the middle of the island. Each house of which there are nine in the island, plants about twenty-five trees per annum in the whole island, about fifteen in the waste land. They calculate that, at this rate, all the waste land will be filled up in fifteen years. In this island, 10 per cent. of the young trees die. Now, as when a tree falls or dies, it is immediately removed, and one or more planted in its place; the above calculation shows an increase in Amini of 400 trees, in Kadamat of 4,000, in Kiltan of 400, and in Chetlat 490, or a total increase of 5,290 in four years. The probably quite correct returns given by Mr. Hall show an increase during the same period of 6,040. I would suggest that the Monegar be required to furnish, during the next fair season, correct returns on this point, as they are needed in calculating what the increased import of coir from the increased yield in cocoanuts ought to be.

Population.

Islands.	In 1869.	1873. Males.	1873. Females.	1873. Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Houses.	Mosques.	Occupation. Carpenters.	Blacksmiths.	Goldsmiths.	Silversmiths.	Barbers.	Teachers.
Amini ...	2,213	1,058	1,131	2,189	...	24	424	34	15	1	2	6	2	6
Kadamat ...	205	111	97	208	3	...	35	4	5	...	...	...	...	...
Kiltan ...	722	382	384	766	44	...	195	14	8	3	1	1	2	4
Chetlat ...	544	261	301	562	18	...	150	9	12	2	...	...	1	4
Total...	3,684	1,812	1,913	3,725	...	...	804	61	40	6	3	7	5	14

7. *Population and Houses.*—The population shows some slight increase. In Amini alone has there been any decrease, for which I am unable to assign any reason. In all the other islands, there has been a slight increase. It is to be noticed that the population is lower than it was before the outbreak of cholera in 1863. The females still, as heretofore, slightly preponderate. The number of houses has increased with the population, the average being 4·6 persons per house.

Cattle in 1873.

Islands.	1873. Cows.	1873. Goats.
Amini	157	...
Kadamat	29	...
Kiltan	83	10
Chetlat	20	40
Total...	277	50

8. *Cattle.*—The number of cattle in all the islands has decreased since 1866; the last date on which any returns relating to them are shown. The cause of this may be inferred from what I shall relate in my remarks with regard to pounds, more particularly when it is considered that, with the advance of plantation, the grazing ground of the cattle was necessarily diminished.

Education.

Islands.	Number of Teachers.	Pupils. Boys.	Pupils. Girls.	Pupils. Total.
Amini ...	6	75	29	104
Kadamat ...	...	4	1	5
Kiltan ...	4	39	...	39
Chetlat ...	4	28	2	30
Total...	14	146	32	178

9. *Education.*—The above are the returns with regard to education. There has been no change in the number of teachers since Mr. Hall's visit. There has been a large increase in the number of boys shown as attending school, with a nearly proportional decrease in the attendance of girls. There is a slight increase since 1869 in the total number attending school. There are in Amini, according to the statement of the Moktessors, about 200 children, of whom but 104 attend school. Of the whole population, 2,089 in number, but 28, the Moktessors state, can read and write Malayalam in Arabic characters. The Moktessors mentioned these persons to me by name. There are 200 who can read the Koran only, which I suppose means that they have learned the portions needed in religious ceremonies by rote. In Kadamat about fifteen persons can read the Koran, and six can read and write out of a population of 208. There are thirty children who should attend school. In Kiltan, the teachers teach, in addition to reading the Koran, the keeping of accounts connected with the coondras. The people do not learn to read until they are twenty years of age. They then learn a bad Malayalam. There are but twenty men who can read and write this in the Arabic characters out of a population of 766; not many can read it. The Mupas, as the headmen are called in all the Government islands, except Amini, stated that in this island very many can read the Koran alone. In Chetlat, there are six men out of a population of 562 who can read and write Malayalam in the Arabic characters, and about sixty can read, many can repeat the Koran.

10. They stated in all the islands that they could give nothing towards the support of a school, alleging poverty as their reason. I am not aware what steps have been taken for constituting the islands a circle for educational purposes under the Local Funds Act, in accordance with the G. O., of 30th January 1872, No. 186, but nothing seemed to be known about it on the islands.

Boats.

Years.	Amini. Large.	Amini. Small.	Amini. Building.	Kadamat. Large.	Kadamat. Small.	Kadamat. Building.	Kiltan. Large.	Kiltan. Small.	Kiltan. Building.	Chetlat. Large.	Chetlat. Small.	Chetlat. Building.
1869...	28	18	...	3	1	...	24	85	...	32	60	...
1873..	22	11	5	3	1	...	23	80	1	33	19	2

11. *Boats.*—The above are the returns of the boats in the islands. I noticed a good deal of activity in boat-building in all the islands; this might be looked for from the amount of timber shown in the returns as imported into the islands in the last year. In Amini two new coondras

of the usual size, about fifteen tons, were building. In Kiltan one, in Chetlat two; some of those in Amini were for other islands, principally those under the Rajah of Cannanore. The number of boats [illegible] in Amini 84, Kadamat 12, Kiltan 64, Chetlat 46.

12. *Disease.*—There has been no serious outbreak of disease since Mr. Hall visited the islands, nor has any disease other than those mentioned by him appeared. I saw in Amini alone of all the islands a serious case of dysentery. Ophthalmia has not decreased. Though partly to be attributed no doubt to the cause mentioned by Mr. Hall, I cannot but think that it is due in a still greater degree to the intolerable glare off the white sand of the islands, which must be felt to be appreciated. Mr. Hall's Dresser brought to his notice that want of proper nourishment after child-birth seriously retarded the recovery of the women of Kadamat. The Monegar in Amini told me, when inquiring into the matter, that the women in all the islands frequently died from want of nourishment, but still more so from the ignorant treatment to which they were subjected after child-birth, and suggested that an obstetrical nurse should be sent to the islands to teach the people the proper treatment. The suggestion, I think, deserves consideration. The Monegar is now supplied with medicines, which the islanders state were of great use. He dispenses quinine, chlorodyne, eyewash, and a few other drugs. The benefit of these is, however, entirely confined to the island of Amini.

13. The returns of vaccination are subjoined:—

Vaccination.

Year.	Island.	Under one Year.					Above one Year.					Total.			
		Males.	Females.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Males.	Females.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.	Grand Total.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Unknown.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1870...	Amini... ...	No work was done in this year in the islands.													
	Kadamat ...														
	Kiltan... ...														
	Chetlat... ...														
1871...	Amini... ...	9	10	17	2	...	74	25	82	17	...	118	99	19	...
	Kadamat ...	5	2	6	1	...	6	3	8	1	...	16	14	2	...
	Kiltan... ...	3	3	6	...	...	3	1	2	2	...	10	8	2	...
	Chetlat... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1872...	Amini... ...	1	3	3	1	...	11	3	7	7	...	18	10	8	...
	Kadamat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Kiltan... ...	1	1	2	...	...	4	2	6	...	...	8	8	...	...
	Chetlat... ...	6	8	14	...	...	52	29	79	2	...	95	93	2	...
1873...	Amini... ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	8	3	...	11	8	3	...
	Kadamat ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3
	Kiltan... ...	2	...	...	...	2	10	3	...	...	13	15	...	...	15
	Chetlat... ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	4

14. *Records.*—The records as when Mr. Sewell visited the Islands are still contained in two boxes. They are in a state of great confusion. There are no indexes of even the most modest description kept. They are merely tied up in bundles without regard to subject. There is, I believe, some sort of chronological arrangement, but what I was unable to detect. It was only by carefully searching through all the Records with the aid of the Karani and a peon, who alone seemed to know anything about them, that my clerk was able to prepare the Criminal and other

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th March 1874.

Statistics required by me. The Monigar had no idea where any paper was; I accordingly directed the newly appointed Monigar to arrange the bundles during the monsoon in chronological order, and according to the nature of the subject. The boxes are now too small to conveniently contain the records which have accumulated. So I directed the Monigar to indent for other [illegible] also for some Office furniture which is much needed.

15. *Owls, Rats, Mungooses, etc.*—As directed by you, I took with me eight large horned owls. They were splendid specimens, measuring from beak to tail twenty-one inches, and from tip to tip of wing fifty. I purposed when starting loosing them, as suggested by you, in Bitra, but on enquiry on the Islands from the absence of good water, the small extent of the Island, and its great distance from the others, I thought it better not to risk them all on it, so I loosed two couples on Amini, the other four on Bitra. I endeavoured to impress as much as I could on the people of Amini their harmlessness and usefulness.

16. In Chetlat the people say that the Mungooses have multiplied greatly, but have merely driven the rats up the trees; this has also occurred in Kiltan; in neither Island therefore is there any sensible diminution of the rats from this cause. In Amini, I could hear nothing of the snakes. The Mungooses have not multiplied in Kadamut. In neither of these Islands is there any diminution of the rats from these causes. In Amini alone are there Kites, but I could not ascertain whether they live on rats or not. Apparently not so, as they are very few in number. In Amini the Islanders collect a koot to kill rats during the three months after the monsoon every fortnight. In Kadamut three days a month, in Kiltan every two or three days, and in Chetlat five days a month during the same period. We may conclude, therefore, that this pest is most felt in Kiltan. In Agatti, the proportion seemed to be about one rat to every dozen trees. Notwithstanding all efforts, however, the rats have not diminished in numbers.

17. The rats are not the Hanoverian rat I imagine. They are smaller in body, a light brown on the back, with quite white fur underneath, and a tail in some instances once and a half as long as their bodies, and very thick at the root. The head small, and feet very delicately formed. The insect mentioned by Mr. Hall which injures so largely the Cocoanut trees, is like a white worm, very thick in the body, about one or one-and-half inches long, with the head and tail slightly flattened.

18. *Dry Grain.*—The cultivation of dry grain has, I am given to understand, decreased greatly in the Islands. It is very little grown in the Tot in Amini now, the reason of which will be found below in paragraph 61. In Kadamut they still sow a little Ragi, Loba, and Millet. In consequence of the small rain-fall of the last ten years, the Islanders state that these crops have grown very badly; before that time they used to get about one Mudah to each house, that is in all about thirty or thirty-five Mudahs by the cultivation. Last year they raised but about ten Mudahs in all. Dry grain has not been cultivated at all of late years in Kiltan and Chetlat. The Import Returns show a variable but increasing importation of dry grains.

19. *Pounds, etc.*—In all the Islands there are great complaints of the damage done to the young Cocoanut trees by the cattle and goats. In Amini the goats caused so much damage (a tree once bitten ever so slightly by this animal will not, it is said, grow again) and yielded so little milk that the people in Koot assembled, determined that they should all be killed; the great majority did so kill their goats, and it was a complaint by the Muktessars on behalf of the people against the recusants which brought the matter to my notice. On my enquiring into the matter, the people complained against admitted having consented. On my pointing out to them that unless all the goats were killed the act of the other Islanders would be rendered nugatory; they said they would kill the goats as they had agreed to do, which I believe they have since done. In paragraph 10 of your letter, submitting Mr. Hall's report, quoted in Board's Proceedings of the 7th May, No. 3,0[illegible] of 1870. I notice [illegible] that money for the construction of pounds was issued to the Monigar, [illegible] you do not state [illegible] such. There are pounds in Amini and Chetlat. That in the former Island I did not see. In the latter it consisted of a small shed about ten feet by [illegible], made of the stalks of Cocoanut leaves and cadjans. It cost probably 1 or 2 Rupees to build. In Kiltan the Islanders state that a pound was built there at a cost of 3 Rupees, but that it had fallen

down during the monsoon. The same is the case in Kadamut. Should it be deemed expedient to erect others, I would recommend that proper pounds with stone walls should be built. However, the Islanders state that the pounds are very seldom used, alleging that the fine is too small. Formerly Mr. Robinson ordered a fine of one and a half maunds of Coir to be levied, which had the desired effect of making the people tie up their cattle to prevent trespass. When measures like that above told as resorted to in Amini are necessary, it seems imperative either to set aside the Act or increase the fine under it. The one is as difficult as the other. The complaint of the inefficacy of the present system was general.

