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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 400		~~Press~~
~~B.P. No.~~		Mis.
Dated 26-2-1875	196 .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Message despatched by Telegraph on the 22 February 1875.

From MADRAS	To Collector.
From CHIEF SECRETARY	To Calicut.

Attach Laccadives immediately for arrears peshcush; following course 1854.

(True copy)

D Hamilton
Ag. Chief Secretary

Pol. 56/16 1

Laccadive Islands.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 108.

FROM

THE HON. D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In submitting for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council a Collection of papers, and a carefully prepared *Précis* of their contents, on the Laccadive Islands, together with the Minutes of His Excellency the Governor and the Civil Members of Council—I am directed to request, that, under the circumstances disclosed, the sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to the permanent resumption of the Islands now held on Peshkash by the Head of the Cannanore family, and to the grant to Ali Rajah and his successors of a Malikhana or compensatory stipend of 20 per cent. on the normal revenue. This pension will amount to between 3,000 and 4,000 Rupees per annum, and will of course be in addition to the sum* now annually disbursed to him in respect of the group of Islands of which his ancestors were deprived by the Sultan of Mysore; and which, on the death of Tippoo, were ceded to the East India Company, as portion of the district of Canara.

* Rupees 5,250.

2. In the meantime, following the course taken in 1854, the Governor in Council has deemed it incumbent on him to attach the Islands for arrears of Peshkash; 54,000 Rupees having accumulated under this head.

3. As regards fiscal administration, it is the intention of Government to continue the Monopoly in Coir; it obtains in the sister islands under the management of the Collector of South Canara, is fairly productive, and is the system to which the population is accustomed.

4. The question of civil and criminal justice will be shortly disposed of, in communication with the Government of India, under the powers assigned by the recent "Excepted Districts" Act.

5. A copy of this letter and its enclosures will be furnished to the Secretary of State, for information.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/ D. F. Carmichael

Acting Chief Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
17*th February* 1875.

Exd. J. Wright.

1875.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

From

The Acting Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Fort St. Geor

To

Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Foreign Departme

Dated 17th February 1875.

Recd.

No. 108.

Enclosure.

2

Rev 691/75

Laccadive Islands.—Certain papers on these Islands forwarded, and sanction requested for their perutanent resumption and to the grant to the Head of the Cannanore family of a compensatory pension of 20 per cent. on the normal revenue.

PRÉCIS.

The Cannanore family is supposed to be a branch of the ancient Royal house of Calastry, or Cherikal; and to have embraced the Mahomedan religion at a very early period. First a tributary of the Cherikal Rajah, the representative of this house soon rose to a position of independence about the middle of the 18th century; but the wars, which disturbed the peace of that part of the country during the last quarter of that century, brought the house into varying relations with the British Government; they having been at first open enemies, then conquered foes and lastly confirmed allies. In 1792, all the territories of the reigning Beebee became the right of the Company by conquest; and were included among the cessions made by Tippoo: but consideration of the smallness of the Beebee's possessions, and her situation as the Head of the Moplah tribe, made it appear politic to permit her to retain her possessions. Her situation as a conquered foe, without any rights, being pointed out to her, she was called upon to offer fair terms. She tendered a moiety of the yield of her territorial possessions, which moiety on her five islands was given at Rupees 1,200, and on the Continent at Rupees 3,140; together with 10,000 Rupees, as a similar share of the produce and commercial advantages accruing from the Laccadives. She also executed a Muchilka or Agreement, engaging to submit to the sequestration of the Laccadives for the advantage of the Honorable Company's Government, if it should be ordered by the Governor-General in Council. The lengthened negotiations that then ensued, the deputation of Ensign Bentley to the islands to ascertain the correctness of the Beebee's statement concerning her revenues, his report of the oppression of the islanders by the Beebee and her gross misstatements regarding the resources of the islands, the resolution of the Government of India to abolish the coir monopoly and to introduce a better form of government in the islands, and the obstinate refusal of the Beebee to accept the former proposal, these and other details need not be fully set out here. It is sufficient to state that the Commissioners at last entered into an engagement with the Beebee provisionally, subject to ratification by Government; by which it was agreed that she should pay to Government Rupees 15,000 per annum, being the Jumna on the houses, purams, &c., situated at and near Cannanore, on her trade to the Laccadives, and on her Jenmon property on the said islands; that the same should be paid in three equal instalments; and that the Agreement was not to do away in any shape with the rights which the Government have to the Laccadives as set forth in the Moochilka of 1793.

Dated 9th April 1793.

This Agreement is dated 28th October 1796; and is the document on which so much stress is laid by the representatives of the Cannanore family.

2. The Government of Bombay, to whom these proceedings were reported, set on foot further negotiations; and endeavoured long and fruitlessly to obtain the consent of the Beebee to resign her sovereignty of the islands, or to throw open the trade, and reform the administration of justice in the islands. The breaking out of the war with France and other considerations, which sprang up meanwhile, led however to the matter being dropped then; and for the next half a century the islands remained unnoticed by the Company's officers.

1793.

3. The great storm of 1847, which devastated two of the principal islands, Antroth and Kalpeny, again directed attention to these islands. Mr. Robinson, then Head Assistant Collector of Malabar, was deputed to investigate the amount of injury sustained; and to inquire into the circumstances of an address, which had been presented by some of the inhabitants of one of the islands complaining of the oppression of the Beebee's administration. The result of the investigation and the recommendations which followed are thus summed up:—

"On the whole, the rights and customs of the people, such as they are, seem to be much better defined than might have been expected under such an unsettled Government; and through the influence of the chief men are pretty well maintained against the authority of the Beebee, whose distant position renders her dependent upon their co-operation to maintain her influence. The people seem far from submissive to personal violence." The administration, though it was severe in the earlier days of the power of the Cannanore family, was reported to err now on the side of

timidity and weakness. But the rule of one, who is at the same time sovereign, merchant and monopolist, ready to turn every circumstance to account to add to her personal gains, cannot but be arbitrary and illiberal ; and the people's disaffection grows greater by contrasting their position with that of the people of the group of islands belonging to the "Sirkar ;"* in which all the waste, the fishery and everything else was given up to them, save the coir monopoly which is conducted upon liberal terms. The Beebee's administration was on the whole considered to repress the resources of the islands ; and to be fraught with oppression to the inhabitants : and Mr. Robinson urged their transfer to the direct management of the Company. The Collector considered this measure inevitable, though the pride of the Beebee, "who plumes herself greatly on her position as the sovereign of these petty isles," would not allow her to entertain the idea for a moment ; and observed that if resolved upon, it could be easily carried out by remitting the 10,000 Rupees of Peishcush fixed upon the trade of the islands, and allowing the Beebee an annual compensation of an equal amount for her share of the profits ; the Beebee's claims as a private landowner remaining unaffected by the change of the system, and the Government in exchange for the above 20,000 Rupees, deriving such revenue as the Islands under a fair system could produce.

4. The Board of Revenue were opposed to the resumption of the islands against the wishes of the Beebee ; for the reason, that it could be insisted upon only on two grounds ; *viz.*, first, the circumstance of the sovereignty of the Laccadives never having been guaranteed to her by any express treaty ; and secondly, the agreement executed by the Beebee in 1793 binding herself to submit to the sequestration of the islands if it should be so ordered by the Governor-General in Council. They contended that the latter was only a temporary provision for the sole purpose of ascertaining the real value of the islands, as the negotiations subsequently carried on to induce the Beebee to give up the sovereignty of the islands seemed incompatible with the supposition of any previous surrender by the terms of the engagement ; and that the absence of any agreement guaranteeing the sovereignty of the islands to the Cannanore House could, of itself, be no justification of their resumption, after the family had been tacitly permitted to be in possession for so long a period. They recommended, that as the revenues of the Beebee were so much crippled by the storm as to compel her to seek a remission in the Peishcush, the requisite remission be granted for a period of ten years on the condition of the Beebee consenting to the introduction of the necessary reforms in her administration which were enumerated as follows :—

(1.) Thorough reform of the Coir monopoly, the adoption of fair rates of payment to the producers, and abolition of the many unjust and vexatious practices now attendant on the system.

(2.) The monopoly of cocoanuts, of salt and tobacco, should be at once abandoned ; and those of cowries, tortoise-shell, holotheria and ambergris, if allowed to continue, be placed upon an improved footing.

(3.) The dispute regarding waste lands should be finally settled ; the accounts of book debts kept both upon the islands and at Cannanore should be examined ; such items as are unreasonable or irrecoverable struck out, and arrangements made for the gradual liquidation of such as may be properly payable.

(4.) The system of dispensing civil and criminal justice throughout the islands should be completely reformed ; and a sufficient Revenue, Police and Judicial Establishment adequately remunerated be maintained.

(5.) Payments of nuzzeranahs should be discontinued. The Supreme Government and the Court of Directors approved of this proposal : and the latter remarked at the time, that they concurred in the opinion that the Government had no right to demand the compulsory cession of the islands for a pecuniary equivalent.

5. On the conditions being offered to the Beebee, she replied, that the rules established by her ancestors years ago are still in force and that she did not introduce any new system ; that she raised the price of coir from Rupees 9 to 11½ ; that the monopoly of cocoanuts were abolished and the hire for the fishing of cowries and tortoise-shell was raised ; and that the pay of her servants was also raised and the islanders relieved from the charge of maintaining them ; and that she was unable to carry out any further reforms : and in short that the islands being her sole source of

* These too at one time belonged to the Cannanore family. In 1785 the islanders revolted and sought the protection of Tippoo, who placed them under his Cutcherry at Mangalore. In 1799, they came into the hands of the Company, together with the province of Canara. The Cannanore family, however, as late as 1821 procured from the Court of Directors an allowance of 5,250 Rupees a-year as compensation.

income, she could not afford to be so munificent and charitable as the Company were to their islanders.

6. The Government, upon this, recalled the remission offered ; and ordered the collection of the arrears of Peishcush. The Beebee's lands at Cannanore were attached : and the Board of Revenue submitted for the consideration of Government their doubts, whether the larger portion of the arrear being due on account of the islands, "can properly be treated as an arrear of Land Revenue, realizable by the process laid down in the Regulations." They observed : "The relations of the Beebee with the islands, though never properly defined, appear to them to be essentially political, and the sum paid on account of them to be a tribute. They are therefore unwilling to take any step which would lend sanction to the view that the islands are the private property of the Beebee or that they can be treated as such for the satisfaction either of her public or private debts." They thought that the omission of the Beebee to pay her tribute according to the terms of what she called her Treaty of 1796, coupled with the abuses of her administration and the claims of the inhabitants upon the Government as the paramount power, would justify the resumption of the islands ; though the ambiguous terms of her engagement were not formerly thought in themselves sufficient to warrant the measure. The Government, however, did not approve of this view ; but the Court of Directors in directing the immediate recovery of the arrears by sequestration observed : "In this enforcement however you will keep distinct the two questions of arrears of tribute for the islands, and arrears of Land Revenue for Cannanore. In the latter case you will proceed according to the Regulation, and in the former you will take on yourselves the administration of the islands in order to secure our revenue, and recover our arrears from the surplus proceeds, if any. At the same time you will intimate to the Beebee that if she will accede to an arrangement by which the direct administration of the islands shall be permanently transferred to your Government, you will excuse her from the payment of arrears due to your Government whether on account of the islands or on account of her estate on the Continent of India."

7. About this time, the islanders, in open defiance of the authority of the Beebee, conveyed their goods for sale to other ports than Cannanore. The Beebee solicited the Government to instruct the Collector not to allow the landing of any coir, cowries, tortoise-shell and cocoanuts, brought from her islands, at any of the British ports : arguing that her monopoly was entitled to protection by Government, it having been expressly stipulated for in 1796, and formed the basis upon which her large Peishcush was fixed. But the Government held that the monopoly was not sanctioned by the so-called treaty of 1796, and that they would not allow any restriction to be placed on the importation of the produce from the islands at the ports of Canara and Malabar ; and observed at the same time that if the prohibition was of long standing, and its withdrawal, and the change thereby effected in the trade, would entitle the Beebee to any compensation, they would be prepared to consider it. The order soon after issued for the sequestration of the islands on account of the arrears due on them, diverted attention from this subject.

Mins. Cons., 7th September 1854.

8. In November 1854, the Laccadives were brought under Government management ; but the island of Minicoy alone, which the Beebee claimed as her Jenm property, offered an open resistance to the authority of Government, and was only finally brought under Government management in 1858.

9. During the six years of Government rule in the islands, the old monopoly of coir and the royalty on cowries and tortoise were retained ; that of cocoanuts and holotheria being innovations, had been given up by the Beebee herself, who had also disowned the nuzzeranas as a source of income. Jaggery and shark fins, &c., were already free ; and the ten per cent. customs levied on all imports and most of the exports were given up by Government. The price paid to the islanders for coir was also raised to Rupees 17-8-0 per candy ; the rate obtaining in the Canara isles.

NOTE.—The maintenance of the monopoly during Government management was considered necessary as it was in contemplation eventually to restore the islands to the Beebee and as free trade could not be allowed under the terms of her tenure, without sacrificing the main portion of her revenue.

10. In his despatch of the 16th January 1861, the Secretary of State observed : "It is consistent neither with our sense of justice, nor with our dignity, to avail ourselves of a rigid application of the Revenue Law for the attainment of that object. ******. I must accordingly direct that you will reconsider this case on the Beebee

NOTE.—The object here referred to is the retention of the islands in view to their being better governed.

liquidating the amount which may be shown to be due on account of the Peishcush, and charges of management, and excluding interest, direct the islands to be restored to her revenue management. If she should still refuse to introduce into her administration such reforms as you may consider necessary, she must be distinctly informed that in the event of any acts of oppression or extortion being hereafter proved against her or her agents, Government will not hesitate to place the islands under sequestration in order to compel the introduction of good government."

11. The restoration of the islands to the Beebee in 1861 was immediately followed by her death. Disputes arose regarding her succession: and Sultan Ali Rajah was finally recognised as the head of the family. At this time, the old difficulty regarding the monopoly revived; the islanders having commenced to import coir and other articles into the Government ports on the coast. Sultan Ali Rajah solicited the interference of Government in prohibiting the practice; pointing out that the previous refusal of Government to continue the prohibition, in 1852, became virtually a dead letter by their afterwards finding it desirable to continue the monopoly during the period of the Government administration of the islands, and having in fact done so. To this it was replied that the Government arrangements were carried out in concert with the islanders, not in direct opposition to them; and that the absence of any *legal* power on the part of Government to enforce such a prohibition was an insuperable bar to the grant of Ali Rajah's request.

12. While complaints regarding the breach of monopoly were frequent on the part of the Rajah, countercharges were brought by the islanders of acts of oppression on the part of the agents appointed by the Rajah for the collection of the dues.

13. On the opinion of the Collector of Malabar being asked concerning a proposal from the Rajah to introduce a system of port-clearances in the islands, and a request from him that orders might be issued to all Superintendents of Sea Customs in Malabar and Canara, directing them to regard all unprinted and unstamped port-clearances coming from the islands as suprious and to refuse entry to boats unprovided with genuine port-clearances, that officer stated that as the monopoly of coir has been maintained by the British Government in the Canara Islands, there was no objection to the right being retained and enforced by the Rajah in those islands, which have for so long a period formed part of the possessions of the Cannanore family; but he considered that the assistance of the Government Customs Officers in support of the Rajah's monopoly should be made dependent on the Government being satisfied, that the Divi Islanders, enjoy at the hands of the Rajah a good and liberal administration, that only the customary taxes are levied, and that as regards the monopoly of coir and the royalty in cowries and tortoise-shell the dues levied shall be in accordance with usage. The Government while approving of this recommendation, resolved that before making the concession, Mr. Logan should visit the islands and inquire into their condition, and ascertain on the spot the nature of the administration which has prevailed for the last few years, and in what respects it requires amendment. Ali Rajah at the instance of Government accompanied Mr. Logan on his visit.

G.O., 3rd June 1869, No. 193.

14. It appeared from the report submitted by Mr. Logan after his return from the islands, that the authority of the Rajah was in complete abeyance in the islands of Androth, Kavaratti, and Agatti; that in Kalpeni, although the authority of the Rajah is still recognised the inhabitants are described as having many and just causes of complaint, both from the oppressive mode in which the Rajah's agents enforce the coir monopoly and from the grasping policy pursued by them of converting private into Pandaram land, *i.e.*, land in which the Rajah holds the proprietary right. It was reported that in the island of Minicoy, where there is no monopoly, and the circumstances of which are different from those of the four Northern islands, the people were prosperous and contented and paid willing obedience to the Rajah's authority. The evils of the monopoly system and the sufferings of the islanders under it have been thus described by Mr. MacGregor:—

"The tyranny which the monopoly gives an opportunity of enforcing, the petty exactions which they suffer at the hands of the Rajah's dependents, the delay to which they are exposed, the subterfuges resorted to to evade fair and full payment appear to make the pressure of the monopoly as worked by the Rajah intolerable. Even when the amount to be paid has been determined, the Rajah can always fall back on the alleged existence of an old balance to be scored out; and as no accounts of these balances are given to the parties, or are even now forthcoming when demanded, it is impossible to disprove the claim."

It is under these circumstances, that the islanders have been driven to resistance; and at present, the monopoly can scarcely be said to exist.

15. In their Order, dated 20th December 1871, the Government observed that matters had gone too far to afford any hope that the Rajah unassisted would be able to enforce the monopoly, even if he had been prepared to make concessions so as to put it on the same footing as that prevailing in the Canara Islands under Government management; that the islanders having for the last few years successfully evaded the monopoly, an attempt on the part of the Rajah unassisted by Government to re-impose the monopoly would not improbably be attended by bloodshed, and would be unsuccessful; and that on the other hand the evils, which attended the Rajah's management of this monopoly, became so serious that the Government could not consent to lend him any aid in its restoration.

The order goes on to say:

"The Collector will clearly explain this to the Rajah; and exhort him to regain the obedience of the islanders by the announcement, that he has of his own free will abolished the coir monopoly; and that he is willing to receive the Revenue, undoubtedly due to him by the islanders, in some less objectionable form."