20. *Mr. Robinson's Charity.*—I had the recipients of the above charity mustered before me. They were certainly very deserving objects, blind, and scarcely able to walk from old age. The Monigar himself distributes monthly rice sufficient for one month, at the rate of ½ a seer a day; yearly 4½ yards of cloth, one pound of tobacco, 24 lbs. of salt, 4 Annas worth of curry stuff. There are in all eleven recipients shown on the accounts, which I saw, and which seemed regularly kept. In reality twelve persons receive, two small children with their mother being entered as two recipients. There are in Amini five recipients, of whom the family abovementioned are two. They are all Androt people who obtained no trees in Amini at the time of the great storm of 1847. In Kadamut one person receives. In Chetlat five, three of whom came from Androt in 1847, one from Kowrathy, and one is an inhabitant of Chetlat who is "entirely alone in the world." In Kiltan there are no recipients in accordance, as I was informed, with an order of Mr. Robinson's.

21. In Kadamut an application was made by an old man to be put on the fund. I ascertained that the applicant was an ex-Headman who had been induced to make over his Mupaship and property to his nephew and heir, who immediately refused to support him. As the nephew when called before me promised publicly to support the old man, I did not think it necessary to take his name for recommendation. In Amini an application was made by the Muktessars with the Monigar's recommendation that Pallipere Kutti Patma might be put on the fund. In Chetlat a similar application was made on behalf of Athalore Pathama; as both applicants seemed deserving, I have the honour to recommend that they be put on the fund if the state of the assets will admit of it. In Chetlat also two recipients applied to be allowed to remove to Kadamut, remaining on the fund, as they had some friends in that Island. They were a mother and son both blind. The father was in Amini, but you are aware that it is very doubtful whether under the Aliya Santana system, maintenance of the offspring by the father or his family can be enforced, as the offsprings are in the mother's, an entirely distinct family.

I granted the permission sought subject to your approval. The above information as to the fund was obtained on the Islands from the Monigar, Muktessars, and recipients. It will therefore be of use in checking the accounts sent in by the Monigar. So far as I could see, there is no reason to suspect that the fund is improperly applied.

22. *Trade.*—The Returns of the Import and Export trade are appended. The Import Returns were not appended to his report by Mr. Hall, as he seems to have been under the impression that no Manifests were supplied to the boats when leaving the coast. This misapprehension you correct in your letter submitting Mr. Hall's report. On enquiry, therefore, in the Islands, I found that these Manifests have been regularly collected by the Karani of each Island, and were among the records at Amini. From them I had the Returns appended compiled. That some Manifests are missing, I think, cannot be doubted, but judging from the numbers of Manifests in each bundle, the number of boats in each Island, and the known average number of voyages of a boat, I am of opinion that not many are missing. These Returns are from the year 1862 up to date. The principal articles of Import seem to be rice, salt, betel-nuts, tobacco and timber. The import of timber seems steadily on the increase; a large quantity was imported into all the Islands last year.

Many Manifests were not in a printed form, but in the writing of the Karani, probably therefore the cargo was manifested at the time of landing, the Manifest given on the coast having been lost. The rule is, I believe, that stated in the text. There would invariably be a Manifest in the writing of the Karani in all cases of inter-island trade. Some articles shewn in the Return seem to show some such trade, but it is probably very little indeed.

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23. The Export Returns for the years subsequent to those embraced in Mr. Hall's returns, are appended. The principal articles of export are of course coir, cocoanuts, jaggery, khopra and firewood. In all the Islands, a large increase in the export of nuts is observable, most of which go to Calicut. This is entirely in accordance with the statements of the Islanders, who allege as the reason the high price of nuts during the last few years. Previously to last year, the price was very high, rising to 10 or 12 Rupees per 1,000. It has fallen last year to 7 or 8 Rupees per 1,000. We may look therefore for a diminution in the export of Cocoanuts in this year.

24. A very great difference exists between the amount of coir shown in the Export Returns and in the receipts at the Coir Depôt at Mangalore. It amounts to 10½ per cent., which is the average percentage calculated on the last four years. This is not to be wondered at, as the amount of the cargo is taken down by the Monigar and Karani from the statements of the owners of the Coondras who, according to the invariable rule in such matters, understate the amount. No attempt is made to ascertain it with any accuracy. These Returns, either Import or Export, are useless for the purpose of accurate deduction as to particular amounts, but we may, I think, safely deduce general conclusions from them.

25. There is at present no trade in fish; the Islanders only obtain as much as supplies the house demand. The Islanders of Chetlat catch more fish than any of the others. They store very little, eating it as they catch it. Their small store is consumed in the early part of the monsoon. In this Island and also in Kiltan, the practice is to divide the haul of fish among all the house or family. Indeed in these two Islands everything is done by houses, the manning, launching, drawing out of the water of the Coondras, etc.

26. The mode of fishing in the Islands is peculiar, and suited only for a lagoon. I saw two methods. In one case, a number of men having selected in the lagoon a small grove of coral which they thought could easily be broken, surrounded it with a large circle formed partly of net and partly of rope with cadjan leaves tied on it at short intervals, the rope being fastened to each end of the net; they then narrowed the rope and net in towards the grove of coral, with being posted at equal distances along the rope until they finally enclosed the grove of coral, with the net only at a distance on all sides of about 5 yards or less. Five or six men then got inside the enclosure, broke away the coral, and drove out the fish against the net when they were caught by the hand. In this way I saw some eight or ten fish weighing from ½ to 2 lbs. weight, caught in about an hour. This was in Amini. In the second, eight or ten men taking with them a wide mouthed basket, about 6 feet long, the mouth being about 3 × 1½ feet, went out on the lagoon. They had for sticks cocoanut leaf stalks stripped of the penants about 6 feet long. They chose out a grove of coral about 10 yards long by 5 or 6 wide. Having placed the basket at one end of the grove, one man kept it in position by standing on it. The others swimming beat the grove with the points of their sticks in the direction of the basket, into which the fish ran. They then having beaten the coral quite up to the basket, quickly lifted it into the boat. In this way I saw some eight or ten very small fish killed in about half an hour. This practice is common to all the Islands. They also use the harpoon and spears. Lines are not, I believe, much used in the Islands.

27. Even with improved methods of fishing instead of the above described very crude ones, I do not think that any trade in fish could ever be developed at the Islands. The shoals on which they stand are very peculiar. In almost every instance they are in shape as shown in the margin, where the outside line is the edge of the shoal, the dotted line the reef, and the inside continuous line, the shore. The shoal is, however, in some instances more extensive. At the broadest part of the shoal, that is the middle on the west side, the water deepens quite gradually from about two fathoms close to the reef to twenty fathoms at the edge of the shoal. After that in a boat's length no bottom can be found with a 100 fathom line. From the shore to the outside edge of the shoal is on an average about 1½ to 2 miles, and the length



4 to 5 miles. As I believe it is a fact that fish are caught in any plenty only in shoal water, it will be seen, that the fishing grounds attached to the Islands are extremely limited. For this reason I do not think that more fish will ever be taken at the Islands, than will supply the Island demand. In some Islands they state that fish frequent the lagoon in much greater plenty during the monsoon than at any other time. The fish is hard and flavourless.

28. The Islanders seldom hunt the turtle though many frequent the Islands. It is not the true edible turtle, I believe, and is not eaten by the natives. Its shell is very inferior.

29. The coral found on the Islands is of a very poor description. The people of Kadamut stated that they found some red coral, but on close examination they said it dried white when exposed to the sun for a few days. The true red coral is said to be found in Andrat, but in very small quantities. The specimens of coral which I saw were all brittle, soft, and coarse in grain.

30. The curing of the Holothuria formerly practiced has been given up for many years.

31. Ambergris is scarcely ever found, and though I enquired on all the Islands, I could not obtain any of it. Shells of any value, except cowries, are not found, some few candies of shark fins are exported.

32. *Coir Manufacture.*—I am not sanguine that we shall be able to obtain and introduce machinery for the manufacture of coir. In this manufacture, there are four distinct operations; first, the separating the husk from the nut, next the breaking up of the husk into fibre, then the preparation of the fibre for twisting, and lastly, the twisting. For the first no machine is needed, as the nuts for immediate consumption alone are stripped, an average possibly of three nuts per day for each person in all the Islands. A nut is stripped of the husk with a large knife or small hatchet completely in about a minute. For breaking the husk into fibre, nothing but a wooden mallet and a short square piece of solid wood is required.

33. As to the preparation of the fibre for twisting, on the presumption that the market, value of the twisted coir is not to be depreciated, and arguing from the analogy of carding machines for hemp and wool, any machine to card coir fibre completely would have to be so very complicated and expensive as to be entirely beyond the means of the Islanders. I imagine that carding cocoanut fibre by hand would, from the thickness and strength of the fibre, be a matter of the greatest difficulty, if practicable at all. In fine fibres and for producing a cheap, inferior article where great evenness is not an object to be gained, and consequently careful feeding is not required. I can understand that the machine suggested by Mr. Hall which is known to me and which is used in England for twisting hemp ropes would answer the purpose of making an inferior article fairly well; but in coir fibre which while short is also coarse and stiff, any fault in feeding, resulting in the doubling of the fibre, would be fatal to the strength of the rope. It is essential in twisting coir that the fibres should each go into the rope, end first, and be evenly twisted in, not as frequently happens in the case of hemp and finer fibres which get drawn into the strand in doubles of shorter or longer length. Hence in order to the proper feeding of a twisting machine, previous carding would be indispensable, a matter of great difficulty if practicable at all as I have stated above. This difficulty is at present obviated by picking the separate fibres from the lump, as they are needed for twisting between the hands. This I find is also Mr. Swan's opinion (Enclosure No. 3 to Mr. Hall's report).

34. The rate of feeding a twisting machine would, with coir fibre, be a matter of great nicety, for from the coarseness of the fibre if over-twisted it is apt to kink, which causes it to snap at the first strain. If under-twisted it is equally weak. The machine should, therefore, be nicely regulated, hence highly and carefully finished, and therefore expensive. This supposes any other method of feeding than that mentioned below, viz., getting the coir twisted through the hand. Not much time would be gained in the manufacture nor the output much increased by the introduction of a twisting machine alone, as the delay lies now not in the twisting, but in the picking previous to twisting. The original cause of recommendation of machinery for twisting the coir was, I believe, that the women got sore hands from rolling as they do now the coir between their hands, and thus twisting it. It makes little difference in regard to the soreness of hand resulting whether one rolls coir fibre between their hands or gets it twisted through them by

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machine (the only practicable mode in consequence of picking for feeding being necessary). These considerations account for its being necessary; for the Ceylon firm mentioned by you in paragraph 36 of your letter of 2nd April 1870, No. 429, submitting Mr. Hall's report, to spend thousands of pounds on their machinery. Their doing so seems to argue the impossibility of our finding a simple, effective, and inexpensive machine for Rupees 10, the utmost limit to which the Islanders say they could go in this direction.

35. *Monopoly.*—The statements relating to the Coir monopoly are appended. They show an annual nett gain of Rupees 7,437-4-4. I have stated and deducted in accordance with custom the probable advantage foregone by Government in selling salt to the Islanders at cost price. There has been no actual loss to Government, merely the foregoing of a tax which Government might have attempted to levy from the Islanders, but with the certainty almost of failure. There is, however, an item which must be set off against any calculation of gain from the Islands which has hitherto been omitted, viz., the actual remission of Rupees 5,525 per annum, from the Peishcush of the Rajah of Cannanore "on account of the trade to the Laccadive Islands" that is ours. This appears from the 9th paragraph of Mr. Robinson's report.