To compensate the Rajah for the loss of Revenue, which the abolition of the monopoly will entail, the Government proposed that he should have a share in the coir produced in the islands, the exact proportion to be taken by him being settled by the Collector after debate with the Rajah and the headmen of the islands. The Government said: "In fixing the Rajah's share the Collector would endeavour to place the islanders in a position not inferior to the Northern Laccadive Islands and any losses to which this arrangement would subject the Rajah might be met by a corresponding reduction in the Peishcush. The Rajah's share once paid the islanders would be free to carry their coir to any port most advantageous to themselves."

* * * * *

"It is essential to this arrangement that the Rajah should abstain from pressing any claims that may have arisen from the breaches of the fiscal rules that have recently prevailed; and that no claim should be attempted to be enforced by the Rajah on this account.

"In consideration of the Rajah foregoing these claims the Government would be prepared to make a fair remission of the arrears of Peishcush which may have accrued.

* * * * *

"It should be explained to the Rajah that if he consents to this equitable arrangement and on no other condition, the Government will exercise their authority to enforce his claims.

"Should he refuse, the Government cannot assist him in maintaining the monopoly. They cannot allow the islands to become the scene of violence and bloodshed. The Rajah's resources must in this case cease altogether; and on his failing to pay regularly his Peishcush, the islands will pass away from his authority altogether.

"If the Rajah consents to these proposals, there will, it is apprehended, be little difficulty in restoring his authority on the islands, and the Government will not in that case consider it necessary to make any radical change in their administration, which with certain amendments is not ill-suited to the condition and character of the people."

In the same order, the following points were also decided:—

(*a.*) That assumption of titles and dignity becoming the position of sovereign princes is not permissible in the case of the Cannanore family.

(*b.*) That the islands should be annually visited by an officer of Government.

(*c.*) That Sultan Moosa Ali Rajah is to be recognised as successor of Sultan Ali Rajah.

(*d.*) That the restoration of salute and honors formerly withdrawn from Sultan Ali Rajah, owing to his supposed complicity in a murderous outrage, will depend on Moosa Ali Rajah's accepting the advice tendered to him by Government and on his placing the administration of the islands on a satisfactory footing.

16. On receiving these orders the Rajah has again addressed Government, protesting against the withdrawal of those family distinctions conceded to them in former years, and against the restoration of some of them being made conditional: and while giving his unqualified assent to all measures of reform proposed by Government, objects to the fixing of a certain portion of the coir produce as his share, on the ground that he will have great difficulty "in selling the same to advantage to meet the Government dues as well as the State and family exigencies when the

Indian market shall have been overstocked with coir by the islanders, who can well afford to dispose of their coir at a low rate, as the manufacturers of the above article are paid only at Rupees 10 per candy."

17. As regards the remission of the arrears of Peishcush he observes: "The remission of the whole amount of Peishcush in arrears, including the sums I have already paid, will not cover one-eighth of the loss we have suffered for the last eight years, during the whole of which period, we have by borrowing and other means equally ruinous and distressing, paid into the public treasury in all 70,000 Rupees without realizing so much as would suffice to meet the expense of our administration of the islands, leaving a balance of 1[illegible],000 and odd Rupees unpaid, and I therefore hope that Government will kindly condescend to admit the reasonableness of my recovering a portion of such loss, not from my subjects in general, but from the smugglers who have grown rich by their daring and unrestrained invasion of our exclusive trade, *the profit whereof is shared between my house and the Sirkar*."

18. Mr. MacGregor, to whom this letter and its enclosures were referred, reports that he finds nothing in them in any way calculated to support the remonstrance of the Rajah against the recent orders of Government. He says: "It will be observed that the Rajah agrees to everything except the abolition of the monopoly. As regards his agreement to improve his administration, it costs but a few words. The abolition of the monopoly is the *sine qua non* to the introduction of an improved state of affairs, and in the absence of this, I have little doubt that the state of anarchy described by Mr. Logan has been steadily on the increase. The result however of the inquiries to be instituted by the Sub-Collector on this head on his approaching visit must be awaited." In the same letter, Mr. MacGregor also brings to the notice of Government, that he was credibly informed that the Rajah was laying out the money, that should have gone towards discharging his arrears, in private purchases of land.

19. In March 1873 Mr. Spedding, Acting Sub-Collector of Malabar, visited the islands. It appears from the report of this officer that the great majority of the petitions presented to him relate to disputes between private individuals, that there are no new complaints of arbitrary conduct on the part of the Rajah's agents, that the latter have in every island lost almost all power for either good or evil, and that the main grievance of the islanders is the utter absence of any administration of justice.

20. It would appear that the Rajah's agents did not seem disposed to throw any difficulty in his way; but were willing to give any information they could. In noticing the islands separately, the following particulars are furnished in the report:—

Klapeni.—No petitions were presented in this island, and the people generally seemed satisfied with the way in which the Mukhyasters with the assistance of the Kazi settle such petty disputes as may arise. No attempt has been made to settle the numerous boundary disputes noticed by Mr. Logan. The people seemed to be anxious, that their island should be assumed by Government and managed on the same system as the Canara Islands. A very serious calamity threatens this island in the shape of a disease fatal to the cocoanut tree.

Androth.—There were not many petitions received here. They are chiefly to the effect that there is no justice done in the case of disputes. The Mukhyasters are clearly losing the influence they formerly had and exercised to the benefit of the community. The people have no objection to a monopoly as such, but only to the grasping and annoying manner in which it is worked.

Kavaratti.—This island was described in 1870 as being nearly in a state of anarchy. Its condition is now much worse in this respect. A great number of petitions have been presented in this island. There is an entire absence of any attempt at a settlement of dispute, which has resulted in a state of affairs in which the stronger does what he pleases on the most frivolous pretext.

Agatti.—Matters here are quite as bad as in Kavaratti. Mr. Spedding says: "It speaks volumes for the innate mildness of the people's temperament that as yet personal violence is rare in Agatti and Kavaratti. But there is no time to be lost in taking measures for the restoration of order in these two islands."

21. Mr. Spedding recommends—

(1.) The appointment of two officers to be placed in each of these islands with powers of a third-class Magistrate and District Munsiff.

(2.) The passing of an Act giving the Collector the same powers in the islands as Agent to the Governor, as are possessed by the Collectors of Ganjam and Vizagapatam in the non-regulation parts of those districts.

(3.) The maintenance of the monopoly system, after Government assume the management of islands, as being best suited to the circumstances of the people.

22. Meanwhile, the Peishcush due from the Rajah has fallen in arrears to the extent of Rupees 54,000.

Exd. J. Wright.

3
Rev 691/75

MINUTE by the Hon. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I., dated 7th July 1874.

The only possible issue of the utterly unsatisfactory conditions which have subsisted for the administration of the Laccadives since the commencement of our rule has gradually but surely come about. Under gross mismanagement of the resources of the Islands, unwise and oppressive treatment of their inhabitants and general misfeasance, a peaceful resistance to the authority of the Cannanore family has supervened; and things have gone from bad to worse, until—in all the Islands except Minicoy—the administration of the Rajah has absolutely collapsed under every head. The Public revenues of the Islands are hopelessly in arrears, and the agency for their collection is powerless. While "hopeless anarchy" fitly describes the condition into which the people have drifted for want of authority. Even the conservative social influence of the higher orders is fast passing away amongst the people, and each man does as seems good in his own eyes. The whole population—between 7,000 and 8,000 souls—are naturally and earnestly looking to the Government for the restoration of order and administration of justice, and are anxious to place themselves loyally at the disposal of the State on a reasonable footing in respect to revenual claims. This intervention can no longer be deferred, or redress denied.

2. The restoration of peace and order under the old order of things is however impossible. Administration of justice properly so called has never existed on the Islands; there is nothing to restore here; while uncivilized conditions have characterized the fiscal and general administration of the Cannanore family to such an extent, that any attempt to reassert their rule must prove futile, and may lead to bloodshed, in the face of the exasperation and well-grounded distrust of the people and of the unreasoning pretensions of the Rajah. The old order of things must at once give place to sound direct administration of the Government under every head.

3. As respects the administration of justice and order, the system prevailing elsewhere—but so long denied to these people—has to be introduced.

4. It has further become impossible to maintain or enforce under existing conditions those sorely-abused restrictions on trade, monopolies and heavy transit duties which have constituted the fiscal system of the Rajah, and for some years the Islanders have increasingly emancipated themselves and are disposing of their coir, &c., in the open market. The revenue demand has ceased to be paid by the Rajah although the people readily acknowledge the claims of the State, and the debt of the Rajah now amounts to between Rupees 30,000 and 40,000. Its liquidation by him is now hopeless, and the future presents no better prospects unless a sound and acceptable fiscal system—equitably and vigorously administered by Government—be at once permanently adopted.

5. The Rajah must be relieved of his duties and obligations and receive at the hands of the State some compensation—however little merited—for the loss of the income which the Islands under sounder management will still be found capable of affording. This, I believe, can best be done (in accordance with the usages of Malabar) by granting a reasonable *Malikhana* in compensation for the loss of profits of monopolies and other fiscal exactions (such as poll-tax in Minicoy and the like) and leaving private property to the management of the family, as indicated by the Honorable Court of Directors in their despatch, dated 1st July 1852.

6. The step can no longer be averted. On the one hand every endeavor has been made, through a too long series of years, to induce a more reasonable and just administration on the part of the Rajah, and recently an example of sound and acceptable fiscal administration has been set by Government while in temporary management of the Islands (in liquidation of arrears)—but in vain and too late. On the other hand ever imminent and not unreasonable defection on the part of the Islanders has been checked and discouraged, from the earliest days of our rule, in the interest of the Cannanore family; the eyes of authority have been long shut to intolerable evils of administration and reasonable interference has been persistently refused; while an illiberal fiscal system, more or less barbarously administered, has been evaded by restrictions which the law did not permit—but likewise in vain. The peaceful revolt has been deferred, but it has become all the more deep-set and resentful because it has been of slow and reasonable growth.

7. As those restrictions on trade which were introduced a century ago and are still maintained, have been the apple of long and growing discord between the Rajah and the Islanders, it

will not be out of place to trace the salient features of this system and some of the historical facts connected with the early settlement made in respect to the Islands and their trade by our Government, and their more recent results.

See my report, dated 10th May 1848.

3. The precise date and circumstances under which the family of Cannanore became connected with the Laccadive Islands need not be noticed beyond the fact that its early conditions appear to have been in every respect the same as those which obtained on the coast between the Hindu Rajahs and the inhabitants of their respective territories. The revenue of these no land-tax was known in Malabar until 1784—consisted of certain Royalties (ivory, sandal, cardamoms, nuzeranahs and the like) and heavy (*Sunkum*) transit duties. Precisely the same conditions and sources of revenue obtained in the Islands for many years. The Rajah claimed the Royalty of tortoise-shell, cowries and certain other fisheries and of wrecks and flotsam, &c., and levied a *Sunkum* or transit duty of ten *per centum* (in kind) on all produce exported to the coast and *vice versâ*. Trading relations no doubt subsisted from early times between the Islanders and the Rajah, but the trade continued unfettered—except as regards transit duties—until the middle of last century (1761 to 1765), when the power of the House of Cannanore, under Hyder's alliance, became preeminent. Exclusive trade in coir, the staple of the Islands, at a fixed price—said to have been a fair average when first proposed to the Islanders—was then insisted on; but once it became established, the price allowed for the coir was reduced and great oppression necessarily followed in vindicating the restrictions. The monopoly was in full operation when the treaty of the 8th January 1784—stipulating for an annual tribute of one lakh of Rupees, besides war indemnity—was signed after the reduction of the Fort of Cannanore by General McLeod.

N.B.—Tippu's Schedules showed likewise that this sum was the true tributary value of the Rajah's possessions. Of 30,000 Star Pagodas, Rupees 80,000 belonged to the Islands.

9. In 1785 the whole population of the four Northern Islands (now attached to Canara) were driven into rebellion by certain acts of very brutal retaliation for an alleged breach of monopoly. They sought the protection of Tippu, who granted them relief and annexed those Islands to the Cutcherry of Mangalore, and permitted the House of Cannanore—with whom he had been in alliance during the war which was closed by the peace of Mangalore—to annex a Jaghire out of the adjacent Principality of Cherikal—the faithful Hindu ally of the British during that struggle. The five Southern Islands maintained their allegiance and passed under the British Crown with the other possessions of the House of Cannanore, by the reduction of the Fort of Cannanore in 1791.

10. It is pertinent here to notice that the family of Cannanore was the only one of the Native Princes of Malabar who sided with Tippu during the war—and did so in direct breach of the Treaty entered into with the Beebee of Cannanore (in common with the other Native Princes of Malabar) under Lord Cornwallis's proclamation of the preceding year. The conditions of fiscal settlement with this family (termed in the correspondence of the day a "conquered foe") therefore differed widely from those conceded to the friendly Native Princes of Malabar in general. The Rajah of Cherikal at once resumed the usurped Jaghire above alluded to, and the Beebee* was required to renounce it formally (Section 4 of Agreement, dated 28th October 1796); a moiety of all profits of her *Jenmum* (fee-simple) landed properties &c.—on the coast and on the Islands—and likewise of her trade with the Laccadives was exacted; and the determination to sequester and appropriate the Laccadive Islands to the use of Government after the rains of 1793 was stipulated and accepted by the head of the family (subject to the orders of the Governor-General in Council) under the *Muchilka*, dated 11th August 1793, and the Agreement, dated 28th October 1796; and the Cannanore family forfeited the *Malikhana*

N.B.—"Beebee" and Rajah mean the head of the family for the time being. The inheritance passes to either sex.

N.B.—The profits of property on the coast were fairly assessed in 1796. But those of trade (and Jenum property on the Islands) were considerately accepted (on the assurance of the head of the family) in the provisional settlement of arrears for 1792 and 1793 (and pending inquiry and sequestration) at Rupees 20,000 a-year. In respect to this part of the settlement gross misrepresentation unquestionably occurred. The tribute arranged in 1784 was one lakh Rupees, and Lieutenant Bently, who was deputed to the island to make a local inquiry in 1795, found that the trade profits, &c., amounted to Rupees 1,17,000 a-year; while the Commercial Agent on the coast estimated the profits on the coir and cowrie trade alone at about three-fourths of a lakh of Rupees. The initial error, however, was not corrected in the settlement of 1796—pending the sequestration ordered by the Governor-General—and as this provisional agreement has stood ever since, the family have really never paid more than one-fourth of the true profits of their monopolies while they were effectively kept up.

(of one-fifth of the revenue of their respective principalities) which was allowed to the several friendly Princes of Malabar in the revenue settlement of their properties. Under orders of the Governor-General in Council, Lieutenant Bently of the Engineers visited all the Islands in 1795, and then discovered that the profits of trade had been grossly misrepresented—they exceeded Rupees 1,17,000 a-year. He reported that the inhabitants expressed "in strong terms the miseries (which he in part detailed) to which the oppression of the Beebee had reduced the inhabitants, who declared that from the surrender of Cannanore they had expected the arrival of the English at the Islands, and that from such interference alone could they hope for comfortable subsistence to themselves and families," that everywhere he found "the same miseries amongst the people and the same anxious confidence of relief from the interference of the English." The local administration (of Malabar) and Government of Bombay reported that they were "persuaded it will appear equally just as necessary to rescue from oppression an industrious and considerable portion of the newly acquired subjects, a measure, considering their inclination and interests, of easy accomplishment although of course the Beebee would expect some compensation for the loss of the most lucrative branch of her commerce." And the Governor-General in Council ordered, under date 27th July 1795, the immediate abolition of the monopoly of trade and correction of oppression and abuses of authority. This order was ratified by the Honorable Court of Directors on the 1st March 1797.

11. A variety of concurrent causes connected with those times—some political in their character (such as the danger of French attack on the Islands, increasing uncertainty of relations with Tippu and the like) and some local (such as obstructions and unworthy subterfuges on the part of the Beebee, want of a suitable officer for the duty, reluctance of the local administration and the like)—interfered at the time with the execution of the orders of the Governor-General and Court of Directors, and the relief of the trade, &c., of the Islands and introduction of civil and criminal administration have remained in abeyance ever since, in favor of the Rajah's administration on suffrance.

N.B.—The Rajah of Coorg reported in 1796 that an intrigue subsisted between the Cannanore family and Tippu, which was never fully cleared up.

12. After the fall of Seringapatam the Cannanore family preferred a claim for the restoration of the four Northern Islands (revolted in 1784) which passed with the Province of Canara under the British rule in 1799. The pre-existing fiscal system had been maintained by Tippu—but under liberal conditions—in the interim. This claim was summarily rejected by the British Government as unreasonable in itself and because of the strong aversion evinced by the inhabitants of the Islands against being re-placed under the oppressive rule of the Cannanore family. In the meanwhile the coir monopoly was continued by Sir Thomas Munro—with relief from transit duties (*Sunkum*) and various vexatious Royalties. It still constitutes the fiscal system of those Islands. During the first quarter century of our rule the profits of the coir monopoly were large—average upwards of Rupees 20,000 a-year; notwithstanding the liberal prices—about 30 Rupees per candy—paid to the Islands for their staple, and the importunities of the Cannanore family at length succeeded in obtaining from the Honorable Court of Directors in 1821, a concession of Rupees 5,250 a-year as compensation for the loss of the Islands, or rather of the Jaghire (which Tippu had granted in 1787 in lieu) which was reoccupied by the Rajah of Cherikal in 1791. The concession was a matter of grace, and was ordered in opposition to the strong views of the local Government. It has constituted practically a *Malikhana* out of the then average profits of the Islands reckoned on the collections for some years previous. A very serious decline, however, in the market value of coir occurred shortly—1825 to 1830—after the concession was made, and for a time the profits of the monopoly of the coir of the Canara Islands scarcely sufficed to meet the remission of Peishcush which was the form that the concession took. Prices have, however, since recovered and the *quasi Malikhana* is now more than met under the long existing monopoly system, which is maintained by the special desire of the Islanders, for it is the most suitable and acceptable means of paying revenue. But the relation between the Government and the Canara Islanders has for all practical purposes become a perfectly reasonable and equitable trade transaction; under which the producer obtain a fair and fixed value for their staple, and find a certain and steady market for receiving money—three-fourths of the value is paid in good rice and one-fourth in coir—while the State derives on the average the reasonable profits of a mercantile transaction, as Imperial revenue.