36. I.—*Tax paid per head on the main land, South Canara.*

Fasli.	Official year.	Imperial.	Local.	Municipal.	Total.	Population.	Average per head.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	NO.	
1275 ...	1865-66... ...	23,07,761	13,083	...	23,20,844	7,88,042	2·9
1276 ...	1866-67... ...	23,08,853	52,940	6,402	23,68,195	8,39,688	2·8
1277 ...	1867-68... ...	23,06,021	56,149	15,100	23,77,270	8,39,688	2·8
1278 ...	1868-69... ...	23,33,091	59,569	18,921	24,11,580	8,39,688	2·8
1279 ...	1869-70... ...	22,64,483	56,210	20,617	23,41,310	8,39,688	2·7
1280 ...	1870-71... ...	22,66,167	61,283	20,633	23,48,086	8,39,688	2·7
1281 ...	1871-72... ...	23,23,437	1,14,956	28,699	24,67,092	9,19,503	2·6
	Annual average.	...	...	...	...	...	2·785

Or annual average tax per head ... ... RS. A. P. 2 12 9·6

II.—*On the Island.*

Fasli.	Average Population.	Amount realized by sale of coir over that expended in purchasing it.	Annual average per head.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
	NO.	RS.		
1258—1260 ...	3,496	29,939	8·5	If we subtract Column 8 from Column 12 in the Coir Statement No. 4, we get 3,02,557, the total of Column 3 is 3,02,565. The difference arises from my having neglected the annas in computing this table, and also from an error in the statements as appears from comparing the entry in Column 12 of Statement IV. in the Returns appended to Mr. Hall's report, and those appended to Mr. Sewell's for Fasli 1275. The error is too slight to call for the correction of the calculations based on the first mentioned amount.
1261—1263 ...	3,496	16,192	4·7	
1264—1266 ...	3,688	50,833	13·5	
1267—1269 ...	3,880	35,389	9·1	
1270—1272 ...	3,982	41,922	10·5	
1273—1275 ...	4,085	25,748	6·3	
1276—1278 ...	3,877	30,495	7·9	
1279—1281 ...	3,707	49,606	13·8	
1282	3,725	22,441	6·0	
Total ..	33,936	3,02,557	80·2	
Annual average.	3,790·6	12,102·5	3·2	

Annual average tax per head ... .. RS. 3 3 2

Amount of Taxation, etc.—The first table above shown calculated on a period of seven years shows the taxation per head on the mainland to be Rupees 2-12-9·6. The second calculated for the last twenty-five years on the annual income obtained by Government from these Islands in triennial periods, and the average population during the same periods, shows the annual tax paid by each person on the Islands to be Rupees 3-3-2·4. It is necessary to take a long period for the latter table so as to take in all the ordinary fluctuations of the coir trade, thus the period of three years from 1261 to 1263, shows a very small average of taxation, that from 1264 to 1266, a very large. The Islanders therefore pay a tax 13·1 per cent. higher than the people on the mainland do. But when the arrangement directed to be carried out in Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, of the 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, is carried out, calculating the averages on the same period of twenty-five years, the tax which they will have to pay will be Rupees 1·24 or Rupees 1-3-10 per head, or a reduction of 61·2 per cent, or a rate of taxation 55·4 per cent. below that of the mainland.

37. If, however, we calculate the averages on the last five years only, it will be found that the Islanders have paid a tax at the rate of Rupees 5-1-7, per head, and that this arrangement will reduce this tax 60·8 per cent. or to Rupees 2-14-4·8. If, therefore, we regard the last few years as peculiarly favourable years to Government in the Coir trade, and prefer the longer period as our guide in this matter, we would be induced to say that an extra tax for educational or other purposes might be imposed with fairness. Should we take the later years as our guide, as the tax paid by them would still be 4·13 per cent. higher than that paid by the people on the mainland, even after the introduction of the arrangement abovementioned to levy such a tax, can scarcely be deemed fair.

38. When I speak above of the "average annual income" or "annual income" of Government or the "tax paid by the Islanders," I do not mean the net income of Government, but the difference between the amount paid by Government for the coir, and the amount for which they sell it again; therefore though this represents what comes out of the pockets of the Islanders, it by no means represents what Government gains from these Islands. Thus annually 5,525 Rupees go to the Rajah of Cannanore, and in 1871, Government paid Rupees 19,572-4-3 for the hire of a steamer to take rice to the Islands. I shall discuss below in paragraph 59, Part V. the effect on the net income of Government of the arrangement above mentioned, as directed to be introduced (G.O., Revenue Department, 9th September 1870, No. 1,428).

39. *Arguments against monopoly.*—The arguments for the policy of retaining the monopoly have been frequently urged. It is, I think, certain that we could replace it by no system equally popular and equally advantageous on the whole for the Islander. The main argument against monopoly, viz. that it represses development is almost inapplicable, for very little development is possible in Islands capable only of producing cocoanuts, and with the exception of Kadamut, almost as quickly planted as they can possibly be, but looking at the transaction as a commercial speculation merely, it is one which it seems to me must eventually cause loss, for as with the increase of population on the mainland, the value of food, and all other products of the ground must rise with a perpetually increasing swiftness, amongst them, the value of the rice supplied to the Islanders will rise, and consequently the expense of supplying it to them will very soon leave but a small margin of profit to Government. That population is rapidly increasing on the mainland is shewn in the Statement above drawn up, for the purpose of shewing the incidence of taxation. That the cost of purchasing each candy of coir supplied by the Islanders as estimated in money, has risen, the appended Statement calculated on the average importation and cost for twenty-five years in successive periods of four years will show :—

Fasli.	Average number of candies.	Average cost of same.	Average price per candy.	Cost of part paid in rice.	Average for first and last period of six years.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.				
1258—1261	650	10,501	16 2 5	12 1 7·75	15 15 7·6
1262—1265	494	12,896	26 7 6	19 13 7·5	
1266—1269	487	16,343	33 15 6	25 7 7·5	
1270—1273	691	18,621	26 15 2	20 3 4·5	
1274—1277	691	21,835	33 0 6	24 12 4·5	20 12 1·25
1278—1281	697	15,228	22 5 1	16 11 10	
1282	803	19,807	24 10 8	18 8 1·5	

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The Islanders are paid three-fourths of the price of their coir in rice and one-fourth in money; the rice is supplied at a fixed rate of 2 Rupees, per Mudah, and the total price is also fixed. Any variation, therefore, in the cost of purchasing the coir must be caused by a variation in the value of either money or rice. It cannot be doubted that the value of money has fallen, or in other words, that prices have risen in this country in late years, but this cause is quite insufficient to account for the rise of 30 per cent. on the cost of the part paid in rice during the first period of six years as compared with the last of the period above shown. It must lie therefore in the increase in the value of rice, or to argue thus: it is clear from the Returns that since 1263, the result of the transactions in rice has been in favour of the Islanders, that it is due to an increase in the value of the rice seems shewn by the above considerations, even if the actual percentage of the increase be not assented to. Again "the natural value of two commodities having a joint cost of production relatively to each other, are those which will create a demand for each in the ratio of the quantities in which they are sent forth by the productive process," or as this ratio must in the case of cocoanuts and coir be always constant, their values will vary inversely. But as cocoanuts are food, their value will, with the increase of population, continually rise; hence that of coir must fall. But further, as coir is a manufacture, its tendency is to fall in value. Thus there are two strong influences tending to force down the value of coir, so that Government retaining the monopoly is placed in this position that with the increasing population invariably attendant on peace and good Government, the value of what is given by it to the Islanders has a strong tendency to rise, whereas that which is taken in return has inherent in it two strong tendencies to fall. It is true that improvements in agriculture may stave off the evil day, but it must eventually come. The fluctuation in the profits realized on the sale of the coir, is also a very strong argument against retaining such a speculation as a source of revenue: Some definite idea of this fluctuation will be gathered from the nett income of Government, as shewn in the Returns appended to Mr. Hall's report for Faslies 1275—1278 copied into the margin. These considerations though perhaps not strong enough to overthrow a long established and popular monopoly, should, I think, be given their due weight in considering the question of introducing a new one.

Profits realized.	Loss.
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
24,598 17 4	... ...
... ...	1,224 1 4
3,045 14 5	... ...
22,897 14 5	... ...

40. *Some explanation of difference between Coir yielded by trees and that imported.*—The reasons given by Mr. Hall go a long way in accounting for the difference between the amount of coir which the trees should yield and that manufactured; but another reason seems to me to be, that if the Islanders have a large stock of rice left at the end of the year, consequent either on large takes of fish or increased consumption of cocoanuts or from any other cause, they do not care to make any exertion to increase their stock, and only produce so much coir as will serve to replenish it. The large importation of coir in late years would on this supposition be due to the takes of fish getting smaller or to a larger exportation of nuts, or both combined. The Islanders assured me that the amount of fish taken was decreasing, and an increasing exportation of nuts is shewn by the returns. This of itself tends largely to explain the matter. The Islanders argue that if they stored more rice than enough for one year's consumption, it would rot. Then why labour to produce coir to buy it.

41. *Civil and Criminal justice*—1. *Remarks on the Returns.*—I have appended Criminal Returns for the past twelve years in two forms. From one is seen the number of cases arising in each Island, the number of persons fined, imprisoned, or otherwise disposed of. From the other, the nature of the Criminal cases arising in all the Islands with the total number of persons involved, the number fined, imprisoned, persons involved in cases dismissed and amicably settled, in short it shews the total work done by the Monigar in each year. It is satisfactory that crime seems decreasing. The large number of persons involved in cases which have been either amicably settled or otherwise disposed of, compared with those who have been punished, is a striking feature in these returns. In the twelve years 642 persons were punished to 1,190 who

were involved in cases which were either amicably settled or dismissed, that is little over half were punished. This, I think, is sufficiently explained by a strong disposition on the part of the Islanders to complain on the slightest and most insufficient grounds. The lately superseded Monegar states that when he first came to the Islands, petty thefts of cocoanuts were very common in Amini, but by actively pursuing the delinquents, patrolling, and adopting the system of watching those who were once convicted, he has almost entirely stopped their depredations. The cases of criminal trespass arise from one man's planting his tree beyond his boundary which is quite undefined, in another's land. Many like cases are shown in the Civil and Revenue File, a copy of one year of which I have appended. The cases entered as miscellaneous are mostly disobedience of the monigar's orders, neglecting to attend the koot for rat-killing, drawing up boats, a few for being out at night without leave, speaking harshly to one of the Priests, marrying without permission, leaving the island without permission, and others of the same kind. In one instance the Monigar has himself tried a case of false evidence. The almost entire absence of crime in 1871 is due to the fact that the Islanders were detained on the coast by stress of weather from February to November. It was in this year that Government sent rice from Bombay. It will be perceived that there is considerable difference between the Criminal Returns submitted by me and those by Mr. Hall for the year 1866-67-68. He seems to have given only the Returns of crime in Amini. Those given by Mr. Sewell for the earlier period do not correspond with those appended exactly, but the difference is very slight. The number of persons given by him as punished in the years 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, is 243, that appearing from these Returns 240. The loss of or a mistake with regard to the record of one case would account for the difference. In 1865 he too seems to have given the Returns for Amini alone which, from the period of his visit, would be peculiarly likely to happen, as in consequence of his visit the Monigar would put off visiting Kiltan and Chetlat until February instead of going in December as is his usual custom, and hence* there would be in Amini only the records relating to that Island. The Returns which I have the honour to submit were compiled by my Clerk, with the aid of the Head Clerk in the Office of the Sub-Collector of Malabar, from the files of the Monigar, compared with the records, and from the records alone, the work occupying nearly a week. It seems probable, therefore, that they are fairly correct.

*The Monigar visits these Islands but once a year. See below paragraph 23, Part I.