12. To revert to the Cannanore Islands—we have seen that the exclusive right to purchase coir—the staple produce of the Islands—at reduced rates was added (about 1765) to the earlier sources of revenue—viz., Royalties and heavy transit duties. The price paid to the producers at the period of the Settlement of 1793* was Rupees 35 a candy of coir, the average market value being Rupees 65 to 70 on the coast. The fiscal rule was even then most grievous and the people thoroughly and justly discontented. But for more than half a century afterwards the Islands and their concerns were for all practical purposes relinquished to the unquestioned discretion of the Cannanore family as to a practically irresponsible and uncontrolled feudatory—and the Islanders have had still harder times to bear.

* Commissioners' Proceedings, dated 30th March 1793, Voucher No. 62.

14. The careful enquiry which was held into the condition of the Islands in 1847, disclosed the fact that in the interim—say about 1825 to 1832—the close monopoly and restrictions of trade had been further extended to the surplus cocoanut produce of the Islands, which was required to be delivered at Rupees 44 per 1,000 (less than half their value), and to several minor products; that forced vend of tobacco and salt had been introduced; and that certain new and unauthorized personal taxes (such as a share of pilot fees, &c.,) and other unusual *nuzeranahs* were being exacted. It further transpired that the price paid for coir had been arbitrarily and continuously reduced in the interim—say between 1826 and 1832, when the market value of the article declined seriously—so as to leave little more than 6 to 6½ Rupees a candy to the producer, paid in rice of indifferent quality; and that the enforcement of old and new fiscal arrangements had been extremely grievous and vexatious—if not actually fraudulent as regards weights and measures and the quality of rice, and occasional paper *assignats*. The industry of the people had consequently been most seriously impaired both as respects the quality and quantity of the products and manufactures of the Islands, and general impoverishment and indebtedness to the Rajah had resulted.

15. It further appeared that the administration of other Royalties and claims against the people had assumed a more unfair and grasping character; that disputed proprietary claims in respect to *Bandarum* properties and foreclosure of communal property and escheats, had been arbitrarily enforced with increasing rigor; and that an uncontrolled system for the recovery of ill-defined and disputed book-debts of old standing (by a general reduction of ten *per centum* on all coir deliveries) had been established, which worked with great unfairness towards the people.

16. Aggravated popular discontent had naturally set in, and evasions and breaches of restriction (especially in respect to the cocoanut trade) had already made the enforcement of restrictions so difficult that expedients of a lawless character were resorted to by the Rajah's agents for their maintenance. The local administration appeared to be uncontrolled by the absentee Rajah, and fraught with abuses and oppression; for the Rajah's servants being few and inadequately remunerated levied heavy and arbitrary exactions on the people. The administration of criminal justice was exceedingly irregular, ill-defined and uncertain, and though feeble for good was characterized by some remnants of the barbarism of early times—while the people complained much of the corruptness and inefficiency of the administration of civil justice. The popular feeling proved to be one of antipathy towards the existing rule, aggravated by the contrast which the contentment of their fellow-islanders under the direct management of the Government evinced. Impatience and disaffection already manifested themselves in a variety of ways, and the growing resolve to force a change appeared unanimous.

17. In my report of the 10th May 1848 I remarked: "I have little doubt that under a better system and under the direct government of the Company all that the people now seek might be granted them with but little diminution in the revenue, when the Islands shall have recovered from the effects of fiscal and financial error and ignorance. The Company's Islands which in extent and capabilities probably do not exceed one-fourth of the Cannanore possessions, are now yielding an annual revenue of Rupees 8,000 with ease; our subjects are satisfied and are envied by their neighbours under native management." The details of a better arrangement seem to the Collector to present no difficulties. "The Beebee," he observed, "pays us Rupees 10,000 a-year as the half of her net profits from the Islands. All we should have to do so far as the money part is concerned would be to relinquish this demand and allow her Rupees 10,000 more, we taking in exchange for these Rupees 20,000 such revenue as the Islands under a fair system could produce. This would not affect the Beebee's claim to her private lands, throughout the Islands, which she should retain upon the same footing as her estate upon the coast, viz., she would make her own arrangements for leasing her private grounds and merely pay a share of her rent to Government as a tax."

18. The desirableness of offering to give up the Islands in exchange for some fair equivalent was earnestly pressed on the head of the family at the time, but in the words of the Collector "this idea her pride will not allow her to entertain for a moment"—and it was determined not to enforce the cession or resumption of the Islands by Government in the face of the "insurmountable objection" entertained by "this lady and her protest" against any "further interference* with her Islands on the part of the public officers." But it was resolved to make the grant of remission from the Peishcush which had been sought by the Beebee—in consideration of existing and prospective loss entailed by the hurricane of 1847—contingent on a negotiation for the introduction of such reforms and ameliorations "in the fiscal and general management of the group as were evidently required and will tend to assimilate the condition of the inhabitants to that of the Company's Islands" on a basis which was thus sketched by the Board of Revenue: "The measure must however include a thorough reform of the coir monopoly, the adoption of fair rates of payment to the producers and abolition of the many unjust and vexatious practices now attendant on the system. The monopoly of cocoanuts, of salt and tobacco should be at once abandoned; and those of cowries, tortoise-shell, holothuria and ambergris, if allowed to continue, be placed upon an improved footing. The disputes regarding waste land should be finally settled, the accounts of book-debts kept, both upon the Islands and at Cannanore, be examined, such items as are unreasonable or irrecoverable struck out, and arrangement made for the gradual liquidation of such as may properly be payable. To this should be added a complete reform of the system of dispensing civil and criminal justice throughout the Islands, and the maintenance of a sufficient Revenue, Police and Judicial establishment adequately remunerated. The payment of *nuzeranahs* should likewise be discontinued."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 19th October 1849.

* *N.B.*—The inhabitants of two of the Islands which had been desolated by the hurricane of 1847 had applied for a loan from Government to enable them to restore their plantation, but the application was resisted by the Beebee.

19. The negotiation failed and the conditional remission was withheld; but a heavy arrear of Peishcush and other refunds having accrued, the necessary steps for its realization were inaugurated by attachment of property on the coast. In the meantime, however, the Honorable Court of Directors† desired that coercive measures might be stayed in order to make way for a negotiation to be opened for the surrender of the Beebee's proprietary interests in the Islands on the condition of remission of all outstanding arrears and the grant of a reasonable *Malikhana* in compensation for the loss of profits. But finding the "indulgence and consideration shown *** entirely misplaced," they peremptorily directed the Government to "take on yourselves the administration of the Islands in order to secure our revenue and recover our arrears from the surplus proceeds, if any. At the same time you will intimate to the Beebee that if she will accede to an arrangement by which the direct administration of the Islands shall be permanently transferred to your Government, you will excuse her from the payment of arrears due to your Government, whether on account of the Islands or on account of her estate on the continent of India."

† Despatch, dated 1st July 1852.

Despatch, dated 26th October 1853.

20. As heretofore the Beebee was obdurate; and in pursuance of these instructions the local officers recommended "that the future fiscal administration of the Islands by Government should be assimilated to that which has so long been carried on with success in the Canara group"—as regards the inhabitants in general. The Beebee, it was proposed, should be allowed to

From Collector, dated 17th July 1854.

dispose of her own produce as might seem fittest to herself; but that the tax to be levied on the *Bandarum* properties of the family should be assimilated to the tax paid on plantations on the coast.

21. The assumption of administration took place in November 1854 under the orders of Government in which they remark: "At the same time the Governor in Council desire it to be understood that he assents to the plan of taking the coir on behalf of Government as proposed by the Collector *** only on the supposition that it is agreeable to the wishes of the people, and would be for their advantage on the Islands first coming under Circar management, that their opinion in this respect will be ascertained from time to time, and that the arrangement will be discontinued immediately on their expressing a wish to that effect."

Proceedings of Government, dated 7th September 1854, No. 1462.

22. The latter part of this resolution could not, however, be carried out and free trade introduced under this provisional arrangement, without endangering the revenue of the Cannanore family and contravening existing conditions; and accordingly during the management of the Islands by the State for seven years—1854 to 1861—the ancient Royalties (cowries and tortoise-shell) together with the monopoly of coir (paid for at Canara rates) were maintained. But the heavy transit duty (*Sunkum*) and all novel restrictions on trade and recent innovation were removed. The financial results of the Government administration throughout the whole time it was maintained, are not shown in any of the papers put up; but I gather* that during three-and-a-half years—November 1854 to June 1858—the net revenue amounted to Rupees 67,000 or nearly 20,000 Rupees a-year, which probably gives a fair average of the fiscal value of the Islands under a reasonably liberal and fairly acceptable administration.

* Mr. Logan's report, dated 28th Feb. 1870, para. 60.

23. On the 16th January 1861 the Secretary of State replied to the representations of the Government in respect to the balance of arrears still due by the Cannanore family—chiefly consisting of a disputed charge for interest—and, observing that the demand had "been maintained less for consideration of revenue than for the purpose of retaining the Islands under our administration and thereby relieving the inhabitants from the exactions and oppression to which they were subjected under the Beebee's administration," wrote as follows: "I am fully sensible of the duty which rests on our Government to protect the people submitted to our rule from such oppression as these Islanders were exposed to under the administration of the Beebee; but I think that it is consistent neither with our sense of justice nor with our dignity to avail ourselves of a rigid application of the revenue law for the attainment of that object." He directed that on the Beebee liquidating the arrears due on account of Peishcush and charges of management excluding interest, the "Islands be restored to her revenue management. If she should still refuse to introduce into her administration such reforms as you may consider necessary, she must be distinctly informed that, in the event of any acts of oppression or extortion being hereafter proved against her or her agents, Government will not hesitate to place the Islands under sequestration, in order to compel the introduction of good government." The order was carried into effect in 1861, and the Cannanore family resumed the administration of the Islands.

24. The measures taken by the Rajah (who succeeded in 1861) to restore his fiscal administration were ill-judged and oppressive, and the Islanders failed to accord a willing acceptance to the resumption. The inquiry which was instituted in 1865 into mutual recriminations of the bitterest kind, as well as into exaggerated claims on the part of the Cannanore family for State aid in enforcing their restrictions and monopolies and in coercing the inhabitants, showed that the complaints of the people were well-founded; and the Rajah was warned by the Government that a continuance of the system of oppression and maladministration must prove as detrimental to his own interests as to those of the people. It further appeared in the opinion of the local officers that the claims of the Rajah for aid had no good grounds, and he was informed that the Government had no legal power to aid him in enforcing the restrictions and monopolies to which he laid claim, in the manner he proposed, nor were they under any obligation to do so. "If," they added, "the Rajah's rights are in any way infringed, he must seek redress in the established Courts."

Proceedings, dated 9th May 1865, No. 123.
" " 13th July " " 186.
" " 26th Nov. 1866.

25. In 1867 (27th September) the Rajah represented, amongst other things, the loss suffered in respect to Laccadive trade by withdrawal of active support and protection to his monopolies, and urged enforcement of what he termed the treaty of 1796. And again in 1868 (24th October) he represented that "my Divi subjects have availed themselves of bringing coir, &c., from the Islands and disposing them at Calicut and are still availing themselves of bringing more and disposing of them." On these representations the Collector reported that the Sea Customs establishment could not legally interfere in the manner sought by the Rajah, "who," he added, "studiously holds back from coming to any arrangement on the several questions pending with regard to his anomalous position *** and must make his own arrangements for guarding the monopoly which has undoubtedly long been enjoyed by the family, but which of late years especially seems to be a perpetual source of dispute and annoyance."

From Collector, 2nd November 1868, No. 154.

26. In 1868 a correspondence took place between the Rajah and Collector, the former applying for material aid in the following words: "Although it does not appear by the reports forwarded by my Divi Kariastans that any violence had been committed by my subjects, yet it is evident that treasonable acts, which in the British territories would subject the offender to capital punishment, had been resorted to and my authority set at defiance. Under such circumstances I cannot help sending Commissioners, vested with full power, to put down anarchy and insubordination, and trust you will kindly assist me (when everything is ready) with a small Police force consisting of a Deputy Constable and six policemen, charging their pay and batta to my account." The Magistrate replied that he could not comply with an undefined request for material aid, but that if his "interference as Magistrate be necessary to preserve the peace," he would, on all the facts, &c., being laid fully and distinctly before him, take such measures as might be necessary. He added: "I do not think the administration of the Islands at present satisfactory. I must state frankly that I think the administration should either be taken over directly by Her Majesty's Government, or that a definite arrangement should be made with you to regulate some of the leading principles on which it is to be conducted henceforth," and concluded: "Things seem going from bad to worse by your own showing, and, unless some arrangements are speedily made, I fear your family will suffer. I do, therefore, hope you will prepare yourself (instead of obstinately clinging to untenable claims) to consider what mutual concessions may be made by Government and you to place your family in a certain, honorable and prosperous position." The Rajah* declined—under date 29th December 1868—material assistance on the terms offered, and stated that nothing short of entire recognition of the monopoly and full support of restrictions, which he desired, would remove the evils complained of; adding that—if concurred in—he would be "prepared to adopt any measure consistent with our Royal prerogatives, which you, or the Government, may be pleased to suggest for the better administration of my Islands." He stated that before "the Laccadives had been visited by the Circar people, the Islanders were loyal and contented and free from the vices peculiar to their brethren on the continent, but evil communication had since changed their nature and they have learned to murmur against my rule, contemn my authority and defraud my house of its revenue, which now forms the pinguitude of certain Calicut merchants and their interested abettors," and with reference to the proposed mutual concessions he added: "I cannot however subscribe to the violation of the last treaty, and no concession whatever on the part of Government can prevail upon my family to submit to it when we are actually suffering indignity and persecution *** and unceremo-

* N.B.—He wanted the Government Police "as an imposing escort to the Commissions" he was sending and to "witness the justice of my administration" adding "it is not unusual with friendly Governments to seek and obtain reciprocal assistance on critical occasions."

nious evasion of our rights and privileges. The Rajah cited the favorable feelings of the inhabitants of Minicoy towards his management as evidence that "my rule" is not "oppressive and opposed to industry and progress." In this island, it may be observed, the coir monopoly and other restrictions on trade do not obtain, and the relation between the two more resembles that of landlord and tenant on the Continent.

27. In a letter, dated 30th December 1868, the Rajah requested the Collector to furnish him with a return of all coir landed on the coast by the Islanders between 1865 and 1868, with a view to suing them in the local Courts for the recovery of loss sustained by their misappropriation of the produce of the Islands; and the Collector wrote* to Government that negotiation "makes no way at all." *** "Several complaints had lately been received from the Islands about oppression, &c., but none of a very tangible nature," and he quotes the Rajah's application for material aid "to put down anarchy and insubordination" adding that "he (the Rajah) urges constantly protection of his monopoly *** and wishes all boats from the Laccadives unprovided with these (proposed licenses from the Rajah) to be refused entry at our ports" on the coast. The Collector anticipated no violence at the time for there "is no party to support Ali Rajah against local interests; but," he adds, "the time has certainly come when some definite arrangements are imperatively necessary. I do not suppose Government is prepared to annex the Islands after all that has come and gone. That would undoubtedly be the simplest course. As far as I can see it is *barred* by nothing, for the talk about treaties is nonsense. There are none, at least none that prevent annexation, and the only difficulty arises from the step not having been taken long ago. I would ask, then, if Government are prepared to consider annexation and pensioning off the Rajah and family?"

* 12th December 1868, D. O.

28. The Collector enclosed a memorandum of alternative terms, which, he thought, might form the basis of a new agreement—for the enforcement of restrictions on trade and monopoly with the assistance of Government, on condition that the Government were satisfied that a good and liberal administration is maintained and that no dues or taxes are levied except in accordance with usage—in case it were determined to defer the assumption of the Islands. The Government were disposed to view this alternative proposal favorably; but, before offering any terms to the Rajah, directed Mr. Logan to visit and thoroughly inquire into the condition of the Islands, in order to ascertain the nature of the administration and in what respects it requires amendment, and the manner in which the monopolies and Royalties had been levied of late years, and how to protect the Islanders from extortion.

G.O., 3rd June 1869, No. 193.

29. The Rajah was invited to accompany Mr. Logan to the Islands, and eventually did so—but his conduct when there proved obstructive and the reverse of helpful.

30. In the meantime Ali Rajah had addressed two letters to the Government of Madras—the first† complaining that the introduction of the Municipal Act into Cannanore was not only "unlawful on the part Government but a disgrace to me as well as my Crown;" and the other‡ urging a claim for the protection of exclusive trade—with what he termed "our insular possessions"—as he feared that the opening season "will enable my refractory and misguided subjects to inflict additional loss." The Rajah died on the 15th November 1870, and on the 29th May 1871 the Collector reported: "In regard to the Laccadive Islands the late Rajah's authority had virtually come to an end *** owing to maladministration, and on the succession of the young Rajah there are no signs of matters mending." On the 22nd June and 22nd September 1871 he reported that arrears amounting to Rupees 15,000 had accrued, but that pending orders he had "not thought it advisable to proceed to distraint," but adds "no other mode of recovery is however open."

† Dated 4th April 1870.

‡ Dated 1st July 1870.

31. In December 1871 Government reviewed Mr. Logan's report† and Mr. MacGregor's covering letter.‡ The order first defines the real position of the Cannanore family and points out to the Rajah that all sovereign rights and power of the family came to an end by right of conquest in 1791 and their territories forfeit to the State, and that in the agreement of 28th October 1793, "there was not a trace of any pretension to independence." The family had been allowed to carry on their trade in coir, of which they had hitherto held the monopoly and to settle trifling disputes amongst the Islanders without the intervention of Government, "but there is not now, nor has there ever been, any engagement, which would prevent the Government from introducing into these Islands the system of administration which prevails in other parts of India, should the conduct of the Islanders or of the representative of the Cannanore family render such a course necessary."