42. *An estimate of the illegality of the late Monigar's proceedings.*—To examine what the extent of the late Monigar's jurisdiction was in the case of thefts. The thefts which occur are usually of cocoanuts from trees, to steal anything else is almost impossible. The rice they bury in their houses, their ornaments, and such clothes as they possess, they wear. Their oars, leaves, ropes, etc., are all kept in their houses in which there is always some one. The jurisdiction of the lately superseded Monigar in the case of theft extended to all cases in which the value of the property did not exceed 1 Rupee. Now 1,000 Cocoanuts fetch on the mainland only from 7 to 8 Rupees. Taking 25 per cent. of the value off for the expense of transport to the coast, the value of 1,000 nuts on the Islands would be from Rupees 5-4-0 to 6. Hence the Monigar would have jurisdiction in cases when the number stolen was less than 190, or 166. Now the average number of nuts in the best tree at one time is about eight nuts a tree. Hence 190 nuts would be the produce of twenty-four trees nearly, 166 of twenty-one nearly. But as the work is very hard, a man could not ascend and cut off the nuts from more than one tree in five minutes without being utterly exhausted before twenty-four were ascended. Hence to ascend and cut 190 nuts off twenty-four trees would be a work of two hours, and 166 nuts off twenty-one trees of about one hour and forty-five minutes. Again, it is not likely that the man would steal in the neighbourhood of his own house, the only place of concealment which he could have owing to the nature of the ground, nor within a distance of 200 yards from it, for fear of suspicion, his circumstances being perfectly well known to his neighbours, and any sudden increase in his store of cocoanuts, at once attracting suspicion to him in the neighbourhood of the theft. But as owing to the weight and unwieldiness of the cocoanuts, he could not carry at one time more than fifty

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nuts, and as to take away fifty nuts and come back would take at least fifteen minutes, to take away 190, would take one hour, and 166 nuts about the same time, as there would be more than three full loads. Hence this theft would occupy one man working almost as hard as he could three hours, and three persons one hour at the least to accomplish it. The average of seven cases sent to the mainland in 1869 shows a little over three persons engaged in each theft. Taking three persons as the average, a theft which would be beyond the late Monigar's jurisdiction would be an act occupying three persons one hour as hard as they could work. This is taking the best trees to be very close together, and all bearing in full fruit at the same time. This is never the case in reality, and it is probable that what with the delay arising from this cause and collecting the fruit and lifting it upon the man's back and going from tree to tree to climb, the time occupied would be nearly doubled. Hence the chance of interruption and detection is very great; this accounts for the great success attending the system of patrolling established by the late Monegar, and mentioned above. It would also, in my opinion, require a far greater return than that yielded by 190 nuts to make an Islander toil as hard as would be required in this instance for one hour, hence I am of opinion that cases of theft beyond the jurisdiction of the late Monigar were rare. Again his jurisdiction extended to "inconsiderable assaults and affrays." A considerable assault is almost unknown, as these Islanders scarcely ever strike in return, but at once complain. This is borne out by the Returns which show an extraordinarily large proportion of complaints dismissed to those punished. There was one case of wounding with a knife in 1868, but none since, in which any weapon of offence has been used, as the Monigar stated; none of these cases, therefore, seem to have been beyond his jurisdiction.

From what I have stated above, the cases shown as Criminal trespass seem civil not criminal in their nature, and so the acts of the Monigar in fining and imprisoning for them were illegal; part of the fine, however, went to the complainant, as civil cases they would also be beyond his jurisdiction (see below paragraph 55, Part V). As the great majority of the cases under the head "Miscellaneous" were disobedience of orders, not authorized by law, all the acts of the Monegar in fining and imprisoning in these cases were illegal. This will be equally the case should the present Sub-Magistrate punish in these cases. This is the fault of the system. From the above considerations, I think we may conclude that though criminal cases or cases which might be criminal beyond the jurisdiction of the late Monigar did occur, yet with the exception of those for disobedience of orders, they were few.

43. *Civil Returns.*—The main causes of Civil suits on these Islands are —

(1.) Concerning boundaries and the right of planting trees.
(2.) Claims to trees on the ground of being a tenant, etc.
(3.) About partition and inheritance.
(4.) Differences between husband and wife.

I submit, herewith, two Statements of the cases on the Civil and Revenue file of the Monigar.

Civil Cases.

Year.	Amini.			Kadamut.			Kiltan.			Chetlat.			Total.			Remarks.
	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	Number of cases.	Number of Persons.	Cases settled.	
1869	17	36	3	...	...	...	19	54	4	3	7	...	39	97	7	The cases sent to the mainland were entered in this file in 1869. They are shown separately.
1870	27	59	3	...	...	...	4	11	1	1	2	...	32	85	4	
1871	13	43	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	14	45	5	
1872	1	36	3	1	4	...	3	7	1	11	24	1	32	71	5	

Civil No. 2.

Year.	Suit relating to immoveable property.						Number of suits within present jurisdiction of Monegar.
	Total number of Suits.	Number in which question at issue was the right in trees.	Number in which question at issue was right in land.	Number decided by Monigar.	Number dismissed or otherwise settled.	Total of all suits in the year.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1869...	26	20	6	.....	26	39	13
1870...	23	16	7	5	18	31	8
1871...	10	7	3	1	9	14	4
1872...	16	13	3	2	14	32	16
.....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	116	41
Average annual number ...	18·75	... ..	.....	.....	.....	29 0	10·25

In the year 1869 the Civil file and the Revenue were kept distinct; subsequently all cases, Civil in their nature have been entered in one file; this file is a strange jumble of Civil cases, some within, some without, the jurisdiction of the Monegar, of course not one case out of the whole having any connection with Revenue. In one year, a case of assault is entered in it. All the cases entered in it are of the most petty description. I append a copy of the file for 1872, an ordinary year; from glancing over this, a better idea of its nature will be obtained than from any words in which I could describe it.

44. *Criminal cases sent to the mainland.*

Year.	Number of cases.	Number of Prisoners.	Number of witnesses.	Amicably settled.	Nature of case.
1869	7	24	27	.....	Theft.
,, ...	1	1	2	.....	Assault.
,, ...	2	2	.....	1	Criminal Trespass.
Total...	10	17	29	1	.....
1870	No cases sent to the mainland.				
1871					
1872					

Four cases sent to the Mainland.—The above is the Return of Criminal cases sent to the mainland since Mr. Hall's visit. In the last three years none have been sent. In 1869 many cases were sent by the Monigar. The cases seem of the same nature as those which commonly occur. No one but the prisoner seems to have been sent in the Criminal Trespass cases. Since that year no case has been sent, probably because in some very few instances the value of the property stolen has been under-stated.

I am of the same opinion as my predecessor in reporting on these Islands that grave crimes are almost unknown on them. They must be visited in order that the stagnation and the monotony of the existence which the inhabitants drag along may be appreciated. In such a state of society, stagnant, civilized in some degree and orderly, experience in other cases goes, I believe, to show that that grave crime is not found. It is not in retired country districts where the wheels

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of life move slowly, that grave crime is common, but in towns where life is busiest. The motives which urge to it are wanting; but further in this case, the people are all more or less intimately connected and personally known to each other.

45. *Criminal and Civil Administration.*—The question of most importance which has lately been discussed with regard to these Islands is that of their Civil and Criminal administration. To make clear the facts and recommendations which I have to make on this subject, I must describe the establishment and the duties performed by those servants maintained on the Islands as well as the present state of the question as to what form of tribunal with what jurisdiction should be established in the Islands.

46. *Establishment.*—The establishment at present sanctioned in Government Order of 14th December 1863, No. 2,231, and 30th January 1872, No. 186, consists of :—

	Rs.
1 Monigar on Rupees 70 per mensem	840 per annum.
8 Peons on ,, 6 ,, ...	576 ,,
4 Karanies on 84 Mudahs of rice costing on an average per annum	220 ,,
	1,636

On the Mainland.

1 Gumastah on Rupees 15 per mensem	180 per annum.
1 Weigher on ,, 7 ,, ...	84 ,,
4 Peons on ,, 6 ,, ...	288 ,,
	552 ,,
Total...	2,188 ,,

47. *Duties of Government Servants on the Islands*—(1.) *Of Monegar.*—The duties of the Monegar are to try cases civil and criminal from all the islands, to act as President of Punchayets, and to superintend the public business of the whole island. To be present when the boats go from and arrive at the islands, and, with the Muktessars, to get men to draw them up and down, to inspect them, to see that there is no clandestine removal of coir. To assemble Koots for rat killing, etc., to be present when the people are assembled, as on Mondays and Thursdays, at the mosque or when they meet to eat together, to prevent disputes, etc. To assist at ceremonies, as marriages, etc.; in fact it seems as if no act of at all a public character can be done in the island unless the Monegar, and, as a rule, the Muktessars are present. To give medicines. To visit Kiltan and Chetlat once a month during the fair season, which in practice is impossible as it takes one of the sailing boats of the islands about a week to go from one island to the other, unless the wind be quite fair. In reality he visits these islands once, sometimes during the months of October, November, December, and January, remaining there some ten or fifteen days until he has disposed of all the pending business. He goes to the coast in the early part of February with the coir, arriving about the middle of the month, and remains in Mangalore until it is landed, when he goes back with the last boats about the middle or early part of April. The voyage takes about a fortnight in coming, another going, and he is about a month in Mangalore. He sometimes visits Kiltan and Chetlat when going back, but it depends on what island the boat he is in hits. The islanders try to get each to their own island as soon as possible, as squalls blow in the months of April and May in these seas. Visits on these occasions are therefore very hurried.

48. (2.) *Of Peons.*—The peons are eight in number; in Amini three, in Kadamat one, in Kiltan two, and in Chetlat two. They are present at the time of loading and unloading the boats. They with the Karani, check the Government rice brought in the boats by the manifest. They inspect the coir, obtain the news of births and deaths, they make arrangements for rat killing and [illegible] the people in pulling up the boats. They, with the Muktessars, assemble Koots. [illegible] book

after the property if a wreck takes place. They conduct preliminary Police inquiries into crimes, and arrest and bring before the Monegar any one who refuses to come when summoned. When a case arises in Kiltan or Chetlat they, with the Karani and Muktessars, read the complaint and keep things just as they are pending the Monegar's arrival. If the case is important they hold the man to bail and send to the Monegar. In short they perform in the absence of the Monegar all the duties of the Monegar, except the trial of cases.

49. (3.) *Of Karanis.*—The Karanis are four in number; in Amini one on 36 mudahs of rice per annum, in Kadamat one on 14, in Kiltan and Chetlat one each on Rupees 17. Their duties are those of a clerk; formerly they used to write down the depositions, but now they do not. They keep the Births and Deaths Register, the Import and Export Trade Returns, take the census and read those petitions to the Monegar which are written in the Arabic characters; they also look after and arrange the records, etc., prepare the Port clearance and manifests for the boats; inspect the boats on arrival.

50. (4.) *Of Ugranis.*—There are in addition to the above eight Ugranis; in Amini one Head Ugrani and four under Ugranis, in the other islands one each. Their duties are to assemble Koots, to draw up boats, kill rats, etc. They must summon the people who are required in a case. The Head Ugrani calls the Muktessars. If the Monegar, when travelling, requires anything they must get it. They receive no Government pay. They have, I believe, a few Circar trees, and privileges corresponding to the inams, etc., formerly enjoyed by the like village officials in the village on the mainland. The Monegar thus has under his orders in Amini nine persons; in Kadamat three, in Kiltan four, and in Chetlat four.