* G.O., dated 20th December 1871, No. 405.
† " " 28th February 1870.
‡ " " 16th August "

32. In reviewing more in detail the papers before them, the Government remarked that authority had been found in complete abeyance in the three principal Islands of the group and only partially submitted to in Kalpeni, under many just causes of complaint; and it appeared that this condition had been introduced by the exactions and oppression of the Rajah's agents principally in connexion with the coir monopoly and by a grasping policy whereby private property had been confiscated in the interests of the Rajah. Mr. Logan had pointed out that elements of serious discord existed in the pretensions advanced by the Rajah in respect to tenure of land and in respect to the relation subsisting between the chief men and the lower orders of the population, the settlement of which would be entirely beyond the competence of the Rajah's agents; that there was no written law, civil, criminal or fiscal, beyond the rules of custom which were increasingly disputed and defied; and that the administration of civil justice was most unsatisfactorily "being conducted as if the sole aim was the aggrandizement of the Rajah's private property." Mr. Logan attributed "the condition of anarchy" prevailing in the Northern Islands to the coir monopoly, for the prices offered were unremunerative and repressive of improvement; and that apart from inadequate prices "the Islanders regard with the utmost horror the idea of being compelled to carry their produce to Cannanore and to deal with the Rajah." The Collector affirmed that "the tyranny which the monopoly gives an opportunity of enforcing *** makes its pressure as worked by the Rajah intolerable," and the Government observe that "under these circumstances it is not surprising that the Islands have been driven to resistance and that at present the monopoly can scarcely be said to exist." The Rajah, it was stated by Mr. Logan, had become willing to assimilate his prices with that of the North Laccadives under Government. But the Government were "of opinion that matters have gone too far to afford any hope that the Rajah, unassisted, will be able to enforce even these more favorable conditions. The Islanders have for the last few years successfully evaded the monopoly, and an attempt on the part of the Rajah, unassisted by Government, to reimpose the monopoly would not improbably be attended by bloodshed and would be unsuccessful. On the other hand, the evils which have attended the Rajah's management of this monopoly have been so serious that the Government cannot consent to lend him any aid in its restoration."

"The Collector will clearly explain this to the Rajah and exhort him to regain the obedience of the Islanders by the announcement that he has of his own free will abolished the coir monopoly, and that he is willing to receive the revenue undoubtedly due to him by the Islanders, in some less objectionable form.

"The Collector will also make the Rajah understand that, should his attempt to enforce the monopoly lead to disorder and bloodshed, it will be impossible that the Government should remain inactive on such an occasion, and that it will be absolutely necessary that they should resume the Divi Islands."

33. The Government proceed to consider in the Order—paragraphs 28 to 35—the various proposals how the Rajah may "most easily and with least disadvantage to the Islanders collect the revenue to which he might be held entitled in event of his consenting to abolish of his own free will the monopoly, and also the concession which the Government might be prepared to make," and

close with the remark "should he refuse, the Government cannot assist him in maintaining the monopoly. They cannot allow the Islands to become the scene of violence and bloodshed. The Rajah's resources must, in this case, cease altogether, and on his failing to pay regularly his Peishcush the Islands will pass away from his authority altogether." The Government finally ordered that the Islands should be annually visited by a European Covenanted Officer.

34. On the whole, no sadder picture of mismanagement and misrule on the one hand, and of depression and disorder on the other could be found than the report of this experienced officer (Mr. Logan) presents; no more urgent call for authoritative intervention in the interest of all parties, no circumstances under which restoration on the old basis is more hopeless.

35. In an address, dated 17th September 1872, to the Collector in reference to the G.O., dated 20th December 1871, the Rajah protested against the decision of Government on the position of the family as respects "right and title to the independent sovereignty of the Laccadives group," and alluding to his "accession to the musnud" the Rajah renewed his claims to the salute and distinction belonging to an "ally;" to exemption from municipal and other taxes not stipulated by treaty; and also to full protection of the trade which he hinted "the act of Government had destroyed:" and he objected to the levy of Customs duty on the Islands' coir imported elsewhere than at Cannanore as a breach of the agreement of 1796. But at the same time he intimated his willingness to accept the proposals made in G.O., dated 20th December—except as regards the principal one—viz., the abolition of the coir monopoly and the proposal that he should share the produce of their gardens and industry with the Islanders in lieu thereof (on the ground that the Islanders would undersell him). His acceptance was on the condition that the Government would hold to the resolution of the 5th June 1869. He further urged that the remission of arrears would not cover the losses of the past eight years (since the restoration under Sir Charles Wood's despatch) during which the family had paid about Rupees 70,000 as Peishcush on the profits of trade, while scarcely realizing the cost of administration: and he urged "the reasonableness of my recovering a portion of such loss, not from my subjects in general, but from the smugglers who have grown rich by their daring and unrestrained invasion of our exclusive trade, the profit whereof is shared between my House and the Circar." But he apparently objected to inaugurate any measures for the amelioration of internal management as uncalled for under the circumstances, or for the improvement of the administration of justice as unnecessary in the face of the rules which he learnt were to be drawn up for his guidance in the spirit of the Criminal Code—as he deemed that such measures would "be an anomaly irreconcilable to precedence and prescription, both of which cannot be departed from, without trenching on our independence." On the subject of the periodical visit of a European Officer ordered by Government he observed that it was "a measure highly grievous to me inasmuch as it would involve a doubt in the purity and sincerity of my intention."

36. In remarking on this representation, the Collector observed that there was nothing in the record which supports the remonstrance of the Rajah against the recent orders of Government.

From Collector, dated 24th January 1873.

"It seems," he observes, "sufficient to allude to the fact that the maintenance of the monopoly has been objected to by the Court of Directors and the Local Government for the last seventy-five years, and that all active interference in its behalf has for many years been withheld, and that such interference is now clearly admitted to be contrary to law;" and he adds that "for the Rajah therefore to affect to deplore the termination of the dominion of the Honorable East India Company and to say that in their documents they tacitly admitted the sovereignty of the Beebee, is absurd." Mr. MacGregor contends with reference to the levy of duty, that "according to the Schedule of the Customs Act, such duty is leviable, the article being specially named, and I have therefore collected import duty on all coir except that imported at Cannanore by the Rajah himself or on his behalf, such coir being under the agreement free." On this it may be remarked that the Islands are part of British India and that their produce is probably not liable to interportal duty.

37. In regard to the adherence to the terms of G.O., dated 3rd June 1869, the Collector points out that the only resolution come to was to depute an officer to report on the state of the Islands. "The exhaustive report of Mr. Logan satisfied Government that the continuance of the monopoly was impossible with due regard to the interests of the inhabitants. To instance the recent orders of Government on this point as departing from a former resolution is only compatible with inability to understand plain language or with wilful misrepresentation."

"As regards his agreement to improve his administration to cost, in a few words,

"The abolition of the monopoly is the *sine qua non* to the introduction of an improved state of affairs and in the absence of this I have little doubt that the state of anarchy described by Mr. Logan has been steadily on the increase. The result however of the inquiries to be instituted by the Sub-Collector on this head on his approaching visit must be awaited." Mr. MacGregor reports that he had had an interview with the Rajah. "He appeared a man of the lowest intellectual type, utterly devoid of energy or sense of duty, and wholly in the hands of ignorant advisers;" and attributes his (the Rajah's) refusal to send an agent with Mr. Spedding to sinister motives.

38. Mr. Spedding visited each of the Islands early in 1873, confining his inquiry in the main to ascertain what steps had been taken in consequence of G.O., 20th December 1871, No. 405.

Report, dated 27th March 1873.

The result of his inquiry appears to be that the Rajah's rule has passed away. "His agents (although present) have in every Island lost almost all power for either good or evil; and the main grievance of the Islanders is the utter absence of any administration of justice."

39. The defection of the inhabitants of Kalpeni had also become complete in consequence of ill usages and unfairness in respect to their last delivery of coir at Cannanore. Disputes between Islanders and the Rajah about property remain, he reports, unadjusted, and they are anxious for the assumption of the Islands by Government and maintenance of the coir monopoly on the Canara system. They are unwilling, he states, to revert to the Rajah on any terms.

40. In Androth disorder was far advanced and the people desired the presence of a Government Officer to restore order and obedience. They wished the coir monopoly maintained under the management of Government as more advantageous to them, under the circumstances, than the open market. Mr. Spedding remarks "in fact to the Islanders it (the coir monopoly) seems the most natural and obvious arrangement, and should the Islanders ever come under Government management again, this is, in my opinion, the way in which they should be worked."

41. Of Kavaratti—the same observation applies generally to Agatti—Mr. Spedding remarks: "This Island was described three years ago as being nearly in a state of anarchy. Its condition is now much worse in this respect. A glance at the register of petitions received here will show that there is an entire absence of any attempt at a settlement of disputes, which has resulted in a state of affairs in which the stronger does what he pleases on the most frivolous pretext." The Headmen are using their influence "simply to aggrandize themselves and their relations." "The register of complaints," he adds, "does not contain a fraction of the complaints that were made here orally." And in paragraph 23 of his report Mr. Spedding remarks "the assumption of the Islands by Government, and the appointment of some one from the coast with authority to administer justice, is looked forward to with the greatest eagerness by all classes from the highest to the lowest." It appears that the difficulty between the tree-owners and boatowners and the lower orders, is gaining strength everywhere; and that in the absence of authority agricultural evils and deterioration, are rife. Mr. Spedding remarks generally: "It is abundantly evident that the Rajah has entirely failed, if indeed he ever attempted, to carry out the conciliatory measures suggested by the Government in their last order. The Islanders universally object to go back to their allegiance on any terms. Owing to a want of any recognised authority, two of the Islands are in a state of complete anarchy. It speaks volumes for the innate mildness of the people's temperament that as yet personal violence is rare even in Agatti and Kavaratti. But there is no time to be lost in taking measures for the restoration of order in these two Islands."

42. The remedy suggested by Mr. Spedding is the immediate extension of Act XXIV. of 1839 to the Islands, and introduction of the Agency Rules to be worked in those Islands where most urgently needed, by an effective establishment possessing Magisterial and Civil (*Munsif*) powers. And as respects a fiscal system, he urges the maintenance of the coir monopoly as worked in the Canara

Islands, as the only satisfactory means of raising a revenue. It is desired by the people who would view with suspicion any innovation, and is sufficiently remunerative to both parties.

43. In submitting this report the Acting Collector (Mr. Logan) observes that it is clear—

(1) "that the Rajah has failed, if he ever seriously attempted (which I doubt), to introduce into the Islands any of the reforms suggested by Government; and

(2) "that in the absence of any decided action on his part, matters have steadily been going from bad to worse till they have reached a pitch that makes it now the imperative duty of Government to interfere to prevent and punish crimes with which the Rajah's agents are powerless to deal."

44. Mr. Logan's views are not quite certain. On the one hand, he would cancel the Agreement of 28th October 1853 in order to enable the entire abolition of the coir monopoly—which he advocates (1) because it is precarious and does not always *pay* in Canara, (2) because if maintained the Islands "will have to be given back to the Rajah" with the same disastrous consequences as now present themselves. Yet in paragraph 9 he seems to think that a further chance might be accorded to the Rajah by restoration "after matters have been set in order" by provisional assumption of the administration.

45. Mr. Logan discusses prospective taxation and considers the imposition of a land-tax impracticable on the Islands under existing state of property and tenures, and in the absence of survey &c.; he abandons the idea of a poll-tax (suggested in his report of 1871), and as regards the system proposed in G.O., 20th December 1871 (paragraphs 27 to 36), viz., assigning to the Rajah a share of the produce, he thinks that it would be attended with serious difficulties as the produce and manufactures are not uniform in quantity or quality, and a varying annual settlement with each family would open a door to malpractices and contention. He supports Mr. MacGregor's plan of an export duty of one-sixth share (levied in kind) of all produce exported from the Islands.

46. The review clearly shows that the condition which has intervened removes all hesitation as to the course to be followed. The administration of criminal and civil justice in all the Islands must at once be permanently assumed by the Government without reference to the wishes of the Rajah of Cannanore; and his further connexion with the collection of revenue and fiscal administration—which has broken down through misfeasance—must cease for ever.

47. With a view to the first, the authority of the Legislature must be sought to extend the provisions of Act XXIV. of 1839 to the entire group—and in the meantime the Collector should be directed to submit proposals as to the liberal Establishment required to take charge immediately after the rains. He should be desired to prepare it. The establishment ought to comprise, I think, of two Sub-Magistrates of the third class for the present—one to be stationed at Kavaratti with jurisdiction over Agatti, &c., the other at Androth with jurisdiction over Kalpeni. I would, I think, revive in Minicoy the administration that obtained during the period of sequestration—1854 to 1861. But on these points the Collector will advise. The main consideration to be kept in view is that the equivocal pretensions of the Rajah as well on the social and civil difficulties subsisting between the different classes of society, require to be brought fully within the rule of law. This will for some years necessitate the presence of men of capacity and integrity, and must engage the constant and vigorous attention of the Agent.

48. The next matter on which the decision of Government is required is the restoration of a fiscal system whereby the revenue of the State may be secured, and this comprises (1) the system to be pursued, and (2) whether any and what share of the collections may be allowed to the Rajah. It is obvious that the Order of the Government of India must be taken before any new fiscal rearrangements can go beyond the immediate sequestration which is needed for the protection of the revenue.

49. The basis of any settlement now to be made with the Islanders in this respect, must for obvious reasons exclude entirely and for all future time, the intervention of the Rajah in its management or collection. It must exclude him in the same manner and for the same causes —which need not be recalled here—that led to the supersession of the various Native Rajahs from intervention in the judicial and fiscal administration of the Province of Malabar, from the first years of our rule. The settlements of Ma[illegible] were made in the main with the various Native Rajahs in [illegible] to their respective territories; but this measure at once led to such serious disorder [illegible] oppression and [illegible] pretensions on the part of those Rajahs, that the settlement had to be set aside for the direct and entire administration of the officers of the State in both [illegible] fiscal matters, the consideration of *Malikhana* of twenty *per centum* of the collections—subsequently commuted at a fixed average. In this revision of fiscal settlement the Beebee of Cannanore was not allowed to participate. The family had forfeited all claim to *Malikhana* by infidelity to the engagement of 1790, and hostility during the war with Tippu; and the sequestration of the Islands and the appropriation of their revenue to State purposes had been stipulated in the provisional agreements entered into in 1793 and 1796, and the introduction of direct State administration of justice, &c., had actually been arranged for in 1798, irrespective of fiscal considerations. But the execution of the settlements made in 1793 and 1796 as respects the Islands was deferred as has been seen from a variety of causes, and the provisional condition still subsists. The extension of the normal Malabar settlement, &c., to the Islands is now forced on the State by misfeasance and disorder on all sides, and can no longer be deferred in the interests of the public revenue and of the people. There moreover no doubt that the Islands can and should yield a fair revenue. The cocoanut plantations are valuable and productive, and the population of between 7,500 and 8,000 will again become industrious and amenable under equitable fiscal conditions and sound judicial administration.

50. Three systems of fiscal arrangement are before the Government in the proposals submitted from time to time—(*first*) to continue the coir monopoly under Government management on the fairly equitable terms obtaining in Canara—as recommended by Mr. Conolly and myself in 1848—(*second*) to abolish the monopoly and levy an export duty in kind on manufactured coir and other produce (say one-sixth of the principal staple, coir) embarked from the Islands—as suggested by Mr. MacGregor in his letter, dated 16th August 1870: in other words to maintain and extend the *Sunkum* or [illegible] which the Cannanore family have kept up—and (*third*) that suggested in G.O., dated 20th December 1871, viz., to take a share of the coir produce, to be fixed after discussion with the Rajah and people—to which may be added a (*fourth*), viz., (i.) a land-tax or (ii.) a tree-tax (such as obtains on the coast) as suggested, but not advocated by Mr. Logan. I will discuss these schemes in the reverse of their order:—

N.B.—These have come before Government in some cases as a proposed arrangement between the Rajah and the people; in others as a proper revenual system to be adopted in case of sequestration. I treat them from the latter point of view alone; the former is out of the question.

51. *As to* (*i.*) *a Land-tax.*—No land-tax of any kind has ever obtained on the Islands. Their fiscal system was settled by the introduction of the monopoly of produce more than [illegible] years before a land-tax was introduced into Malabar by Tippu in 1784. Such a system would therefore prove a novelty which would be very distasteful to the people. Moreover it has never been possible even on the coast to apply a land-tax to cocoanut plantations. The crop is too uncertain, and its dispersion too irregular—on the Islands these conditions present themselves in the most exaggerated form, a dozen trees growing together sometimes belonging to nearly as many owners—to admit of assessing the land on which cocoanut trees stand. The desirability of applying a land-tax to cocoanut plantations on the coast, had long been under discussion but in vain, in the face of the enormous reduction of revenue and difficulty of application, which would be entailed. Under a land-tax the Islands would yield a greatly diminished revenue. At the same time I am not satisfied that a land-tax might not be applied to the fee-simple *Jenmum* plantations of the Cannanore family in the Island of Minicoy and to *Bandarum* property elsewhere, and prove quite manageable—though very small in amount—if preferred by those chiefly interested, the Rajah and the people of that Island.

N.B.—These gardens are in the main compact (except in the case of escheats interspersed amongst the people's trees) and the object in view is not so much revenual as administrative.

As to (ii.) [illegible] tree-tax entails constant counting and appraising the productive powers of individual trees, and although this system is still the basis of our plantation demand on the coast, it has long been necessary to [illegible] re-examination and [illegible]sement of gardens, on account of the obvious evils and dishonesty [illegible] attach to it, in [illegible] depreca e the extension of this system to the Islands where it could be but inefficiently [illegible]vised.