51. The history of the question hitherto is as follows:—

The question of the Civil and Criminal administration of these islands was raised by Mr. Hall's report, in which he stated that the then powers of a Monegar, viz., those of a Village Magistrate and Munsif under Regulation XI. of 1816, VI. of 1821, and IV. and V. of 1816, were insufficient. This led to the proposal* by you, then Acting Collector, of one of two alternatives, (1st) either to appoint a 2nd Class Sub-Magistrate to the islands as Monegar, which was open to objection on account of his "uncontrolled and practically irresponsible position," and the difficulty of obtaining a fit man; (2nd) or to establish one general Council in Amini to be entrusted with jurisdiction in all civil suits and criminal powers, extending to one month's rigorous imprisonment, 50 Rupees fine and 50 lashes. No cases to be brought to trial on the mainland except murder, and such as the Council preferred to send. On this the Board of Revenue remark,† that "as the cases disposed of by the Monegar were few and trifling no case seemed to have been made out for incurring larger expense of making any change in the mode of administering criminal and civil justice." The Government in their Order of the 9th September 1870, No. 1,428, directed that as the first alternative suggested by you seemed impracticable from the nature of the objections urged by you "the Board should discuss the proposal for a Council submitted by the Acting Collector with him as his scheme needed elaboration." Meanwhile you had left the district on furlough, and the elaboration of the scheme fell to the Acting Collector, Mr. Webster. He reviewed the alternatives suggested by you, pointing out that‡ the objection to the first alternative, viz., the impossibility of appeal and the difficulty of obtaining a suitable man were not so cogent, remarking with regard to the first objection that, under the then Code of Criminal Procedure, the period of appeal was practically unlimited, appeals being admissible after the prescribed period on sufficient cause shown, and that the Assistant Magistrate especially empowered for this purpose might hear them when visiting the islands; and with regard to the second, that though highly qualified men could not be obtained yet that men of the class of present Monegar were competent to discharge the most essential part

* *Vide* letter, 2nd April 1870, No. 429, to Board of Revenue, paragraph 9.

† *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 7th May 1870, No. 3,036, paragraph 3.

‡ *Vide* letter to Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1871, No. 738A.

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of the duty of a Magistrate, to decide whether a man has or has not committed the offence with which he is charged, but that if additional security were considered necessary he should be required to try criminal cases with the Karnomars as Assessors but with power to over-rule their verdict, the records being submitted to the Assistant Magistrate visiting the islands. This recommendation has been adopted. He also elaborated the scheme for a Council proposed by you, but to carry out his suggestions legislation would have been necessary, and upon it the Board of Revenue remarked, that "it included a fresh classification of offences with reference to the jurisdiction fixed by the criminal law, an alteration of the punishments and other anomalies which could not possibly commend themselves to the legislature of India: the provisions of the Indian Council's Act precluding local legislation on such matters (paragraph 11, Board's Proceedings, dated 25th July 1871, No. 3,108)". The Board therefore recommended Government to confer the powers of a Sub-Magistrate of the 2nd Class (3rd Class Magistrate) on the Monegar for the investigation, punishment, and committal of charges under the criminal law, adding as a matter of procedure that in any case beyond his jurisdiction under Regulation XI. of 1816, and within his summary jurisdiction as 2nd Class Magistrate, he shall sit with not less than three of the Karnomars of the island in which the trial is held as Assessors who shall, for the information of the supervising Magistrate, record their view of the evidence, etc., quite apart from the Monegar's finding if they disagree with him or have anything to represent. The Board could not recommend Government to give the Monegar the powers of a District Munsiff, as the opportunities of appeal against orders were so few and as any increase of powers was unnecessary, and they stated that in their opinion the Headmen could not be relied on—Board's Proceedings, dated 25th July 1871, No. 3,108. They also said that the true and most simple solution of the difficulty was to place the islands under the Agency Act XXIV. of 1839, and the rules relating thereto. The Government adopted this recommendation in its entirety. Thus the principle of a mixed tribunal has been deliberately adopted rightly, I think, as being that form of tribunal from whose decision there is the least likelihood of a need of appeal. The islands are placed in that position that appeal must always be a matter of serious difficulty. To obviate its need therefore is an important consideration, the legality of the order constituting this tribunal may, however, be questioned, as a Magistrate appointed under Criminal Procedure Code sitting with Assessors is not, I believe, contemplated in that enactment.

52. As I gather from the G. O. of the 30th January 1872, No. 186, that the latter adopted measure of appointing a 3rd Class Magistrate to the islands is but a temporary one, I would put forward the following objections to it and proposals to [illegible] the important point of the structure of the tribunals being settled the proposals which I have to make are—

1*st.*—*Proposals for the amendment of Criminal and Civil Administration.*—That whatever system of Civil and Criminal administration be maintained or adopted there should be appointed in each of the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat a Government servant, checked by the Karnomars as above, exercising the same powers as the former Monegars did in Civil and Criminal matters, and an Officer exercising the same powers as a 3rd Class Magistrate, checked as above in the trial of all cases, for Amini and Kadamat with jurisdiction in criminal matters only; in the other islands in cases beyond the powers of the officer located there. If, as I also propose, the islands be brought under the operation of the Agency Act this tribunal should try all Civil suits in which moveable and immoveable property is involved to an amount limited in each case.

2*nd.*—That the Agency Act be extended to the islands as recommended—See Board's Proceedings of 25th July 1871, No. 3,018, paragraph 14, and G. O. of 30th January 1870, No. 186. This I put after the other recommendation, because I wish to recommend the first proposal whatever system of Civil and Criminal Administration be introduced, and also because the rules which, if the Agency Act be applied to these islands, will have to be framed will of course be based on the regulations and laws in force on the mainland.

53. The grounds on which I bring forward the first proposal as above are—

(1.) That it seems to me that a most important element in the consideration of the question has been lost sight of, viz., that it is nearly as difficult to get from one island to the other as it is to get from the mainland to them even in the fair weather owing to the long distances which they are apart; Kiltan being between twenty and twenty-five miles from the nearest point of Kadamat, and Chetlat being nearly forty miles from Kiltan, and also because the prevailing winds in these seas blow in an easterly and westerly direction. This is a serious difficulty, as the boats of these islands are unable to sail, except with a fair wind. Further, they are absolutely cut off from all communication with the mainland and each other for five months in the year with the exception of Kadamat and Amini, between which communication is interrupted for but from one to two months. As during the fair season the Monegar's duties keep him away from the islands during three months the important islands of Kiltan and Chetlat are necessarily left without Government supervision for eight months in the year, and practically are visited for about ten to fifteen days each in the twelve months. The evil of this will be better appreciated when I point out that, as shown in the Civil and Criminal Import and Export Returns given above, at least one half if not more of the Monegar's work arises in Kiltan and Chetlat.

(2.) As the necessary consequence, what has been stated in paragraph 48 as occurring, happens, namely, that almost all the Monegar's duties are performed by the peons, who being necessarily taken from a low class, are ignorant and incapable men, perhaps of all others the least fit to exercise any such power.

(3.) As the Monegar's duties are Judicial, Police, anaolgous to those of a Sea Customs Superintendent, and as the Karani only acts under his orders, it is most essential to their due discharge that he should be continuously or very frequently present where the work lies, which is, as above stated, impossible owing to the reason urged in paragraph 53, part 1.

(4.) These proposals would entail but small expense on Government, for whatever system be in force the establishment of peons is entirely excessive when the very small extent of the islands and the small number of houses on them is taken into account. There are in all on the Coir Establishment twelve peons, eight on the islands and four on the mainland. Those on the islands might be reduced to four, one on each island, who with the aid of the Ugranis would be quite equal to performing all the work required of him, especially when a properly authorized Government official was on the island to perform the greater part of the work now done by these men. Those on the mainland might also be reduced to three, their sole duty is to watch the coir godowns, this is most difficult when the coir is being received into store; should it be found necessary, though from what I can learn I greatly doubt its being so, a temporary hand might be employed during the two or three months during which it is being received. As by the proposal under discussion the work of the officer stationed in Amini would be greatly reduced, but as a superior class of man would be required I would reduce the pay of the officer exercising the same powers as a 3rd Class Magistrate, who it is proposed should be stationed at Amini, to Rupees 50 a month; under the present system a man very clever and very honest is needed under the simple and plainer system consequent on the introduction of the Agency Act, the latter is the more important qualification; such a man ought to be found without difficulty, if not in the South Canara District at any rate in Malabar, who would serve gladly for the above pay. On this subject I would call attention to the remarks of Mr. Webster in paragraph 5 of his letter of the 31st May 1871, No. 738A., quoted in Board's Proceedings of 25th July 1871, No. 3,108, and to paragraph 4 of that Proceedings. There would thus be effected a saving of 150 Rupees a month, which would supply the amount needed to pay Rupees 25 a month each to the Monegars stationed in Kiltan and Chetlat. A small extra expense would have to be incurred in case the temporary peon above alluded to were required, and it might perhaps be found necessary to increase the pay of the Karanis in Kiltan and Chetlat; this I have no hesitation in recommending, for as Mr. Robinson states, "he is except the Monegar the most important servant on the island and has considerable influence." If it be considered that the peons are needed as Policemen the

want could easily be supplied by giving the Ugranis some small extra pay, say 2 Rupees a month each, and requiring them to perform the duties. Force would not often be required with prisoners, as the Monegar states that to confine a man it is only necessary to tell him to sit in a corner with his face to the wall and he does so. There is no place of confinement in Amini, the building of one has been sanctioned but none has been built.

(5.) As "the importance and population of the islands attached to Canara are much below those of the islands attached to Malabar, and the condition and wishes of the inhabitants of the latter would need to be considered in any change of Procedure or Law"—Board's Proceedings of 14th October 1870, No. 6,133—I would point out that a separate representative in each island has always been the custom, and was one of the things expressly stated by the people of the Cannanore islands as necessary, if Government took over the administration of the islands as they wished it to do.

(6.) It is undoubtedly an old custom that the Karnomars of Amini should supply boats to take the Monegar from island to island once annually. This is a great hardship and expense. It is stated by the Karnomars that the expenses of the crew of large Coondras going to the coast are Rupees 100. On the annual trip they would therefore be at least 50 Rupees, no small consideration to such poor people. If (which is the only alternative to appointing Monegars there) the Monegar is required to go oftener to Kiltan and Chetlat he must himself pay this expense, which is a great hardship on him.

54. I am aware that a Sub-Monegar was in former years appointed for the islands of Kiltan and Chetlat and it was not found that the arrangement worked well; but the above proposal is that an independent Monegar should be appointed in each of these islands, the authority of the Monegar of Amini only extending to those criminal cases which, while arising in these islands and being beyond the jurisdiction of a Village Magistrate, are within that of a 3rd Class Magistrate. In all other respects the Monegar in these islands would be independent of any interference from the Monegar of Amini, corresponding direct with the Huzur and receiving orders from it direct.

55. Secondly, I propose the introduction of the Agency Act because of the difficulties which lie in the way of carrying out the system of civil and criminal administration in force on the mainland, and which arise from the peculiarities of the people and the place. The main difficulties seem as follow:—

(1.) It having been found that some of the criminal cases arising in the islands were beyond the jurisdiction of a Village Magistrate Government appointed a 3rd Class Magistrate to the islands, directing that, in cases beyond the jurisdiction of a Village Magistrate he should associate with himself three Karnomars as assessors. Now, as I have shown above in paragraph 42, the majority of cases arising in the islands are within the cognizance of a Village Magistrate; but the present Monegar being a 3rd Class Magistrate must proceed as such under the Procedure Code. Hence the anomaly that while on the mainland a Village Magistrate may dispose of a case of theft of (say) ten cocoanuts without delay or difficulty the Magistrate on the islands must in the same case take a complaint, write down the evidence, judgment, finding, and prepare a calendar which must reach the District Magistrate in a time so limited as to be absolutely impossible. If he does not do all this he acts with such illegality that if it occurred two or three times in the case of a Magistrate on the mainland it would end in his dismissal or degradation. Again, it seems waste of power to employ such a procedure in such a case. It is as if we were to employ a steam-hammer to crush a fly. As I have remarked above, the tribunal is in itself anomalous, as assessors are only known in the Sessions Courts in criminal cases.

(2.) Again, it is a matter of great importance to these islands that the present system of Koots should be kept up. The hauling up of the large boats requires a great number of men, the killing of rats the same. It is, therefore, necessary that should any one being bound to attend, fail to do so and aid on these occasions he should be punished. But no public servant can give

a lawful order unless he is expressly authorized by the Regulations or Acts or their authoritative interpretations to give it. Hence the necessary action which has been taken by the Monegar in this matter for many years past has been grossly illegal.

(3.) Again, the Monegar has no Police powers. They were taken away from him in 1862 by the Repealing Act, but any private person can arrest only for a non-bailable and cognizable offence committed in his view. This there is not, assault is not. Hence in every case of this nature, almost the only ones occurring in the islands, an arrest, unless the Monegar be present will be illegal. He cannot patrol, his doing which has, as above stated, been of the greatest use. They cannot maintain order.

(4.) But the great anomaly, and the one of the greatest importance of all, is the coir monopoly. Under the existing state of the law the coir monopoly cannot now be maintained as such monopolies have been abolished. The only protection which exists is a heavy import duty on coir as 7½ per cent. is levied on all coir imported in any shape from the Laccadives or Maldives. Thus there is at present no legal mode of enforcing the monopoly, and our islanders might at any moment refuse to bring their coir to Mangalore, and our whole system of deriving a revenue from them would pass away and together with it the greater part of the revenue.

(5.) To turn again to the system of civil justice, the powers enjoyed by the present Monegar are those of a Village Munsif as laid down in Regulations IV. and V. of 1816. But by Sections 6 of Regulation IV. of 1816 and 12 of Regulation V. of 1816 suits for damages on account of personal injuries or for personal damages of any nature are expressly exempted. This forms a large number of cases when the plaints of the islanders are put into a proper form. Also all suits relating to immoveable property, taking "personal" to mean moveable, are beyond the jurisdiction of the Monegar. From this reason it appears from the returns of the last four years that out of an average number of 29·0 suits 18·75 were beyond the jurisdiction of the Monegar. He decided, on an average, but two of these suits, illegally no doubt, but yet the parties obtained some kind of justice. From what has been said in paragraph 41 almost all the criminal trespass cases seem to be of a civil nature, but in them the Monegar has no jurisdiction, so that all these cases ought to go to the mainland for decision. Thus by far the greater number of civil suits cannot be legally decided on the islands. And while, if one man claims from another a debt of 200 Rupees, he can get his claim adjudicated in the islands, if he sues for the recovery of five trees (a very common number), he must come to the mainland though the value of the property involved in the latter case is about one-fourth of what it is in the former. But further, in the former case no stamp duty will have to be paid, whereas in the latter a heavy one must be paid as he must proceed in the District Court of Mangalore.

56. Then comes the question, to what is all this owing. The answer, I think, is that the system of both civil and criminal justice suited for, and necessary on, the mainland is not suited for these islands. It is too broad in some things, too narrow in others. The jurisdiction of the Courts of the mainland as applied to these islands includes and excludes classes of cases which it should not include or exclude on these islands, and the law requires forms of procedure, etc., which are needless and superfluous there. It remains, therefore, since the civil and criminal jurisdictions of the Courts and their modes of procedure cannot be changed without a mass of special and local legislation to suit them to the requirements of these islands, but to adopt that course by which the same result can be attained by one law, in which not only such modifications and changes of existing laws as may now be necessary can be introduced, but, should future changes in the state of the society of the islands need it, such changes as may be required can be made with much greater facility. This will at once be attained by bringing these islands under the operation of the Agency Act. Should this course be adopted the rules could be so framed as to provide for the details of the structure of the tribunals, *e. g.*, the election of assessors, etc., the number of such tribunals, their jurisdiction both as to amount and classes of cases, the Police powers of the Monegar, his position in relation to the Sea Customs Department and to authorities on the mainland, etc. Another great difficulty in the administration of civil justice, the legal enforcing of the decree (see Board's

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th March 1874.

Proceedings of 25th July 1871, No. 3,108, paragraph 6) could also be provided for by legal machinery; in short, all the requirements of the case could be met by a legal remedy. With these remarks I quit this subject.

57. *Changes in Configuration and Harbour Improvements.*—The changes mentioned by Mr. Hall in paragraph 3 of his report are still going on. In Kiltan I noticed another row of trees planted apparently a year or so. The lagoon of Kiltan is still decreasing in depth and is shallower than that of any other island visited by me. As the islanders have cleared a passage from the main entrance to the shore a laden Coondra can get out easily enough at high water still. There is also another entrance on the east side. In Chetlat the islanders also state that the harbour is filling up, they say at the rate of four fingers in eight years, which may be interpreted to mean slowly. The map which I received from your office shows correctly the changes which are taking place in the islands. These changes are, in my opinion, due to the wash of the waves which break over the reef during the monsoon, and which run with great force against the island which is close to the reef at that point, the reef also being low. It is not, in my opinion, due to currents prevailing in the sea, because the opening in the reef is so very small and shallow when compared with the amount of still water inside the lagoon that while the main body of the currents must flow outside the lagoon owing to the reef being above water, any part of it which got inside the reef would produce little or no effect, and because, though currents towards the north prevail during the whole year in these seas in the neighbourhood of the islands, these changes take place only during the monsoon. Mr. Robinson says that "the body of the island is the more perfect development of the eastern and protected side of the coral formation," and "under the protection of the shoal the east rim gradually developed itself towards the centre and formed an island," the sand accumulated being that worn down by the action of the waves on the reef. This is what seems to have occurred in the case of Amini and Andrat, where the circular reef is still traceable, but the body of the island now extends to within from 50 to 100 yards of it. They have, therefore, no lagoons, so it seems probable that the filling up of the harbour of Kiltan and Chetlat is due to the same forces which originally formed the island. Neither is the harbour shoaling in any one place apparently but over its whole extent. It seems probable, therefore, that any improvement of the harbour would have but a temporary effect and require renewal after a very short time. In considering the question of harbour improvement it should be remembered that the Coondras could be laden just as well outside the reef as inside it, except for the distance, as the sea is quite smooth for five months in the year. The harbour is not needed for shelter as the Coondras are drawn up on the beach immediately after their return from a voyage and during the whole monsoon. I can suggest no work to prevent the washing away of the land in Chetlat, as any work to be effectual would have to be expensive and the loss which is incurred is small. It would be, in some measure, compensated if the man whose land is being washed away were given the right of planting in the accretions which are taking place at the other end of the island. The owner of the land against which the accretion takes place has at present the right of planting it. As the islanders through the Koot possess a means of carrying out projects for the public good they would be quite capable of themselves carrying out any temporary improvement which may be needed. I would submit, therefore, that, while education and the administration of the islands call for improvement as they do, money spent on harbour improvement would be wasted.

58. *The tenure of Land.*—The right in land is in a very uncertain state. This uncertainty exists in two forms—

(1.) The rights of the inhabitants as against each other.

(2.) The rights of landlords and their tenants.

(1.) The first is a question of some importance because it affects a large body of people in all the islands, but more especially in Amini and Kadamat, and also because it is a fertile source of quarrels. Mr. Robinson says on this subject that "each spot planted as it was able and claimed no other right than that of replanting when stock." In Amindivi, where the whole soil has been long fully occupied has given certain persons a pre-

scriptive right to plots of ground, but in the other islands no proprietary rights in certain parts of the soil as against each other is contended for. This further right is now asserted, that a man can plant a tree or trees in any part of the land overshadowed by his tree, which is again supposed to be corrected by the mamool that if a man plants a tree so near the edge of the plot of ground thus claimed as that the tree when grown overshadows another's land so as to interfere with the growth of vegetation in that other's plot the latter is entitled to half the produce of the overshadowing tree. This is a fertile source of litigation, and its effect is perceived in the enormous number of criminal trespass cases shown in the criminal returns and also in the number of cases which relate to trees shown in the Civil Form No. II., a fair proportion of which assume the form of a complaint that "the defendant plucked up young plants which the plaintiff had planted in his own ground." This state of things might, to some extent, be corrected in Amini by requiring the people to put down boundary stones, and in Kadamat also by marking off the boundaries when new plantation takes place. In all the islands, indeed, since Mr. Robinson's visit, this system has been carried out in obedience to an order by him that all waste land should be planted in plots, but in the older plantation in Kiltan and Chetlat I can suggest no remedy as "the properties in trees are detached and intermixed in the most extraordinary manner, often single trees at great distances from each other and known only to the proprietor."

(2.) The second form of uncertainty is perhaps of greater importance than the above as it is caused by a change in the manner of regarding the position of the higher castes by the lower and is a struggle for emancipation on the part of the latter. This question is, I may say, confined to Amini and Kadamat. It is of importance as it affects a large body of people in these islands, but as yet it has not often come before the Courts. It affects a large body of people because in Amini the whole of the fourth caste, in number about 1,173, are tenants, or more than half the population. In Kadamat ninety males out of 111 are tenants, whose masters live in Amini. In Kiltan they are but five or six persons in all, in Chetlat one. The small number in the last two islands is due to the system prevailing there of doing everything by houses, of which there are eight in Kiltan, nine in Chetlat. I have said above that as yet this question has not come often before the Courts. In later years, however, there is a tendency to bring this matter into Court, and in 1872 three cases founded on this relationship are entered in the file. Formerly the Moktessars, who are the great landlords, had influence enough probably with the tenant to get the matter referred to the arbitration of some of their own order; but latterly the tenants not liking the decision of this body, which can hardly be looked on as unprejudiced, defied the Moktessar or landlord, who was driven to bring the matter into Courts. This is a sign of the growing strength of the tenants who aim at evading the performance of the service which they are bound to perform.

The relationship is stated by Mr. Robinson as follows:—

"The large tree-owners let trees to those who have none on service rents only, stipulating that the tenant carry on his master's dry cultivation, serve in his boat, and, though he has the enjoyment of the whole produce of the trees and receives also the price of the coir produced on them, he is obliged to export all his coir in his master's boats" paying twenty per cent. of the coir as freight while the independent coir-exporter pays but ten per cent. They must also pay some small nuzzer to the master on the occasion of a marriage or death in the master's family; the master, however, also gives something to the tenant on the happening of similar events in his family. From this it will be perceived that the tenant of, say, fifty trees stands in a very much worse position than the small independent holder of the same number of trees, and hence the struggle which the tenants are now making. My grounds for stating that this feeling is spreading among the tenants are the statements of the Monegar and Moktessars to that effect and what has already occurred in the case of Kadamat coupled with the fact that it is an old ground of dispute. In Kadamat a few years ago it took the form of refusing to send their coir in the Amindivi people's boats. This was stopped by the late Acting Collector Mr. Webster, issuing an order in 1871 that the Kadamat people were to send their coir according to mamool in the Amini boats. This was probably in consequence of

Vide Mr. Robinson's report, paragraph 13.

the remark in paragraph 12 of the Board's Proceedings of the 7th May 1870, No. 3,036. In Amini it now takes the form of the tenants claiming the absolute right in the trees. They have, I believe, succeeded in gaining this concession in some instances. It is but a step more to refuse to perform the service. As this is a question affecting a large number of people and lying at the root of the society in the island, and as, unless the right of the tenant is recognized, there is a danger that he may be reduced to the same condition as a collier in Ireland previous to the great famine of 1847-48, owing to the limited extent of the land in these islands, and the dislike of the people to emigration, while the population seems steadily increasing, in justice to both parties I would recommend that before the question gets involved the landlords and tenants be required to reduce their agreements to writing, to be filed and registered by the Monegar in the same way as is done with leases on the mainland under the same penalty, and that they be induced as much as possible to commute their service rents into one in money or kind. These agreements might be shown in the land register which I have recommended above. This inclination on the part of the lower castes to rise at the expense of the upper I also noticed in Andrat and some of the other islands under the Rajah of Cannanore. I am much encouraged in bringing forward this question as I notice that Mr. Logan, in paragraphs 15 and 37 of his report on the Cannanore Islands written in 1870, also adverts to it. It is, in my opinion, one of much importance.