52. Then as regards (*third*) sharing the coir, as coir is a manufactured article and not agricultural produce such as might be dealt with under the sharing system. Such a system would be unfair to the industrious in proportion to their industry, and must lead to all sorts of vexatious difference as to quality, &c. Further, the sharing system is utterly unknown to the agricultural conditions of Malabar and the Islands, where the relation of the Rajah or of the State to the owners of trees and coir manufacturers has never been that of landlord and tenant, or lord and serf to which a sharing system might be applicable. Neither the Rajah nor the State have any landlord's or *Jenmum* rights over the garden or trees of the people, and any system which would tend to confuse their true relations towards each other, would be earnestly resented by the people. The proposal would be equally distasteful to the Rajah (*vide* letter, dated 17th September 1872), who points out that the competition in the market in respect to the respective shares of each would be detrimental to him. It is impossible to calculate what would be the financial result of such a system, while the share is undecided and so much depends on the price which the State-share might realize.

53. The (*second*) plan of levying a large share of all produce exported from the Islands under the name of export duty, commends itself by its simplicity; as per may be said to have a kind of precedent (existing *Sunkum* or duty in its favor. But it [illegible] the yeperate inequitably as respects raw and manufactured products and appears to me to be open to practical objections and vexatious conditions. Further it would require the sanction of the Legislature and might prove unproductive.

54. I greatly prefer the retention, in the four Southern Islands, of the monopoly of coir to be worked under the Canara system. This system obtained in the main on the Cannanore Islands likewise, before innovations were introduced by the Rajah subsequent to the establishment of our rule. The coir monopoly has—though theoretically open to objections—the commendation of [illegible]scription, and the goodwill of the people, by whom it is thoroughly understood and appreciated—for it secures to them a safe and certain market at sufficiently remunerative prices, while it leaves on the average a reasonable margin of commercial profits to be carried to the [illegible] revenue account. The Cannanore Islanders have had a fair trial of the system during eight years—1854 to 1862—when the Islands were under sequestration for arrears of revenue, and their choice and preference is deliberate. If hereafter a change be deemed advisable—on theoretical or practical grounds—it can be inaugurated with the advantage of knowledge acquired of the [illegible] of the Islands and of restored confidence and order amongst the people. I would order the Collector to attach the Islands again for arrears of Peishcush, and to assume the administration of the coir monopoly on this basis, as soon as the season opens; pending orders of the Government of India on the larger question.

N.B.—The Collector informs me that the arrears already amount to Rupees 30,000 [illegible]0.

55. One matter will require consideration under this head, viz., Shall the restriction and monopoly extend to coir which is the produce of the Rajah's (*Jenmum*) fee-simple and *Bandarum* properties on the four Southern Islands? Mr. Conolly recommended in 1848 that the family be allowed to dispose of coir which is the produce of their own properties, as they see best. I think that practically this condition should, if possible, be avoided, as it would be likely to cause confusion and much evasion of the fair rights of Government—for under the name of Rajah's coir much produce might be passed free, on which the State would have an equitable claim. If a *Malikhana* be granted to the family, the restriction in respect to coir must I think be made a condition. *Malikhana* holders throughout Malabar are, as respects revenue demand on their property, in precisely the same position as others, and so should the Rajah of Cannanore be, in respect to property which is the source of the State income.

56. It is not easy to estimate the probable income which may be derived under this system of fiscal administration. But judging by the financial results of the Canara monopoly and the known capabilities of the [illegible] Islands under consideration, an annual revenue of Rupees [illegible],000 to 20,000 may fairly be calculated upon.

N.B.—The Canara Islands [illegible] about one-third of the [illegible] group, and produce from [illegible]0 to 650 candies which a profit (over a cycle of years of [illegible] a candy and upwards are realized say [illegible] 8,500 a-year. The four Cannanore Islands from 1,200 to 1,300 candies with improvab[illegible] and may be expected to produce (if relie[illegible] Royalties, &c.) [illegible]pees 15,000 to 20,000.

57. I assume that the Government will be willing to forego [illegible] considerations of [illegible] and give effect to the orders of the Honorable Court of Directors in 1852, by granting [illegible] to the Cannanore family in consideration of the assumption of the general [illegible] fiscal management [illegible] adopted in calculating the *Malikhana* now enjoyed by the Rajahs of Malabar was to allow (two-tenths or) one-fifth of the actual State collections within their respective territories—commuted into a fixed sum on the average of a short series of years—to the Rajah, leaving the profits of all *Jenmum* property (subject of course to the assessment and rents, &c., untouched. On this principle a *Malikhana* of Rupees 3,000 to 4,000 might be allowed to the Cannanore family. But it will be contended by the Rajah, that one-half of the profits of the monopoly have long been conceded in principle—gross misrepresentation made the actual profits far larger in the earlier years of our rule—and that Rupees 5,250 were granted in lieu of loss by any defection of the smaller portion of the group now attached to Canara;* and doubtless a much larger remission will be claimed under the ambiguous terms of the provisional agreements. Further, it is not clear from the early negotiations how much of Rupees [illegible],000, provisionally exacted [illegible] consideration of the Islands, belonged to the trade, and how much to *Jenmum* property or private goods thereon. These latter appear to have been valued at Rupees 2,400 a-year, and probably comprised the Island of Minicoy (which is the [illegible] property of the family) and the *Bandaru* gardens. This matter of detail will however require further examination by the Collector, as also the question whether any and what assessment of revenue demand should be paid for Minicoy and how it is to be levied. I am not personally acquainted with this Island and would refer the Collector to make the investigation and report.

* N.B.—This *Malikhana* was calculated on the large profits that obtained prior to 1825, of which it was about one-fourth or one-fifth.

† *Vide* Commissioners' Proceedings [illegible]y. 13th October 1792.

58. In the meantime I would submit the whole case to the Government of India with recommendation that the Local Government be allowed to resume the administration of the Islands finally, without reference to the wishes of the Rajah—subject to an equitable *Malikhana* per[illegible] and

59. I embrace this opportunity of earnestly recommending the cancelment of G.O., [illegible] July 1867, No. 154, by which the Government of Madras conferred the official title of [illegible] the on the Rajah of Cannanore.

60. That not the faintest shadow of a right to such royal designation existed, is clearly shown by Tippu's Sunnuds and Schedules [illegible] by one past and present condition of the family, which has been one of subjection through [illegible]—*first* as a tributary of Cherikal, then of Mysore—and so far as the British Government is concerned, as a "conquered foe." Rajah—and in the case of a female, Rani or Beebee—is the only title known to the Malabar table of precedence, and voluminous as is the correspondence from the earliest times (before the cession) about this family, there is not a trace of a pretension to this title, or of the official admission of such a dignity by any Suzerain. Never has any title been admitted except "Ali Rajah [illegible] Cannanore" in case of a male, and "Adi Rajah" in case of a female.

61. I have been for years acquainted with the desire to assume this dignity in imitation of the title of the independent ruler of the Maldives. I have understood that for some years indeed the Rajah has forced this form of address on the Islanders. The Government has had to put down the gratuitous assumption of the foolish title of "Queen Beebee Sovereign of the Laccadives" and other groundless pretensions put forward by the family; and this assumption is a revival of the same thing in a more objectionable form—because more intelligible to natives. As to the coin or medal

shown by the Rajah to the Collector in 1867, I can only express a belief that this feudatory of other [illegible] never coined current money of Malabar.

W. ROBINSON.

P.S.—I must apologize to my honorable colleagues for the length of this minute and the delay which has occurred in disposing of this [illegible] correspondence.

W. R.

MINUTE by the Right Honorable the PRESIDENT, dated 7th December 1874.

The final and permanent assumption of the Cannanore Islands by the Government will not be effected without considerable [illegible] delay, consequent on the necessity of a reference to the Government of India and on the [illegible] of the arrangement. And what appears to be immediately incumbent on us is to attach the Islands for arrears of "Peishcush," as was done before in the year 1854. Under this attachment the administration of the affairs of the Islands was in effect taken over by this Government for several years: and the measure seems to have been fairly successful both as regards the interests of the revenue and the condition of the people. Nothing is more clearly established than that the Islands now in question, as distinct from those dependent on South Canara, [illegible] are in a wretched condition, and have the most earnest and anxious desire for the intervention of Government in their favour: and that the failure of the Rajah to pay what is due to the Government on account of them justifies and requires us to assume the collection of the revenue. I would therefore direct the Collector at once to take measures for this purpose, for which the proceedings adopted on [illegible] grounds and for the same purpose in the year 1854 would afford a useful guide.

2. In the meantime, the proposal for the permanent assumption of the Islands by the British Government must be referred to the Government of India. The case for it appears to be complete. As regards the right to annex the Islands on equitable terms, it seems impossible to dispute that (as explained in G.O. of 20th December 1871) "there is not now, nor ever has been, any engagement which would prevent the Government from introducing into these Islands the system of administration which prevails in other parts of India should the conduct of the Islanders or of the Representative of the Cannanore family render such a course necessary." That such a contingency has long since occurred is also beyond dispute. All the information before us shows that the Rajah has so worked his Coir monopoly and other fiscal powers as to oppress and impoverish the people beyond endurance, the result being that they have been driven to escape by systematic smuggling from the Coir monopoly altogether, a proceeding which the Rajah on his part has repaid by every kind of vexatious tyranny on the part of his agents on the islands. Justice appears to be now unknown to the islanders: and the picture laid before us is one of complete social disorganization. Attempts have been for a long time made, by this Government, to induce the Rajah to reform: he replies only by asking the Government to protect his Coir monopoly; and it certainly cannot be said that in now resorting to extreme measures we shall be acting abruptly and without due warning. On the contrary we shall be doing that which is imperatively demanded by the long-neglected interests and by the earnestly expressed wishes of the islanders, and for which the Rajah has been long prepared by earnest and friendly remonstrance and reiterated caution.

3. As regards (1) the details of the political arrangements to be made—I presume that it will be desirable to apply to the Islands the system of administration obtaining in those adjacent to South Canara, and which seem to have worked well. Very simple provisions appear to be required: it is a case in which the evil of over-government must be carefully avoided. I would request the Collector to state his views upon the subject, and we can then finally decide.

4. As regards (2) fiscal administration—it appears to me clear that of all the modes of raising a revenue which have been suggested the retention of the present Coir Monopoly is that which should be adopted. It is simple; it is that obtaining in the sister Islands; it has been shown by experience, when properly worked, to be fairly productive to the revenue; above all, it is not open to the serious objection attending all novelty in fiscal taxation imposts as applied to an [illegible] and [illegible] constructed population.

5. With respect (3) to the compensation to be made to the Rajah—the principle referred to by the Hon. Mr. Robinson might, I think, properly be adopted, and which would require a "Malikhana" of 3,000 or 4,000 Rupees. Part of this (I presume) be in addition to the grant of Rupees 5,250 which has long been conceded with whatever justice, to the Rajah in respect of the loss of the Canarese Islands. But upon this point the Collector should also advise. We may (as it would seem) fairly calculate a Revenue of about Rupees 20,000 from the Islands; and this it may be confidently hoped will before long be [illegible] by increased [illegible] judicious and efficient administration.

HOBART.

MINUTE by the Hon. J. D. SIM, C.S.I., dated 28th December 1874.

I quite agree with my honorable colleagues that the time has arrived when the Government must interpose for the permanent and effectual protection of the inhabitants of the Laccadives. Out of consideration for the Cannanore family we have carried forbearance to the extreme. Further tolerance of their misrule would be a culpable dereliction of duty. We have waited long and patiently, and done all in our power to induce each successive Rajah to reform his administration. Our efforts have been fruitless, and the character of the present Head of the family is not such as to warrant the slightest hope that he will do otherwise than his predecessors have done. The islanders driven to despair have now peaceably but decidedly set aside his authority, and our interposition is now a necessity. We can no longer ignore their wrongs, or evade [illegible].

2. I consider that we are fully justified in proposing the permanent resumption of the Islands, and that nothing short of this extreme measure will meet the exigencies of the case. We managed them once, and immediately on their restoration matters became as bad as before. I have been in some doubt whether hope of eventual restoration should not be held out; but I have come to the conclusion that it should not, because the Islands from their position are removed from our control and supervision, and because it is impossible to predicate just administration by any future Rajah. In justice to the people who have suffered so long and so peaceably, we must afford them protection in all time to come. Such consideration as is due to the Cannanore family should take the form of a liberal Malikhana or money allowance. Long continued misrule and oppression, such as have ever characterized the administration of this family, are in themselves sufficient grounds for forfeiture, but in this case the family really has no rights at all, save such as have arisen from sufferance. The Karar of 1793 expressly notified the intention of the Government to resume the Islands; that of 1796 on which so much reliance is placed by the family was never ratified, and even if it had been would be of no avail to them as it expressly reserves the Karar of 1793.

3. I would therefore urge on the Supreme and Home Governments the absolute necessity of permanently assuming the Islands, giving the Rajah a Malikhana of 8 per cent., the rate usual in Malabar in such cases. Meanwhile I would order the attachment of the Islands for the arrears due, which the Rajah cannot now pay, and is not likely to be ever able to pay, for the islanders have shaken off his authority and would forcibly resist any attempt by him to restore it.

4. During the management all necessary arrangements can be made for the administration of justice, and for the introduction of an efficient system of management, as soon as we receive sanction for the permanent sequestration of the Islands and their government under Act XXIV. of 1839. We must, at least for some years, adhere to the monopoly system which the people understand and like, but I would hold out every encouragement for the substitution of an export duty or a share of the produce, either of which are preferable in my opinion to a monopoly. This administration should be liberal, and should include education, medical aid, &c. We have too long neglected these unfortunate islanders.

5. As regards the title of "Sultan" it evidently does not belong to the Rajah, and it was *ultra vires* for the Government to grant it; but I should be disposed not to moot the question now.

J. D. SIM.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Laccadive Islands.

Read the following papers :—

No. 55. From SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to the Hon. R. S. ELLIS, C.B., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cannanore, 9th October 1872.

I beg you will have the goodness to lay the accompanying address before His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council with as little delay as possible.

To His Exc. the Right Hon. *VERE* HENRY, LORD HOBART,
Governor in Council of Fort St. George, Madras.

Your Excellency,—I respectfully crave permission to forward herewith, duplicate of the representation I had made to the Collector of Malabar on the 7th ultimo, for submission to your Excellency in Council, with reference to the views of Government as regards the position of my family, intimated to me through the aforesaid functionary on the 2nd February 1872, and beg that your Excellency in Council will be kindly pleased to award to the subject-matter thereof your very best and most indulgent consideration.

I beg to remain, with the profoundest respect, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Cannanore, *9th October* 1872. (Signed) SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore.

From SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 17th September 1872.

In reply to your communication of date the 2nd February 1872, I have the honor to inform you that though Government are now pleased to ignore our right and title to the independent sovereignty of the Laccadive group, yet I should be sadly wanting in my duty to my house were I to neglect this opportunity of vindicating them by a reference to the appendix from Nos. 1 to 9, which are so many glosses on the treaty of 1796; and they as well as the appendix No. 20 further-more prove that, up to the year 1869, Government were fully impressed with the necessity of supporting the coir monopoly under certain modification which had met with our cordial approval, and the recorded opinions of Messrs. Conolly and Ballard on the subject, as conveyed in appendix Nos. 10 and 11, are invested with a significance which can by no means be mistaken.

2. Appendix No. 12 and others in connexion therewith will tend to reveal the means employed in extorting from my house the muchilka, &c., referred to by you, and now that the domination of the Honorable the East India Company has passed away, it is needless to awaken painful reminiscence by an allusion to those documents which tacitly admit our right and title to the above sovereignty, the more so as none of my family had ever questioned the claim which Government have to a moiety of the revenue of the islands, to which alone the concluding clause of the treaty refers.

3. It will be seen by the document upon which so much stress is laid that the representative of my house, who had entered into treaties with the British Government, was not regarded as an ordinary landholder, but as the paramount "Lady and Princess of Cannanore and the Laccadives." An ordinary landholder is not supposed to hold possession under a treaty and enjoy the honor of a salute. His property is undoubtedly subject to periodical assessment, and he cannot boast of having alienated a kingdom on condition of his being regarded as a friend and an ally of the Government, but our case is quite different, and the existence of a treaty, stipulating the payment of a fixed tribute for the exclusive management of the Karr[illegible]lan[illegible] which was enjoyed undisturbed for upwards of seventy years, can in no way justify its invasion by the introduction of fresh and arbitrary taxes such as the Income-tax, the Road-cess, and the Local Fund, against which my predecessor had unceasingly protested, and I cannot help following in his wake by reiterating such protest, in the humble hope that Government will deign to repudiate encroachments subversive of justice and equity, and direct the refund of the Road-cess and Income-tax which were unjustly realized from my house.

4. In noticing the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh paragraphs of your letter, I have merely to observe that the expediency of introducing into the Laccadives the Government system prevailing in other parts of India had been [illegible] and subsequently urged by my predecessor, who had even applied for assistance to [illegible] will be seen by appendix Nos. 13 and 14, and my house has neither [illegible] any [illegible] title or distinction, nor claimed the least share in the civil and criminal administration [illegible] country, both of which had been transferred to the Circar in 1791. But this is not all. When the Collectors and Sub-Collectors of Malabar, with the exception of Mr. [illegible] had been pleased in 1850, commencing from the 3rd September of that year, to abridge [illegible] title, whether advisedly or otherwise I know not, by dropping the prefix "Her Highness" from our address, no direct attempt was made for its restoration, and as the above prefix is [illegible] by the Supreme Government and members of the British aristocracy in addressing the representatives of my house, as will appear by the appendix Nos. 15 and 16. I trust that Government will do the justice of condemning the mutilation of a title inherent in our family.