59. *Complaints by the Islanders.*—In all the islands I gave the Moktessars twenty-four hours to consider and bring forward any grievances which they wished redressed. In all the islands the complaints were—

(1.) That four years should be given them to pay for the rice supplied in 1871, instead of, as now, when the debt must be discharged in three.

(2.) That the Monegar should be a Mussulman, the man just sent being a Christian.

(3.) That more salt should be supplied to them at the cheap rate.

(4.) That, while formerly they got suggi rice from Government, they now get rice of an inferior quality and even of that short weight.

(5.) That, while they have improved the coir, no increase in price has been given them as promised.

(6.) That the entrances to the lagoon should be cleared.

(7.) That the time of bringing the coir to Mangalore should be extended.

(1.) As to the first complaint. In 1871, the boats having started for the islands unusually late, were driven back by contrary winds. They failed to reach the islands at all before the monsoon, and had to stay on the coast until after it was over. To prevent a famine in the islands Government sent a steamer, chartered at an enormous expense, to take rice to the islands. Some went to our islands, and some to those under the Rajah of Cannanore. It is with reference to this rice that this petition is made. It must be noticed that the case of the islanders is not nearly so hard as might be supposed at first glance, for as not many of their boats were lost they had the rice supplied before the monsoon almost untouched. Again, Government ordered, in G. O. of the 4th May 1872, Revenue Department, No. 724, that no charge for freight should be made against the islanders. The cost of the rice supplied, however, amounted to Rupees 11,654-3-6, and the first instalment levied this year amounts to Rupees 3,909-10-6, or an impost of about Rupees 1-0-9 per head of the population; the second instalment to be levied in 1874 amounts to Rupees 3,877-4-6, the third to the same. To recover these an impost of about Rupees 1-0-7·5 per head will have to be levied. As I have shown above that the islanders pay an amount of taxation now estimated at Rupees 3-3-2·4, or Annas 12-7·4 a-head more than the people on the mainland pay, it seems probable that an impost of Rupees 4-0-9·9 would press unduly on people who are much poorer than those of the mainland. I would recommend, therefore, that the indulgence sought be granted them. The case is still stronger if we take the amount of taxation shown above in paragraph 37.

(2.) As to the second. This they desire as the Monegar must, by the custom of the island, be present in the mosque on the occasions of marriage, divorce, moolee, &c., the ceremonies per-

formed on the anniversary of Mahomet's death and birth and at many other ceremonies. As by the custom of the island also Punchayets, consultations, etc., are always held in the mosque, and as none but a Mahomedan may enter, great inconvenience will be the result of appointing a man of any other faith. You very truly remark in your covering letter to Mr. Hall's report, dated 2nd April 1870, No. 429, paragraph 20, "that whether as vaccinator, Monegar, or peon, no officers seem to succeed in these islands unless they hold the same faith as the islanders, who are, without exception, Mussulmans." The common argument that Government should withdraw as much as possible from interference in such ceremonies should, I think, be allowed no weight in this instance. These customs have prevailed in the islands from the memory of man, and to alter them is a revolution of the most startling nature among a people unaccustomed to change. The Monegar derives much of his influence and claims to reverence from his holding a high position in the ceremonies of the mosque. I think any change in this matter or any other connected with the social relations on the islands cannot be too strongly deprecated. No doubt a Mussulman suitable in all respects for this office can be found, if not in this district at any rate in Malabar.

(3.) As to the third complaint. The islanders at present receive at cost price something more than one maund of salt to each candy of coir imported. If they want more they can purchase it at the monopoly price. They received in the past year 851 maunds of salt at cost price; this with a population of 3,725 would give each person 6 lbs. and 4 oz. nearly per annum for all purposes. This is much lower than the average consumption of each person on the mainland, which is, I believe, for this Presidency 14 lbs., for Bengal from 8 to 9 lbs.; on the other hand, it is essential, to prevent smuggling, that the quantity supplied should be short of that required; but, as there is apparently a very great difference in the consumption of salt in the islands and the mainland, assuming that they get salt from nowhere else, and as the islanders are taxed very much higher than the people on the mainland I would recommend that the amount of salt supplied to them at cost price be slightly increased.

(4.) As to the fourth complaint. The system pursued at present is that of selling the contract for supplying the islanders with rice according to a fixed sample by public auction. The actual cost to Government as shown in the forms is the amount paid to the contractor, but at the market price then prevailing he had to pay for every 110 Rupees, the price contracted for, contained in it, 117 Rupees the market price per corgee. Hence his apparent loss amounts to about 680 Rupees. In six out of the last ten years heavy losses have been thus sustained, yet the competition for this contract is most keen. This coupled with the complaints of the islanders seems to point to some endeavour, more or less successful, on the part of the contractor to recoup his losses at the expense of the islanders. It is, however, difficult to see how this can occur, as the system devised for the protection of the islanders seems to be carried out by the subordinate Customs officials with perfect integrity. The sample is given to them, and the weights for weighing the rice are kept by them. When the amount of coir brought by each islander has been determined he is given an order on the contractor for the amount of rice due; he then takes the weights, which are kept in the Custom-house, and gets the rice weighed out to him or weighs it himself. Should he be dissatisfied he can take some of the rice and compare it with the sample, and, should the Sea Customs Superintendent consider the rice not according to the sample, different rice must be supplied. Under these circumstances it is difficult to see how short weight can be supplied to the islanders. The complaint of the deterioration of the quantity of the rice supplied has probably no better foundation. The Monegar might, however, be required to attend to see the rice weighed out; he has little to do when he comes on shore.

(5.) As to the fifth. The claim of the islanders seems in this respect well founded. In paragraph 30 of your letter, dated 2nd April 1870, No. 429, quoted in Board's Proceedings of 7th May 1870, No. 3,036, you propose to give the islanders "the same percentage of the enhancement in the prices that they have hitherto had of the average market prices of the last ten years," and you proposed to give the arrangement a retrospective effect. The Board of Revenue in the above-quoted Proceedings recommended in favour of the proposal. The Government, in their Proceedings

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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in the Revenue Department, dated 9th September 1870, No. 126, say that "the first measure to grant the islanders a percentage on the increased profits which have been realized by Government on the sale of coir which will give the islanders an interest in improving the manufacture for the future appear to Government extremely judicious, and the Acting Collector is authorized to carry it into effect, but Government see no reason to give the arrangement a retrospective effect." This arrangement has not been carried out as appears from this petition, and I am also given to understand the same on inquiry at Mangalore. To examine what the effect of this arrangement will be on the net annual income of Government; the average market price up to Fasli 1278, the year in which the arrangement under discussion was proposed, for twenty years is Rupees 58-8-0, or an Rupees 37-3-0, the average price per candy; from Fasli 1278 to 1282 is Rupees 58-8-0, or an increase of Rupees 21-5-0. The average annual importation for the period of twenty-five years has been 659 candies a-year, and the rate at which the islanders are at present paid is Rupees 20-4-0. Therefore, under the above arrangement, the islanders are to get the same percentage of Rupees 21-5-0 that Rupees 20-4-0 is of Rupees 37-3-0 or fifty-two [illegible] of Rupees 21-5-0 or Rupees 11-2-0 increased price per candy, consequently the amount which will [illegible] this calculation be annually given up by Government will be Rupees 7,380-8-0; but the average annual income for twenty-five years is Rupees 12,102-5-0, hence the average annual income will be reduced to Rupees 4,721-7-0 or 64·6 per cent., but the average annual expense of establishment since Fasli 1274 when last increase was sanctioned, and contingencies during the last twenty-five years preceding and inclusive of Fasli 1282 is Rupees 1,764. This in considering future expenses must be increased by Rs. 436 per annum, the increase of pay of the Monegar sanctioned in G. O. of 30th January 1872, No. 186. The annual remission to the Rajah of Cannanore amounts to Rupees 5,250, hence the total annual average deductions amount to Rupees 7,750, or leaves a deficit of revenue of Rupees 3,029. This deficit will be annually slightly increased by the charge which may arise from the necessity of sending a steamer with rice to these islanders. If, however, we take the last five very favourable years, not making any deductions, we find that the annual average income of Government under the present arrangement is Rupees 19,401; that the annual importation is 718 candies, and the deduction under the arrangement under discussion Rupees 8,041-6-0, or that the annual income of Government will be Rupees 11,360, from which we must deduct an establishment costing, on an average, Rupees 1,595, which in estimating future expenses must be increased to Rupees 2,031; this with the remission to the Rajah of Cannanore will make the total reductions Rupees 7,281 and, therefore, the net income of Government but Rupees 4,079. As I cannot but regard the last few years as exceptionally favourable I would recommend that the percentage of increase sanctioned be reduced before the arrangement is brought into operation.

(6.) As to the sixth. With reference to this question I have already expressed my opinion in paragraph 57 that to clear the entrances to the lagoons would be futile; in a short while the entrance would again become choked. To break away the reefs so as to make a channel practicable at all seasons of the year would be a labour of great expense unattended with corresponding advantage. to the islandars. Any minor work the islanders can do themselves.

(7.) As to the seventh. The table marginally shown gives the times of arrival of the first coir boats at Mangalore since 1867, when the bonus system was first introduced. The principal cause of delay is the wind. They also state they cannot make up the coir, as, if they did so, it would get spoiled by the rats. The first difficulty is not insuperable as the boats from the Cannanore Islands leave at five different times between October and May. The second also seems groundless because in 1281, the fasli in which they began to arrive earliest as shown by the above statement, we find an importation of coir very much above the average. As any extension of the time would lay Government open to risk of loss I cannot recommend any extension of the time for arrival.

Memorandum of the Dates on which the first Boat arrived from the Amindivi Islands.

Before the issue of orders.	After the promulgation of orders in 1867.
Fasli 1274, 3rd March	Fasli 1277, 7th March
,, 1275, 7th ,,	,, 1278, 22nd February
,, 1276, 5th ,,	,, 1279, 5th March
	,, 1280, 27th February
	,, 1281, 5th ,,
	,, 1282, 19th ,,

60. These petitions were presented from all the islands. But the people of Kadam at further prayed that they might be allowed to export their coir in their own boats. They have advanced much of late years in planting, population, and in the material condi ion of the people. They now desire to trade for themselves. In 1871 the people tried to shake off the yoke of the people of Amini as I have explained above in paragraph 58, Part II., of this report. As there are ninety tenants of the Amini people in this island out of a population of 111 males it materially affects the prosperity of the whole island. It means to the people of Kadamat that they have to pay twenty per cent. instead of ten per cent for freight in the export of their coir as houses are found in this island as in Kiltan and Chetlat. It presses on them again from the other side, because their coir being imported in Amini boats only seventy per cent. is classed as first class, but the coir of Kadamat is acknowledged to be quite as good as that of Kiltan and Chetlat, but of the coir imported from the latter islands eighty per cent. is received as first class. Thus the people of Kadamat get twenty per cent. less profit on the exportation of their coir than the people of any other island. It is hardly, therefore, a matter of wonder that Kadamat has always been so backward. This unfairness to the people of Kada[illegible]ould be, [illegible]easure, removed by Government receiving all coir imported direct from Kadamat at a fixed rate, the quality being fixed once for all as in the other islands. The whole injustice, of course, cannot be removed without a disturbance of inter-island relations forbidden in paragraph 12 of Board's Proceedings, dated 7th May 1870, No. 3,036.