5. As regards the salute and other honors, for the restoration whereof I have been applying ever since the date of my [illegible] to the musnud, I have the honor to observe that the above marks of distinction [illegible] dered in the light of a conditional boon, but as the recognition of our unalienable [illegible] kindness, favor, and protection of the Government, which had been [illegible] our kingdom, forts, and arsenal, on the understanding that they would be restored at the termination of the war with Tippoo.* The original honors consisted, I believe, of a salute of seventeen guns, a honorary guard, and the allotment of troops, guns, ammunition, on grand and special occasions, which salute subsequently underwent a gradual reduction, and was often [illegible] by the caprice or crooked policy of the authorities. However a salute of seven guns was sanctioned in the year 1832, of which we were deprived for a short time by Mr. W. Robinson, as will be borne out by the appendix Nos. 17 and 18, in consequence of my much lamented grandmother, the late Adee Rajah Beebee, refusing to yield to his intolerable importunities for the surrender of our sovereignty to Government, as suggested in the Honorable the Court of Director's Despatch, No. 9, dated 2nd October 1850. Had the aforesaid honors been granted conditionally, they would have been, as a matter of course, withdrawn when the aforesaid Beebee had obstinately refused to introduce into the Laccadives the reforms recommended in the Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue under date the 2nd August 1849. When such had been the case, it is a matter of no little regret that Government should think of [illegible] their liberality by proposing a conditional restoration of the above honors, enjoyed by us even when the islands had been under sequestration, which was ratified by the Queen's Government in 1859. The only mark of displeasure evinced on account of the above refusal on the part of the aforesaid Beebee was the withdrawal of the time-honored protection afforded to our trade for upwards of sixty years, whereby we have suffered and are still suffering considerable losses, and yet by the threats of sequestration and distraint the tribute payable on the trade, which the act of Government had destroyed, had been frequently realized with interest for the last eight years, and duty is being levied on Divi Coir in direct contravention of the exemption intimated in appendix No. 19, and the amount so realized, instead of being carried to our account, has been appropriated by the Circar.

6. The concluding clause of the ninth paragraph, as well as the paragraphs from 10 to 22 of your letter, seem to wear a more cheering aspect, worthy of the great and magnanimous nation that sways the destiny of India, and if gratitude alone is to be consulted in this case, I should most willingly adopt the suggestions conveyed in them, but the interest of my family as well as those of my subjects also share my unremitting solicitude, and I, therefore, beg to award my full and unqualified assent to the proposed measures except one, viz., the fixing of a certain portion of the coir produce as my share to which I must object, as I shall have very great difficulty in selling the same to advantage to meet the Government dues as well as the State and family exigencies when the Indian market shall have been overstocked with coir by the islanders who can

well afford to dispose of their coir at a low rate, the manufacturers of the above article are paid only at 10 Rupees per candy. I, therefore, trust Government will deign to admit the justice and propriety of their holding to the [illegible] mentioned in appendix No. 20, which had induced my predecessor to visit the islands in 180[illegible] much labor and expense.

7. As regards the fifteenth and sixteenth paragraphs of your letter, I beg to submit that the remission of the whole amount of peishcush [illegible] years, including the sums I have already paid, will not cover one-eighth of the loss we have [illegible] for the last 40 years, during the whole of which period we have, by borrowing and other means equally ruinous and distressing, paid Rs. Beebee public treasury in all 70,000 Rupees, without realizing so much as would suffice for the expense of our administration of the islands, leaving a balance of [illegible] incurred by the Honorable and I, therefore, hope that Government will kindly condescend to consider the [illegible] of Government recovering a portion of such loss, not from my subjects in general but from [illegible] three months' have grown rich by their daring and unrestrained invasion of our exclusive trade, *the profit of which Beebee's is shared between my house and the Circar.* In conclusion, I cannot help adding that the requisition conveyed in the thirteenth paragraph of your letter seems unnecessary so long as the rules which shall be drawn up by you in the spirit of the "Criminal Laws" will provide for every description of crimes and misdemeanors. It is, moreover, an anomaly irreconcilable to precedence and prescription, both of which cannot be departed from without trenching on our independence. I have, however, no objection to the islands being periodically visited by [illegible] officer, though this measure is highly grieving to me, inasmuch as it would in[illegible] of my intention.

Under the above circumstances, I cannot help appealing to your sense of justice [illegible] and leaving our hard case in your hands to be dealt with, with candor and impartiality in the fullest hope that you will condescend to submit this letter for the kind and indulgent reconsideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, and cause my family to be placed in the position held by our ancestors under the cession, in accordance with the resolution of Government set forth in their Proceedings, No. 193,* dated 3rd June 1869.

* In the appendix No. 20.

APPENDIX No. 1.

From D. WHITE, Esq., Assistant Collector, Malabar, to Her Highness ADDEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore, dated Tellicherry, 2nd Danoo 1008, or 14th [illegible] 1832.

I have received your letter, dated 18th Virchigom. It has been reported to me that three Oodies from Agathee, laden with 289 candies of cables and 69 bales of Divi Coir, arrived and landed their cargoes at the port of Cochin, and the same (which are just now secured in the Sea Custom-house) were purchased by two merchants of that place. If your Highness is disposed to sanction the sale thereof to the aforesaid merchants, I request you will be pleased to signify to me your wishes on the subject. The crews of the aforesaid vessel have been detained here for a long time, and it is not advisable to detain them any longer. I have issued out an order to the Cochin Manager to direct them to wait upon your Highness for permission in this matter.

APPENDIX No. 2.

From H. V. CONOLLY, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to Her Highness ADDEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore, dated Calicut, 6th November 1831, No. 30.

In reply to your communication, dated the 2nd instant, I beg to observe that, though I objected in my Malayalam letters to, what seemed to me, the extra stringency of the orders you wished passed, I did not allow any relaxation in my former instructions to the Sea Custom Managers not to allow the Laccadive boats to land cargoes without your approval. That order has been in force since October 1848.

APPENDIX No. 3.

EXTRACT from a Despatch from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 1st July 1852, No. 9.

The Beebee's Memorial.

Paragraph 25. The remission of peishcush, which it was proposed in 1849 to grant to the Beebee, was conditional on her consenting to introduce into the Fiscal and Judicial administration of her people, certain reforms that were imperatively necessary to the prosperity and welfare of the territory.

26. In our despatch, dated 2nd October, (No. 9) 1850, which does not appear to have been taken into consideration by you in connection with the Beebee's affairs, we expressed an opinion that, if the necessary consent could be obtained, it would be highly desirable that the Beebee should now relinquish the permanent transfer of the islands for a pecuniary equivalent. The circumstances which you reported seem to offer an opportunity for carrying this view into effect, and we desire that you instruct the Collector of Malabar to open a negotiation with the Beebee for the surrender of her proprietary interests in the Laccadive Islands, on the condition that all outstanding arrears of peishcush should be remitted and a reasonable malikana allowed as a compensation for the loss of profits she may hope to obtain through her own arrangement.

27. The altered value of the staple produce of these islands, as represented to us in the Beebee's memorial, shows that the fixed peishcush of Rupees 10,000 per annum is not likely to be ever collected by your Government, and that in fact the concession which we recommend to be made in her favor is really nominal.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Secretary to Government.

Ordered that the foregoing papers be communicated for the information and guidance of the Collector of Malabar, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 28th June 1852.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Secretary.

To H. V. Conolly, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

APPENDIX No. 4.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, Malabar, to Her Highness ADDEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore, dated Tellicherry, 14th August 1852, No. 41.

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, and the accompanying extract of correspondence on the subject of your arrears, I have the honor to inform you that I am directed by the Collector to take the earliest possible steps to effect their adjustment and to report the same :—

"The Government desire, therefore, that the Collector of Malabar be instructed, in the event of the Beebee still continuing to withhold payment, to proceed at once to the sale of the distrained property to the full extent of the public demand against her, and not to permit further delay under any circumstance except in the case of an unqualified offer, coming from the Beebee herself, for the surrender to Government of her entire rights and claims, be they what they may, in those islands in the Laccadive group which are now under her management."

I have the honor, therefore, to request that you will without delay, save on the alternative offered, pay the arrears due by you, or it will become my painful duty to enforce the above orders.

APPENDIX No. 5. REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th September 1852, No. 45.

Read the following :—

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 7th September 1852, *No.* 886.
Revenue Department.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds to pass orders on paragraphs 25 and 27 of the letter from the Honorable Court of Directors in the Revenue Department, dated 1st July 1852, No. 9.

Ordered that a copy of these paragraphs be furnished to the Board of Revenue, with a request that they will instruct the Collector of Malabar to enter into negotiation with the Beebee of Cannanore for the surrender of the Laccadive Islands on the conditions specified by the Honorable Court of Directors, and to report the result for the information and orders of Government.

3. He will require the Beebee to give a distinct and definite reply within three months: meanwhile, and until further instructions, the Collector will not proceed with the sale of the Beebee's property in satisfaction of her arrears of peishcush.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX No. 6.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 11th January 1854.

"The Collector will further apprise the Beebee of the determination at which the Honorable Court have arrived in her case, and will make to her the intimation directed in the concluding sentence of the despatch.

"We are of opinion that the Beebee has been treated with a degree of indulgence and consideration which her unwillingness to enter on a fair negotiation with the officers of Government for an amicable adjustment of the just demands against her shows to have been entirely misplaced. We, therefore, cannot see any ground for further postponement of the long-deferred demands of Government, in which the interests and welfare of the people are materially concerned. We direct that you will take measures to enforce our claims on the Beebee.

"In this enforcement, however, you will keep distinct the two questions of arrears of tribute for the islands and arrears of land revenue for Cannanore. In the latter case you will proceed according to the regulations ; in the former you will take on yourself the administration of the islands, in order to secure our revenue and recover our arrears from the surplus proceeds, if any ; at the same time you will intimate to the Beebee that if she will accede to an arrangement by which the direct administration of the islands shall be permanently transferred to your Government, you will excuse her from the payment of arrears due to your Government, whether on account of the island or on account of her estate on the continent of India."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROBINSON,
Head Assistant Collector.

APPENDIX No 7.

From A. S. SANDEMAN, Esq., Assistant Collector, in charge of Head Assistant's Office, Malabar, to Her Highness ADDEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore, dated Tellicherry, 2nd March 1854, No. 58.

On the 3rd February 1854, Mr. Robinson, the Head Assistant Collector of Malabar, addressed you a letter annexing Extracts from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 11th January

1854, and of a Despatch from the Court of Directors, the 26th October 1853, relative to the arrears of revenue due by you to our Government, and subsequently on the following day called upon you personally when you promised to give a decided answer on the question submitted for your consideration in the aforesaid letter within a fortnight from that date. This period, you will perceive, has sometime expired. I have the honor to request, therefore, that you will immediately intimate to me your resolution in the matter, as the orders of the Court of Directors set forth in the concluding paragraphs of their despatch will be carried out forthwith, in the event of your not seeing good to comply with the alternative therein offered to you of coming to an arrangement for making over the direct administration of the islands permanently to our Government.

Appendix No. 8.

From W. F. HEWETSON, Esq., Deputy, for Collector and Magistrate of Malabar, to SULTAN ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, dated Calicut, 22nd May 1865, No. 1324.

In continuation of my letter, dated 28th ultimo, No. 1259, I beg to forward copy of the Proceedings of Government noted, and request you will be good enough to have strict inquiries made into the matter adverted to, and communicate to me the result for submission to Government.

No. 101, dated 15th instant.

Appendix No. 9.

From G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, dated Calicut, 28th April 1865, No. 1259.

The Collector of South Canara informs me that, by a report received by him from the Sub-Monigar of the Laccadive Islands attached to that district, it appears that the inhabitants of the Arrakal Island have been plundering extensively from the wreck of the ship *Lord Brougham*, now lying on the Byrangore Reef, and concealing the same in their islands.

2. I have issued orders to the Superintendents of Customs at the several ports to seize any of the plundered property the islanders may bring into this district for disposal, and request that you will be good enough to direct your agents on the islands to take prompt measures for seizing such property as may be found there in possession of the inhabitants, and forward them to me by the first opportunity.

Appendix No. 10. Revenue Department.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th May 1852, *No.* 207.

Read letter, dated 6th May 1852, from the Collector of Malabar, containing his opinion on the points adverted to by the Beebee of Cannanore in her letter transmitted with his communication of the 29th March 1852.

(Here enter No. 55.)

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2. The Board do not concur in the opinion that the monopoly of the trade between the Laccadive Islands and Cannanore by the so called treaty of 1796 was virtually conceded to the Beebee of Cannanore, and in their separate letter, dated the 10th May 1852, the Board have noticed the ambiguous terms of that document as applying to the Laccadives; but, as according to the Collector's view, it gives the Beebee a monopoly of the trade from the Laccadive Islands, they think that this objection forms an additional reason for dissolving the treaty.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Secretary.

Appendix No. 11.

Extract from the letter of the Collector of Malabar, G. A. Ballard, Esq., dated Malabar Collector's Office, Calicut, 15th December 18[illegible].

4. If some definite arrangement are made, I am after mature consideration prepared to advocate that the coir monopoly be recognised for the present at any rate, and that a system of port-clearances should be introduced which would almost entirely, if not entirely prevent any evasions that may now be practised.

(Signed) G. A. BALLARD

Appendix No. 12.

The Honorable United English East India Company being animated with a sincere desire of relieving the different Malabar powers from the oppression they have so long endured by the usurpation of Tippoo Sultan, and to render them totally independent of his authority, have agreed with the Beebee of Cannanore on the following terms as the preliminaries to a future treaty of firm alliance and friendship to be entered into between the parties:—

1. The Beebee solemnly agrees whenever called upon to admit the Company's troops to garrison her fortress of Cannanore during the present war between the English and Tippoo Sultan, and to give her ministers as hostages one day before the march of our troops as a security for their admission into the fort. She also solemnly agrees to act with her forces in conjunction with those of the Company's against Tippoo Sultan as the common enemy of both, and to do everything in her power in the present contest to bring the war to as speedy a conclusion as possible.

2. During the continuance of the present war between the English and Tippoo Sultan, the Beebee agrees to convince the Honorable English East India Company of her sincerity to admit their troops to garrison her fortress of Cannanore, the Company paying the expense of their own troops, and to remove them from Cannanore at the termination of the war. Ellea and the minister who shall be sent as hostages will be returned to Cannanore as soon as the Company's troops shall have been admitted into the garrison; and whenever peace takes place between the English and Tippoo Sultan, the Beebee shall be considered as an ally of the Honorable English East India Company in the same manner as the other Malabar Princes, their allies.

3. The Beebee agrees to admit of a free and uninterrupted trade to the English East India Company with her port and country, and to supply the Company at a favorable price, with such an annual quantity of pepper, or such other articles of merchandize as her country might produce or she be able to procure, as shall be hereafter agreed upon.

4. The Beebee agrees that this alliance shall be lasting and permanent after the war with Tippoo Sultan shall have been terminated, for the due performance of which the Beebee will give such security as shall be agreeable to the English.

Upon these conditions, I, Robert Taylor, Chief for all affairs of the British nation at Tellicherry, authorized by His Excellency Earl Cornwallis, Governor-General, and by the Honorable Colonel Robert Abercromby, Governor of Bombay do, in their names, hereby promise and engage that the English East India Company shall use their utmost endeavor to render the Beebee of Cannanore independent of Tippoo Sultan, and that in any treaty of peace that may hereafter take place, the interest of the Beebee shall be attended to, and she shall be considered as an ally of the English Company, and no way subject to the authority or control of Tippoo Sultan. In witness whereof, I, the said Robert Taylor, have hereunto put my name and annexed the seal of the English East India Company at Tellicherry, this eighth day of August 1790, and have sent the paper of

assurance to Cannanore to be delivered to the Beebee, sign and seal the counterpart of this agreement, and bring it to me at Tellicherry.

(Signed) ROBERT TAYLOR. (L.S.)

Executed and sealed in the presence of us.

(Signed) ALEXR. DOW,
Major Commanding.
ROBERT LEWIS, Lieutenant.
THOMAS MUNN, ,, [1790.

APPENDIX No. 13.

From SULTAN ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 27th September 1866, No. 240.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and to inform you that I have no objection whatsoever to adopt the system of revenue prevalent throughout British India in lieu of my exclusive trade, with such modification as will suit the condition of my subjects and secure the seigniorage to which my house is entitled, but previous to my attempting it, it is necessary that I should consult their inclination, and cause a revenue survey to be made; and as it will, considering the insular position of my dominion, take about a year to complete such arrangement and reduce the system into practice, I beg you will have the goodness to prevent the landing and sale of the Divi articles due to me in other ports than Cannanore until the introduction of the above those I had retained in 1864 and 1865 and failure on my part in discharging the [illegible] kists payable on my exclusive trade; but if this cannot be done without the privity and consent of the Government, I furthermore beg you will have the goodness to submit this letter for the favorable consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, backed by your kind and powerful advocacy.

2. Requesting the favor of your accepting my grateful acknowledgment for the proffered assistance conveyed in your letter under reply, I remain, &c.

APPENDIX No. 14.

From SULTAN ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 7th December 1868, No. 339.

I have been duly favored with your reply of the 2nd instant to my letters of dates the 16th and 30th ultimo, and pursuant to the instruction it conveys, I have particularized to your Sheristadar the assistance which my family have reason to expect from a just and liberal Government.

2. I am not aware of any complaint having been preferred to you by the islanders against my agents and measures; and all I have to say on the subject is that such complaints were, in the time of your predecessors, referred to me for an explanation, and they were upon inquiry found to contain much that was false and vexatious.

3. Although it does not appear by the reports forwarded by my Divi Kariastens that any violence had been committed by my subjects, yet it is evident that treasonable acts, which in the British territories would subject the offenders to capital punishment, had been resorted to and my authority set at defiance; under such circumstances I cannot help sending Commissioners vested with full power to put down anarchy and insubordination, and trust you will kindly assist me (when everything is ready) with a small police force consisting of a Deputy Constable and six policemen, charging their pay and batta to my account.

4. Reverting to the subject of my Divi trade, in the profit whereof the Government has also a direct share, I crave permission to state that the above trade is fully recognised by the

treaty of 1796 and the Government Order of 1852, for the withdrawal of the protection afforded to it for upwards of sixty years, was not enforced during the time the islands were under sequestration; consequently it had remained a dead letter for more than six years, and I beg you will deign to make the above circumstance a matter of reference to Government.

5. Independent of the above, the management of the islands which had been ceded by my house to Government, is still carried on, on the principle introduced by my ancestors, but with this difference—the prices of coir and other articles in amount are being paid on a more liberal scale—a liberality we cannot, unfortunately, limit, as we have to pay an annual tribute of 10,000 Rupees.

6. As a preliminary step towards assisting my family on this occasion, I furthermore beg you will have the goodness to issue out orders to all the Superintendents of Sea Customs in Malabar and Canara, directing them to regard all unprinted and unstamped post-clearances coming from the Laccadive group as spurious from the 1st proximo.

APPENDIX No. 15.

Fort William, Home Department, Revenue, 6th February 1852, *No.* 127.

Read a memorial, dated the 24th September last, from Her Highness Adee Rajah Bebee of Cannanore, praying that orders may be issued that stringent measures may not be resorted to for the recovery of the amount of revenue which has fallen into arrears, in consequence of the heavy loss she has sustained by the partial submersion of the Laccadive Islands.

Ordered that the petitioner be informed that the Government of India [illegible] reason to interfere with the orders already passed in her case by the Government of Fort St. George.

(By order of the Most Noble Governor-General in Council.)

(Signed) A. R. YOUNG,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

APPENDIX No. 16.

From LORD NAPIER, Governor of Madras, to SULTAN ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, dated 15th November 1866.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date having reference to the position in which you find yourself placed by your imputed complicity in the death of certain persons belonging to the family of Ponimanichi Kunyamel, a merchant of this city, who himself barely escaped with life. It would ill become me to question the solemn disavowal which your Highness has made of all participation in the crime referred to, but the Government were and are convinced that the course taken by your Highness in regard to the family in question was such as to subject them to persecution and odium, and indirectly at least to bring down upon them the calamity which they experienced. Under these circumstances, I do not feel at liberty to restore to your Highness the honors to which you would otherwise so justly be entitled, and I regret that I cannot avail myself of this occasion to make the personal acquaintance of your Highness whose family, by their antiquity and distinction, have so many claims on the consideration and respect of Government.

APPENDIX No. 17.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, Malabar, to Her Highness ADEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore, dated Tellicherry, 7th August 1852, No. 40.

I am advised by the Collector, with reference to your letter, dated the 3rd instant, and enclosure, that, as the Zamorin and other Rajahs have no salute or guard of honor when they go out, the propriety of moving in the matter under reference does not appear.

APPENDIX No. 18.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 4th September 1852, No. 324, Political Department.

Read the following letter from ADEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore :—

Requesting to be informed as to whether or not she is entitled to the complement of the guns fired in honor of native sovereigns on their entering or quitting the cantonment, as prescribed by Section XXXIV., page 420, of the General Regulations.

(Here enter 23rd August 1852.)

The Collector and Magistrate of Malabar will be so good as to inform the Beebee of Cannanore that she is considered entitled, by the Resolution of Government of the 29th June 1832, to a salute of seven guns on certain occasions.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. C. MONTGOMERY,
Chief Secretary

To the Collector and Magistrate of Malabar.

APPENDIX No. 19.

From J. BABINGTON, Esq., Collector of Sea Customs of Malabar and Canara, to Her Highness ADEE RAJAH BEEBEE of Cannanore, dated Calicut, 5th September 1818.

I have the honor to inform you that I have sent order to the Sea Custom Manager of Cannanore to release you in future from the necessity of paying duty, from which you were formerly exempted, on the coirs imported and exported by you, and you are, therefore, at liberty to make such import and export free of duty in future.

APPENDIX No. 20.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department, 3rd June 1869.

Read the following memorandum by the Collector of Malabar, dated March 1869, No. 10.

(*Here enter Order, 3rd June 1869, No.* 193.)

To Sultan Ali Rajah of Cannanore, with reference to his letter to Government of the 18th —— 1869.

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Acting Collector.

Referred to the Collector of Malabar for report, and for the submission of the original documents referred to.

OOTACAMUND,
17th October 1872.

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

No. 56. From SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to the Hon. R. S. ELLIS, C.B., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cannanore, 9th December 1872.

I did myself the honor of addressing you on the 9th October last, forwarding duplicate of the memorial, &c., I had submitted to Government through the District Collector on the 17th September 1872, and requesting that the same may also be laid before the Right Honorable the

Governor in Council at your earliest convenience ; and as I have not since heard anything from the Collector in reference thereto, I beg you will kindly deign to inform me whether any order has been or is likely to be soon passed on the subject of the above memorial.

Forwarded to the Collector of Malabar, with reference to the endorsement, dated the 17th October last, on the memorial referred to.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
16th December 1872.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 57. Telegram from SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated Cannanore, 8th January 1873.

I took the liberty of submitting a memorial through District Collector in September last, and a duplicate through the Chief Secretary. As I have heard nothing in reply, my house is subject to unbearable grievance. I, therefore, beg your Excellency in your endeavors to uphold the justice of the Most High will deign to entertain our just and equitable claim, and pass a favorable order on the subject.

No. 58. Telegram from SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated Cannanore, 17th January 1873.

I beg most respectfully to attract your Lordship's earliest attention to the prayer conveyed in my telegram of the 8th instant.

No. 59. From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 24th January 1873, No. 6.

As directed in the endorsements, dated 17th October and 16th December 1872, I have the honor to forward the originals of the documents* so far as they are forthcoming in these records.

* As per enclosed list.

2. The originals of Nos. 1, 12, 17, and 19 in the documents furnished by the Rajah are not to be found, but there is an unauthenticated copy of No. 12 on the records. Nos. 15 and 16 have never been on the records of this office.

3. I can find nothing in these papers in any way calculated to support the remonstrance of the Rajah against the recent orders of Government.

4. The facts that, in 1832, an Assistant Collector detained coir landed at Cochin and thereby assisted the then Beebee in the maintenance of the monopoly, that later Mr. Conolly when Collector afforded similar assistance, and that in 1868 Mr. Ballard when Collector undertook on certain conditions, which the Rajah neither fulfilled nor undertook to fulfil, to advocate the continuation of such assistance, are not likely to induce Government to modify a conclusion arrived at after full consideration of these and many other similar facts. It seems sufficient to allude to the fact that the maintenance of the monopoly has been objected to by the Court of Directors and the Local Government for the last seventy-five years, and that all active interference in its behalf has for many years been withheld, that such interference is now clearly admitted to be contrary to law.

5. In paragraph 2 of his memorial the Rajah refers to exhibit No. 12 as revealing the means employed in extorting from his house the muchilka, by which I presume he alludes to the karar.

6. The agreement set forth in No. 12 is expressly stated to be provisional and a preliminary to a future treaty. Certain provisos are made with reference to the Cannanore Fort and combined action against Tippoo, the British Agent guaranteeing in exchange freedom for the Beebee from the subjection of Tippoo. The Beebee violated the terms of the agreement and proved faithless as an ally, as may be gathered from paragraph 238 of the Commissioners' report which shows that the British had to besiege her in her fort the following year though the agreement stipulated she was

to admit the British troops to the fort when required. It was as an act of grace and in deference to her sex and widowed position that the subsequent karar was entered into, by which a certain amount of her position and income was continued to her, while the paramount rights of the British were fully reserved. The precise terms of this declaration are quoted in paragraph 4 of the Proceedings of Government, dated 20th December [illegible], No. 405. They are wholly inconsistent with the retention by the Beebee of any sovereign right. Her first objection to paying a rent on the islands was based on the plea that she had mortgaged them to a Tellicherry merchant.

7. For the Rajah, therefore, to affect to deplore the termination of the dominion of the Honorable East-India Company and to say that in their documents they tacitly admitted the sovereignty of the Beebee is absurd.

8. It appears unnecessary for me to go into the various arguments adduced by the Rajah against the decision of Government in regard to his title, salute, &c. The fact that he can produce an endorsement from the Supreme Government on a petition, and a letter from the late Governor in which he is addressed as "His Highness," is scarcely to the point. It was because there was misapprehension on the subject, and because these titles were occasionally given, that the question of his right to them was fully inquired into and disposed of by Government. It is worthy of note that the late Rajah when agitating the question of his title only claimed that of Sultan, which was accorded, and laid no claim whatever to the title of "His Highness."

9. In the concluding part of paragraph 5, the Rajah alludes to the levy of import duty on coir. According to the Schedule* of the Customs Act such duty is leviable, the article being specially named, and I have, therefore, collected import duty on all coir except that imported at Cannanore by the Rajah himself, or on his behalf, such coir being under the agreement, free.

* No. 30 of Act XIII. of 1871.

10. So far from the Rajah sustaining any injury from this measure, it is obviously to his advantage as reducing the profits of those who evade his asserted monopoly.

11. In paragraph 6 the Rajah talks of Government holding to their resolution of the 3rd June 1869, but on referring to the Proceedings of Government under that date, it will be found that the only resolution then decided on was to depute an officer to report on the state of the islands before making any concession. Government were disposed to agree to the recommendation of the Collector which it was thought would seem the necessary protection to the islanders.

12. The exhaustive report of Mr. Logan satisfied Government that the continuance of the monopoly was impossible with due regards to the interests of the inhabitants. To instance the recent orders of Government on this point as departing from a former resolution is compatible only with inability to understand plain language, or with wilful misrepresentation.

13. It will be observed that the Rajah agrees to everything except the abolition of the monopoly.

14. As regards his agreement to improve his administration it costs but a few words.

15. The abolition of the monopoly is the *sine qua non* to the introduction of an improved state of affairs, and in the absence of this, I have little doubt that the state of anarchy described by Mr. Logan has been steadily on the increase. The result, however, of the inquiries to be instituted by the Sub-Collector on this head on his approaching visit must be awaited.

16. I forward copy of a letter* which I addressed to the Rajah conveying the result of the decision of Government. I subsequently had an interview with him at his palace in Cannanore.

* Dated 2nd February 1872, No. 209-A.

17. He appeared a man of the lowest intellectual type, utterly devoid of energy or sense of duty, and wholly in the hands of ignorant advisers. I subsequently happened to learn that he had been purchasing land on his private account at the time he was begging for extension of the period within which he should liquidate arrears on the score of impecuniosity.

18. In refusing his importunities I wrote to him stating that I was credibly informed that he was laying out the money that should have gone towards discharging his arrears in private purchases of land. To this he replied attributing the report I had heard to the malignity and nefarious designs of his enemies. I then referred him to a purchase of a considerable landed property for

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6,250 Rupees by his Head Karianan, at a sale of a Civil Court, and its subsequent transfer almost immediately, on a registered deed to the Rajah's daughter, adding my regret that he did not deem such disgraceful misrepresentation as that of which he was convicted by these unquestionable facts as unbefitting his position and rank.

19. Three months have elapsed, and I have received no rejoinder though it might have been expected that some attempt at exculpation would have been made by a gentleman, who, according to the account he now gives of himself, is so conscious of purity and sincerity of intention as to feel shocked at the idea of the doubt cast thereon by the resolution of Government that a European officer should annually visit the islands.

20. The *Margaret Northcote* will leave this about the end of the month with Mr. Spedding, and calling at Mangalore for the Assistant Collector of that district, proceeds on a tour of the islands.

21. The Rajah has declined sending an agent to accompany the expedition on the ground of the memorial now under report not having been disposed of. The main object of the inspection being to observe the course of administration of justice regarding which the Rajah professes himself in the memorial entirely in accord with Government, this plea is obviously false, and the refusal is doubtless with a view to enabling him to meet an unfavorable report, by the allegation that he was no party to the inspection either in person or by deputed agent.

From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN MOOSA ALI RAJAH, Cannanore, dated Calicut, 2nd February 1872, No. 209-A.

I have the honor to inform you that Government have directed me to explain that they have decided that there is nothing in the engagements which have been entered into between your house and the British Government which can justify a claim on the part of your family to the sovereignty of the Laccadive Islands.

2. Hitherto you have been allowed to settle through your agents the trifling disputes among the islanders.

There has hitherto been no instance of grave crime on the islands, and so long as the islanders were contented and obeyed your family, Government saw no necessity for interference.

3. In the kararnamah executed on the 28th October 1793, it is distinctly set forth that the document does not do away with the rights of Government to the Laccadive Islands, as set forth in the muchilka of the 9th April 1793. That muchilka especially stipulated that the Beebee should not in any shape object to the sequestration of the islands, if ordered by Government.

4. The decision arrived at now by Government, therefore, is that there is nothing in previous agreements to prevent them from introducing into the Laccadives the system of Government prevailing in other parts of India, and they will be prepared to adopt this course should the conduct of the islanders or of the Rajah necessitate it.

5. In regard to the position of the Cannanore family on the main land in the karar limits, I am to inform you that it is deemed by Government that of an ordinary landholder having no share whatever in the administration of civil or criminal justice, and being amenable like other proprietors to the courts of the country.

6. No titles or distinctions assumed by the Rajah can be recognised except those sanctioned by Government.

7. In regard to your formal recognition as the representative of the Cannanore family, I am instructed to inform you that Government fully recognise you as such under the title of "Sultan Moosa Ali Rajah."

8. As to the restoration of the salute and honors, it will be necessary for the Government of Madras to obtain the sanction of the Governor-General, and under the existing circumstances of misrule in the islands and non-payment of peishkush, no such application can be made. In order to justify the recommendation of such a special favor at the hands of Her Majesty the Queen, it is necessary that the Madras Government should be able to state that the Rajah has accepted in a friendly spirit the advice tendered by the Madras Government, and that he has placed the administration of the islands in a condition which meets with the entire approval of Government. While

settling the doubts regarding the true position of the Rajah the Government have every wish to consult the interests and welfare of the ancient family of Cannanore.

9. As to the advice tendered in the first place, the Madras Government are of opinion that the coir monopoly has been attended by so many evils that they cannot aid in its restoration. If the Rajah attempts its restoration it is probable that bloodshed will occur, and this Government cannot permit. They consider that to regain the obedience of the islanders the Rajah should at once announce that of his own free will he has abolished the monopoly.

If this is done the Government are of opinion that there will not be much difficulty in restoring authority, and they will not insist on any very important changes in the administration of justice.

10. The following changes, however, will be introduced.

11. A set of rules will be drawn up by the Collector in the spirit of the criminal law for guidance of the Rajah's agents, and also rules for proceeding in civil and revenue cases.

12. Serious cases will be reported to the Magistrate for reference to Government.

13. A record of the decision in such case will be kept with the reasons for giving it. Trials will take place only in the presence of the accused who will be allowed to cross examine, and no penalties except those prescribed in the rules will be inflicted.

14. Next as to offences which have hitherto been committed against the monopoly, Government deem it necessary that these should be entirely forgiven, and no claims on this account enforced.

15. If this is done Government will make a fair remission of peishkush in arrears.

16. Next in regard to revenue in substitution of the profit of the coir monopoly. The Government are of opinion that the best course is to fix a certain share of the coir produce as the Rajah's share, to estimate it according to an average of several years, and to fix the amount for a certain number of years, after which it can be revised.

17. In fixing this share the object to be kept in view is the placing the islanders in a position not inferior to that of Ameni Islanders.

18. The same course might be adopted with the other monopolies, or being of small value they might be relinquished.

19. Should you decide to adopt these proposals, I request you will inform me what proportion of the produce you consider ought to be fixed, and what amount ought to be taken as the entire produce of each island.

20. Government desire that a special agent approved by the Collector should be deputed for the purpose of inquiring into the grievances of the Kalpeni people and their boundary disputes.

21. The agent should make a rough paimash of the holdings, and record his decision in writing in each case.

22. In conclusion, Government have directed that the islands should be annually visited by the Collector, or Sub-Collector, or one of the Assistant Collectors.

Arrangements will, therefore, be made for this during the present year.

No. 60. From W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 15th May 1873, No. 41.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, the Acting Sub-Collector Mr. Spedding's report on his recent visit to the four most northern of the Cannanore Laccadive Islands.

2. Mr. Spedding spent little more than a day on each of the islands, and he forwards a register of petitions presented to him.

3. The substance of Mr. Spedding's report may be summed up as follows :—

"The Rajah's agents have in every island lost almost all power for either good or evil, and the main grievance of the islanders is the utter absence of any administration of justice" (paragraph 3).

Failing the Rajah's agents, some authority at the time of my visit in 1869 was maintained by the Mukhyasters (chief men), but these, Mr. Spedding reports, have now lost (except in Kalpeni)

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or are rapidly losing, their authority; and in Kavaratti, which in 1869 I described to be nearly in a state of anarchy, matters have gone so far that "the stronger does what he pleases on the most frivolous pretext" (paragraph 15). A reference to the register of petitions presented in this island will show that the matters brought to notice in Nos. 1 to 8 and Nos. 17, 23, 35, and 37, or in nearly one-third of the petitions, were such as would have ordinarily called for police interference, and still, as Mr. Spedding reports (paragraph 16), the petitions recorded are not a fraction of the complaints made orally to him. Two of those accused in petition No. 1 (Kavaratti) are two of the four Karnavars (headmen of the chief families) of the island, and this petition charges them with murder by poisoning, robbery of Rupees 20,000, &c. Mr. Spedding reports (paragraph 16) that the conclusion was forced upon him from the large number of complaints in Kavaratti against men of the Kanavar caste that they "so far from attempting to preserve order have made use of any influence and prestige they had simply to aggrandize themselves and their relatives." The great bulk of complaints are of a civil nature. As regards particular islands—In Kalpeni the Mukhyasters (chief men) aided by the Kazi (priest) still maintain some show of authority (paragraph 6). In Androth the Mukhyasters are rapidly losing influence (paragraph 14); and in Kavaratti and Agatti, but particularly in the former, there is no administration of justice at all (paragraphs 15 and 21). Other points noticed are—the Kalpeni Islanders have now also ceased sending coir to Cannanore (paragraph 5). The Kalpeni Islanders are insufficiently remunerated for carriage of the Rajah's coir to the coast (paragraph 7).