61. *Petitions received, orders issued, etc.*—In Amini one man brought a complaint that his trees had been unlawfully taken away. I found that the case had been decided previously to Mr. Hall's visit. Another petition for some Circar trees which had been given away after the great storm of 1847 to one of the Andrat people, and which were about to become vacant on the return of the holder to Andrat, was presented to me. The petitioner was represented as entirely without means of support, so I directed that ten trees should be given to him when they were available. In Kadamat none were presented. In Kiltan, one petition, a claim to trees, was presented to me. As it presented no extraordinary feature I referred it to the Monegar. In Chetlat I was asked to issue an order prohibiting the people from going to the reef on which the *Lord Brougham* was wrecked on the ground that they went there to pillage. I declined issuing any such order, but had the salvage laws carefully explained to the people in my presence. The entire absence of petitioners goes far to induce a belief in the late Monegar's fair administration of justice though his knowledge of law was apparently slight. In the islands of Kadamat and Kiltan the practice of steeping the coir in freshwater pits still prevails though Mr. Hall issued orders in 1868 that they should all be stopped up—an instance of the worthlessness and laziness of the peons, who, not being directly responsible, of course do not care whether the orders are carried out or not. As the only excuse which the islanders could give for making the pits in the middle of the islands was the labour entailed in taking the husk about 100 yards to the sea-shore, I gave strict orders to the Monegar to see that they were all filled up at once. In Amini it was brought to my notice by the Moktessars that, in consequence of the high prices lately prevailing for nuts, planting had received so great an impulse that the Tot was getting filled with cocoanut plants, the reason being that when one man plants cocoanut plants in his piece of land his neighbour is in self-defence compelled to plant them also as in consequence of the shade nothing will grow on his land. As the Tot has hitherto been as carefully preserved as possible for the cultivation of dry grains I issued strict orders to the Monegar that the mamool prevailing with regard to overshadowing trees, and mentioned above in paragraph 58, Part I., should be as strictly enforced as possible. I also suggested to the Moktessars that this question should be disposed of in the same way as they had settled that with regard to goats, as related above in paragraph 19.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

Abstract.—Memoran[illegible]m of Charges incu[illegible]in procuring Owls sent to the Laccadive Islands.

Enclosure No. 3.

Abstract.—Draft of an Act and Rules for the administration of the Amindivi Islands.

Enclosure No. 4.

Abstract.—Statement showing the financial results of the Coir Monopoly in the District of South Canara during the last twenty years.

Enclosure No. 5.

Abstract.—Statement showing the Quantities of Amindivi Coir purchased and sold during Faslis 1281 and 1282.

Enclosure No. 6.

Abstract.—Copies of Statistics forming Enclosures to Mr. Stokes' Report on Amindivi Islands, dated 22nd May 1873, No. 95.

With this letter the Collector of Sou[illegible]ra subm[illegible], with his comments, Mr. Stokes' report on the Laccadive Islands, which were visited by him in the early part of the year. Mr. Stokes visited as well the islands attached to the Malabar District and belonging to the Rajah of Cannanore; but a separate report upon them by an officer of that district is, the Board believe, to be submitted to Government.

2. Mr. Stokes states that the Cannanore Islands are practically without government of any kind, that the people seek to have some regular administration set up at once amongst them, and desire to have the system prevailing in the northern islands introduced amongst them with a proper administration of justice. It appears to be incumbent on the Government to step in and restore order and right by assuming the administration. It is essential that this political question should be solved before extensive revision of the administrative organization of the Canara Islands is undertaken, for it is obvious that the occupation of the southern islands must restore to the Malabar District the northern islands which have been separated from the rest, and that an organization must be devised with reference to the requirements of the whole group.

3. As regards the islands to which these papers especially relate it is evident that no rapid movements either of population, industry, or wealth can be looked for. Still Mr. Stokes' observations enable him to assert that plantation is steadily extending, though the tale of trees returned to him by the people was understated. The Board deprecate the frequent counting of the trees which has occurred of late years. It serves no useful object, and is calculated to disturb the minds of the people. Population shows a slight increase, but has scarcely recovered the outbreak of cholera in 1865. Activity in boat-building, shown by large imports of timber, indicates improvement in material welfare. The substitution of cocoanut plantation for dry grains is not to be regretted. The Collector should endeavour to introduce some vegetable productions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, and perhaps tapioca, which would probably thrive under the cocoanut trees.

4. The educational wants of the islands will be best met by introducing, as occasion opens, the system of elementary schools proposed by Mr. Macgregor for the similar Moplah population in Ma[illegible]. The proposals alluded to, by Mr. Thomas are entirely unsuited to the co[illegible]tions of the islands.

5. The Board recommend, for favourable consideration, the suggestion that a skilled midwife should be employed for a time on the islands. They see no reason why the peons resident on each island should not be supplied with a stock of the simple medicines now entrusted for distribution to the Monegar of Amini alone. There is nothing on record excluding the poor of Kiltan from participating in the Poor Fund alluded to in paragraph 20 of Mr. Stokes' report. Such distinctions should cease in future.

6. The charges incurred in sending owls to the islands are sanctioned. Mr. Thomas is at liberty to send jays as he proposes. The rats are stated not to have diminished in numbers. The borer worm alluded to is a serious pest.

Exports.

Years.	Cocoanuts.	Coir.	Jaggery.	Coir.	Limes.
	Thousands.	Candies.	Candies.	Candies.	Thousands.
1869 ...	1,298	221	49	608	78
1870 ...	397	116	39	657	163
1871 ...	1,450	245	49	606	106
1872 ...	2,514	203	21	650	88

Imports.

Years.	Rice.	Salt.	Tobacco.	Timber.	Grain.
	Moorahs. Hundreds.	Maunds. Hundreds.	Candies.	Cubits.	Moorahs.
1862 ...	62	12	6	353	60
1863 ...	41	5	3	184	39
1864 ...	82	25	10	51	18
Average.	62	14	6	196	39
1870 ...	107	6	7	2,582	116
1871 ...	155	17	10	1,552	42
1872 ...	127	8	7	5,937	158
Average.	130	10	8	3,357	105

7. The progress of trade in the most important articles is shown in the margin, and indicates improved comfort and consumption. It is to be hoped that the Returns are not swelled by inter-island manifests. Such are as much out of place as would be Rowannahs between village and village on the coast.

8. The coir monopoly continued to yield a moderate annual revenue to Government. The Statements submitted by Mr. Thomas show that the islanders received payment at the rate of about Rs. 30 per candy during the last ten years, the price realized by Government being about Rs. 46 The difference pays all the ordinary expenses of administration as well as the compensation to the Cannanore family and leaves a surplus which goes to recoup such extraordinary charges as were incurred in 1871. It is unnecessary for the Board to follow Mr. Stokes' arguments against the extension of the monopoly. It would probably be impossible to devise a system which would be so acceptable and so well suited to the people of these islands and to existing conditions.

9. The Returns as to civil and criminal justice show a condition of things on the whole satisfactory. No serious crime occurs, and there is no indication of abuse of authority, though apparently a sufficiency of technical irregularity. Under the head of "Disobedience of orders" appears the breach of certain local

prohibitions which have merely customary sanction. The enforcement of some of these by criminal sanction should be checked, but care should be taken to maintain indispensable usages such as "Koots" for rat-hunts, launching and drawing up boats, etc.

10. In paragraph 48 Mr. Stokes enumerates the duties of the several officials. Those of the Monegar are of a mixed kind—some rather social than official—but no formal change is called for. It is evident, however, that he fails to move about sufficiently among the islands. The difficulties of intercommunication are much exaggerated; large rowing boats are constantly passing between the islands, and the Monegar should be required to visit every one of them three or four times in the year at least. The real obstacle the Board believe to be the requiring the islanders to carry the establishment *gratis*. The Monegar should be empowered to demand, on payment of hire and batta, to be furnished with a boat and men when needed for public service.

11. The Collector and Mr. Stokes submit proposals for increasing the establishment in the islands by giving in effect separate staffs to Kiltan and Chetlat. After certain reductions in the staff of peons and in the pay of the Monegar the cost of the island establishment would be Rupees 1,900 per annum. Considering the size and importance of the islands, the largest of which is but equal in population to a moderate-sized village, the Board doubt the necessity for this outlay. They would have a headman in each island corresponding to the head of the village on the mainland and paid perhaps Rupees 10 per mensem; but, as stated above, this matter must be settled in connection with the decision of Government as to the Cannanore Islands.

12. Mr. Thomas submits a draft Act and Rules for securing the objects aimed at by extension of the Agency Act, which are very carefully prepared and in the main right. They should, however, be referred to the Collector and Magistrate of Malabar for consideration, and should be made the subject of careful and full discussion between the Collectors of the two districts and the Board, apart from the general review of the condition of the islands.

13. In paragraph 58 Mr. Stokes treats accurately of the two most important questions—proprietary and social—which occasionally give rise to litigation as to civil rights. As regards property, the existing conditions of things undoubtedly arose out of the original commonable character of the whole land of the community, and, though these are theoretically anomalous, disputes which arise chiefly as to occupation rights in the common land are easily disposed of in practice under long-established and well-understood customary usages. As regards further appropriation of waste, the proper application of the Darkhast Rules would supply a remedy. The Board see no need for State interference as to questions of proprietary right.

14. The social question treated of in Clause II of the same paragraph probably arose rather from the ancient condition of prædial serfdom of the lower castes than from the relation of landlord and tenant, and it chiefly occurs in those islands in which, like Kadamat, there has been intermixture of race. So far as the social arrangements and dependent rights within each island is concerned the settlement must be left to the ordinary development of society; but relations

of dependence as between islands, *e. g.*, of Kadamat on Amini, should cease. The Board regret to observe that Mr. Webster has thrown back the advance of the former island by practically refusing to allow the inhabitants to use sea-going boats of their own. This order should be cancelled, and restrictions should be withdrawn except when individual private rights are concerned.

15. As regards the special petitions of the islanders the Board would allow the balance of the cost of the rice sent by Government to the islands to be paid in three instalments, as proposed, instead of two.

16. The Board regret that the Collector sent a Native Christian to the islands as Monegar. This man should be forthwith withdrawn and a Mahomedan sent, a native either of Canara or Malabar.

17. The increas[illegible] of salt proposed by the Collector to be furnished to the islanders at cost price should be allowed as an experiment. Either an excessive or a deficient supply is likely to excite smuggling, but it is desirable to attempt to induce the islanders to salt their fish.

18. There seems no necessity for change as to the arrangements for supplying rice.

19. The Collector proposes that twenty-five per cent. of the net profits on coir should be paid to the islanders provided that the quantity does not fall below 674 candies and the price realized is not less than Rupees 40 per candy. The Board think that this proposal is fair and offers sufficient stimulus to improvement. They recommend that it be sanctioned with effect in arrears from and including 1871-72.

20. The Board agree with Mr. Stokes as to the demand for harbour improvements and time fixed for the arrival of the boats at Mangalore.

21. Mr. Stokes' interesting and exhaustive report merits the commendation of the Board.

No. 231. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1874, No. 387.

Miscellaneous.

THE general question raised in this paper must lie over, pending the necessary action in the Political Department.

2. Meanwhile, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council sanctions the arrangements proposed by the Board in paragraphs 5, 15, 17, and 19 of their Proceedings, and concurs in the opinion expressed in paragraph 21.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Political Department.
,, the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman

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10/11/22
18-8/3311

Further Case 702/77.

Govt. of Madras.
No. 15
REVENUE.

To
The BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c.

Dated March 26th.
Read.

(Encl.

&c.

G. O., 26th March 1874, No. 387.

Revenue Department.

No. 387

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 26th March 1874.

READ the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submg to Govt, with remarks letter from Coll of S. Canara forwarding report of asst Coll Mr Stokes on his visit to Laccadive Islands - Passing orders on certain points noticed in report

H. E. 21 : Oct : 1873 No 2153.

The general question raised in this paper must lie over pending the necessary action in the Political Dept.

2. Meanwhile, the Right Honble the Governor in Council sanctions the arrangements proposed by the Board in paragraphs 5, 15, 17, and 19 of their Proceedings, and concurs

concurs in the opinion expressed
in paragraph 21.

WE

List from Ores

BC & P. Governor
5th Asst General
4th Political Dept.
5th Dep. Secl. Ind. Res. Dept.

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No. 2.

Report of Mr. Slater, Asst. U.S. Coast Survey, on his visit to the Lacustrine Islands.

Mr. Slater