No steps have been taken to settle the boundary cases referred to in paragraph 44 of G O, No. 405, dated 20th December 1871 (paragraph 7). Kalpeni is threatened by a serious calamity in the shape of a disease fatal to the cocoanut tree (paragraph 9). There is a universal wish in all the islands that Government should assume charge and manage them on the monopoly system. In all the islands except Kalpeni, Mr. Spedding noticed that the lower castes are daily becoming less and less subject to the higher, and there is mutual distrust between them, the higher castes cheat the lower when they export articles in their boats, and the lower castes refuse to serve in the boats, to deliver produce, &c., and herein Mr. Spedding finds his chief argument in favor of a Government monopoly system (paragraph 12). Rats are very much on the increase (paragraph 25), and great damage is done by cattle trespassing and destroying young cocoanut plants (paragraph 26). The Rajah has failed, if he ever attempted to carry out the conciliatory measures suggested by Government (paragraph 27). Finally, Mr. Spedding suggests that two persons holding the powers of third-class Magistrates and of District Munsiffs should be sent to Agatti and Kavaratti after the monsoon, and that the Collector should have the same powers as Agent to the Government that the Collectors of Vizagapatam and Ganjam hold in the non-regulation parts of their respective Collectorates (paragraphs 28 and 29). Finally, Mr. Spedding states that, in the event of Government taking up the administration of the islands, the monopoly system is, in his opinion, the one best adapted for managing the revenue (paragraph 31).

4. It is clear from this report—

1, that the Rajah has failed, if he ever seriously attempted (which I doubt) to introduce into the islands any of the reforms suggested by Government; and

2, that in the absence of any decided action on his part, matters have steadily been going* from bad to worse till they have reached a pitch that makes it now the imperative duty of Government to interfere to prevent and punish crimes with which the Rajah's agents are powerless to deal.

* This was anticipated by Mr. MacGregor in his letter, No. 6, dated 26th January last, paragraph 15.

5. *Cancel the Karar of* 1796.—As a preliminary step to further action, I would recommend Government to cancel the karar of 1796. My reasons for this recommendation are embodied in the four succeeding paragraphs.

6. The karar of 1796 secures to the Cannanore family the trade of the Laccadives; trade in those days meant monopoly; and so long as the karar is uncancelled the monopoly cannot legally be abolished.

7. It is perhaps unnecessary for me to refer again to arguments of which I made use in my report on the visit I paid to the Laccadives in 1869, but it may save time and references if I here

recapitulate them briefly. It is admitted from our own experience in the Canara Islands that the monopoly does not always *pay*. That does not so much matter when the monopolist is a Government like ours, for we have plenty of resources and the loss of one year will be made up by the gain of another; we can afford to lose occasionally—and THERE is where our position differs from that of the Cannanore family. In a losing year they cannot *afford to lose*; for, they have still the same peishcush to pay to Government, and the history of their administration shows that they adopted, as might have been expected of them, the short-sighted policy of making the monopoly pay in the bad years by squeezing the deficit out of the people. This was unjust to the people, for, if all their profits are swallowed by the monopolist in good years, it is clearly the monopolist's duty not to let them suffer in bad ones. This was the beginning of the maladministration, and and what I submit is, that it was by a mistake of our Government in granting the monopoly of trade to the family and thus putting them in a position which they were not able properly to sustain that the present state of affairs has come about. In short we made a mistake in entering into such an agreement originally, and now we should make another mistake if we did not (as we undoubtedly can) abolish it altogether.

8. Mr. Spedding is in favor of a monopoly, but only, as I understand him, of a monopoly administered by Government, and he says the islanders desire it too. This I can quite well understand, for it seems the Canara Islanders have lately been getting from Government higher prices than they could obtain in the open market. But it is quite clear that the Rajah, with a large peishcush to pay to Government, cannot afford to be so liberal. If the karar is allowed to remain, the Government may take the administration into their own hands for a time, but sooner or later it will have to be given back to him and he could not legally be prevented from reintroducing the monopoly of trade with the same disastrous consequences. It seems quite clear to me that the first step in this matter must be the cancelment of the karar.

9. The Rajah himself is a man of the smallest intelligence, and the adviser (his Head Agent) on whom he chiefly relies is utterly ignorant. They have but one idea in all dealings with Government, and that is to watch and guard against all attempts to upset or infringe upon the family rights as embodied in the karar. They are imbued with the idea that the karar cannot without the Rajah's consent be set aside, and that so long as it is extant, the family dignity is safe. They think that if it is set aside, the older muchilka of 1793 would remain in force, and as under it the Government have the power of sequestrating the Laccadives it is not to be wondered at that they cling pertinaciously to the provisions of the later document. That the Rajah would ever *agree* to the cancelment of the karar is not to be expected for one moment; it would be quite hopeless to ask his consent, and he would only interpret such a course as confirmatory of his impression that the karar cannot be cancelled without it. At the same time I think that the family are fairly entitled to another chance of proving that they can manage the islands under a better system; their administration of Minicoy, where this monopoly has never been in force, has succeeded very fairly in making the people contented, and I would recommend Government, while declaring the karar cancelled to hold out a hope of the administration being again restored to the family after matters have been set in order. I am pretty sure that when the family see that Government has the power of taking the islands permanently, they will willingly acquiesce in any new agreement offered them.

10. If my suggestion of cancelling the karar is adopted, it remains to consider what should next be done. I have given it full consideration, and my recommendations are as follow:—

11. The karar being cancelled, the administration of the following places to the extent noted would come under Government:—

(1.) Cannanore town and suburbs so far as revenue is concerned, the civil and criminal jurisdiction of this place has always been in the hands of Government officers.

(2.) Minicoy Island.

(3.) Kalpeni, Androth, Kavaratti, and Agatti, and islands attached. } Civil, Criminal, and Revenue administration.

The "jumma" payable by the Rajah at present for these places is Rupees 15,000, less Rupees 5,250 repayable annually under the agreement of 1823, by which the family relinquished all

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claim to the Canara Islands. Thus Rupees 9,750 may be taken as the standard Government share assessable on the places above mentioned. The Commissioners originally intended to fix the jumma at "a moiety* of whatever is or shall be ascertained to be the produce of her country, including the half portion of the profits that she (the Beebee) reaps from the trade to the Laccadives." But it appears from the records that the sum of Rupees 15,000 was arrived at as the result of a sort of compromise between the full estimated demand fixed by the Commissioners' officers at Rupees 16,237½† per annum and the Beebee's proposals. A great number of *trees*‡ *had been cut down* near the fort, and this too had its effect in inducing the Northern Superintendent to agree to Rupees 15,000 being fixed as the jumma. However it is clear what the principle was on which they intended to act, viz., that half the revenue should go to Government and half to the Beebee, and it is on that principle that I would now propose to act in distributing the above sum of Rupees 9,750 among the different portions of territory assessable with it. I would propose to carry half of the revenue to be raised in the way hereafter described to the credit of Government, and, after defraying the costs of administration from the other half, to pay the balance to the Rajah until such time as the administration is given back to him. Thus Rupees 19,500 or thereabouts would have to be levied annually on—

1. Cannanore.
2. Minicoy.
3. The other Islands.

*Paragraph 246, Malabar Commissioners' Report, dated 11th October 1793.

†Half profits trade ... ... Rs. 10,000 A. 0 P. 0
Jenm property in Islands 2,400 0 0
Cannanore District 3,837 8 0
Total ... 16,237 8 0

‡Northern Superintendent to Commissioners, dated 16th October 1796.

12. *Cannanore Town and Suburbs.*—As regards Cannanore there can be no difficulty. It appears from the records that Rupees 3,837½, or in round numbers, 3,800 of the jumma was the sum fixed on the mainland possessions. Nothing, therefore, would require to be done or any alterations made if the Rajah would consent to take the district on these terms or on any other that may be found reasonable§ A Sunnud-i-Milkeat Istimirar should be granted to him for this district separately from any agreement that may be entered into with him about the islands. If he will not consent to take this district separately, a paimash could be made without difficulty, and the revenue accruing would be divided into equal portions—one to go to Government, and the other, after deducting collection expenses, to the Rajah.

§ As the Municipal Act is likely to be introduced, and as some of the petty cesses at present levied by the Rajah may be abolished, perhaps it will be necessary to reduce the sum mentioned, Rupees 3,800.

13. *Minicoy Island.*—Minicoy Island has hitherto enjoyed immunity from heavy taxation. It would not be fair to the other islanders to allow this to continue. The reason for it is that the whole of the island is claimed by the Rajah as his own jenm property—a claim seemingly acquiesced in by the islanders themselves. By far the greater portion of the produce of this island was the Rajah's own, and, therefore, there was no necessity to tax the people heavily; besides which the Minicoy people, who are quite a different race, speaking Mahl in place of the Malayalam of the Northern Islanders, are fishermen and sailors rather than husbandmen. If, therefore, a tax is imposed in the way I shall now proceed to discuss, it will fall most heavily in this island on the Rajah's own private property.

14. *Taxation.*—What, therefore, I now propose will be applicable alike to—

Minicoy,
Kalpeni,
Androth,
Kavaratti, and
Agatti.

15. In Mr. MacGregor's report paragraph 29, and in the Government Order* thereon, paragraphs 28 and 29, it is stated that in my report I suggested that the Rajah should impose either a Poll-tax (similar to the one in force in Minicoy) or a Land-tax. I am not aware how the mistake arose, but I beg to point out that no where in my report is the feasibility of a *Land*-tax discussed, nor is such a tax anywhere alluded to in it. Moreover, if my opinion on the subject had been asked, I should have at once said that the imposition of a Land-tax in the Laccadives was not practicable. I made inquiries at the time and discovered that the property of the islanders *in many places* was in the trees and not in the soil, and the hopelessly confused way in which one man's trees are mixed up with those of twenty others would make any attempt at a paimash quite out of the question. This is a state of things which would be the better of being altered, but it is needless at the present time to discuss the question.

* Dated 20th December 1871, No. 405.

16. I recommended a Poll-tax and a large reduction in the Rajah's peishcush, believing that it was the only way then for the Rajah to retrieve his position in the islands. The northern men would have at once appreciated the boon, and would probably have quietly submitted to the Rajah's authority again on seeing him disposed to adopt conciliatory measures. Whether it would have succeeded or not it is needless now to discuss.

17. After full consideration of the question discussed in paragraphs 27 to 36 of the Government Order, I am of opinion that the plan of raising a revenue suggested by Government in paragraph 33 has many objections :—

(1.) It would be easy enough to fix the *proportionate* share of coir to which the Rajah is entitled ; but that being fixed the difficulty would be in dividing that share among the people equally. The production of coir by a family is not uniform ;† it depends very much on the season and a good deal on the number of females that can be employed in manufacturing it. The agents would have to make an annual settlement with each family, and this would open a door to malpractices.

† The quantities imported as per Sea Custom-house returns within the last few years vary from 693 candies in 1866-67 to 1,650 candies in 1868-69.

(2.) As the share of coir has to be paid in kind, there would be continual disputes as to the quality, for, the quality is not uniform. The people would naturally try to make over their worst coir to the agents, and the agents would, if they had the power, select the best quality unless bribed to do otherwise. It would give them opportunities of intermeddling with the people, which it is very desirable they should not have.

18. On the other hand, the scheme proposed by Mr. MacGregor, and alluded to in paragraphs 30, 31, and 32 of the Government Order, viz., an export duty levied in kind on coir, and the produce of the cocoanut, has the great advantage of adapting the amount of revenue raised to the state of the season without unnecessary intermeddling with the people's own affairs. The export rate should not be levied from coir only, else, nearly all the produce of the Rajah's own lands would escape. If levied on coir only, it would be a tax on the industrious portion of the community, while the lazy portion who prefer taking the easier mode of allowing the nuts to ripen, and then exporting them, would escape taxation altogether. The scheme is simple and easily worked ; the agents would have nothing to do with the people in the way of tax collecting, until they brought their produce to the Custom-house to be exported. It would there be classified, if necessary, and every sixth* bale (say) appropriated by the agent, a receipt torn from a printed and numbered cheque-book being given to the exporter, and an entry made in the port-clearance to the effect that all Government dues had been satisfied. The coir and cocoanut produce of the islands should be exempted from the 7½ per centum export duty under Schedule A, Act XIII. of 1871, No. 30.

* At the rate of 16⅔ per centum.

Finally, as regards the legal difficulty, I observe that the Governor-General in Council can "restrict" the importation of any particular kind of produce, and I think this points to a notification under Section 23, Act VI. of 1863, being made *conditional* if necessary. In any case, if there is any doubt on the point, it should be remembered that the Laccadive Island revenue is a special revenue, and a special law would not therefore be objectionable.

19. As to the proportion of produce which should be taken as revenue, I would observe that

† *i.e.*, Rupees 3,800 × 2 = 7,600

‡ Total revenue ... 11,900
Deduct for Cannanore ... 7,600
Balance ... 11,900

assuming Cannanore at Rupees 7,600† (paragraph 12), there remains a balance of Rupees 11,900‡ to be made good. Accordingly that the four Northern Islands produce about 1,300 candies of coir yearly on an average of years. If Government were to take, say, one-sixth of this as its share, it would amount to 216 candies, which at 45 Rupees a candy would give a revenue of something over 9,500 Rupees, leaving the deficiency of 2,400 Rupees to be made good in Minicoy, regarding which there are no reliable returns. I would recommend, therefore, as a *tentative measure*, that the Government share of the island produce be fixed at one-sixth. It could be altered afterwards if necessary. In conclusion, I would submit that, considering the isolated position of these islands, and the few benefits of our rule, that they enjoy one-sixth of their agricultural produce is as large a share as Government is entitled to.

20. *General Administration.*—It remains only to mention what steps should be taken to remedy the disorganization which at present prevails in the island.

Minicoy.—The administration of this island might be handed over to the Rajah at once if its produce could be accurately calculated so as to enable the Government to assess on it a fair share of the Island revenue. It will be as well, however, considering the trouble this island gave in 1856,§ that the Government should show the people the new footing on which they stand by placing the administration of it in the hands of Government officers for some time.

§ Mr. E. C. G. Thomas had to be sent over with some force to quell disturbances in the island whose inhabitants had set at naught the authority of the Government officer sent over to administer it during the time the islands were under attachment for arrears of peishcush.

Kalpeni.—This island is not in a disorganized state ; the chief people and the Kazi still retain authority.

Androth.—The Mukhyasters are rapidly losing authority, but if a Government Agent is sent to the island, or one of themselves appointed agent, matters will be set right.

Kavaratti and Agatti.—These islands are utterly disorganized, and it will be necessary to send some one immediately after the monsoon with the full powers of a Magistrate to take up and try or commit for trial such cases as have occurred.

21. *Proposed Arrangements.*—I would, therefore, recommend that a European Covenanted Officer with first-class magisterial powers be despatched to Kavaratti in October with instructions to bring Kavaratti and Agatti into proper order at once by disposing of the cases that are brought to his notice ; for this purpose he would have also to be invested with the powers of a Subordinate Judge. The District Magistrate should also, I think, as Mr. Spedding recommends, be invested with the powers of an Agent to the Governor in Council.

22. Before leaving Kavaratti and Agatti he should be instructed to appoint in each island an agent (not an inhabitant of the island) on a salary of Rupees 25 to 40 per mensem, with two or three peons to assist him. He should then visit the other islands in order, and appoint in each a similar establishment.

23. *Magisterial.*—It will be unnecessary for me at present to go into the details of what the duties of these island establishments should be. The agents should be on the footing of third-class Magistrates. Appeals would lie from their decisions to an officer annually deputed to visit the islands who would also try cases within his first-class powers. All graver cases would be reserved for disposal by the Magistrate as Agent to the Governor in Council.

Civil Jurisdiction.—The Island Agents should have civil jurisdiction as well as criminal jurisdiction somewhat similar to that of a village Munsif. They would have the assistance of the Mukhyasters as a punchayet with authority to overrule their decision if they thought fit. The agents should be empowered to execute their judgments—

1, in cases whether decided with or without the Mukhyasters' concurrence up to Rupees 50 when no landed title is in dispute ; and

2, in all other cases wherein they agreed with the Mukhyasters.

An appeal should lie from these decisions to the officer annually deputed to visit the islands who should have powers equivalent to those of a Subordinate Judge. The Collector as Agent to the Governor in Council would exercise appellate authority.

Revenue.—The Island Agents would also collect the dues on goods exported in the manner referred to in paragraph 23.

24. An annual report on the administration would be submitted by the officer deputed to visit the islands.

25. I may add that the Rajah is in arrears with his Peishcush at the present time to the extent of Rupees 29,426-2-2.

26. The Rajah's private property in all his possessions would, of course, be managed by his own agents.

From J. B. SPEDDING, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of Malabar, to A. MacGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 27th March 1873, No. 193.

I have the honor to report on my recent visit to the Divi Islands.

2. The *Margaret Northcott* left Mangalore on the 5th of February and finally reached Calicut on the 28th idem. Owing to the short time for which the steamer was available, and to the fact that the greater part of the time was taken up by the inspection of the Government Islands, I had little more than a day on each of the Rajah's Islands. My inquiries were, therefore, of necessity rather hurried; and I avoided as much as possible going into any matters already discussed in former reports, mainly confining myself to ascertaining whether the Rajah and his agents had taken any steps to effect the arrangements suggested in Mr. Logan's report, and in paragraph 33 *et seq.* of the Order of Government, Political Department, dated 20th December 1871, No. 405.

3. I enclose a register of all petitions presented to me on the islands. I may remark in general terms here that the great majority of them relate to disputes between private individuals, and that there are no new complaints of arbitrary conduct on the part of the Rajah's agents. The latter have, in every island, lost almost all power for either good or evil; and the main grievance of the islanders is the utter absence of any administration of justice.

4. I learn from you that the Rajah refused to send any person to represent him at the inquiry. On three of the islands the resident Kariastans were present. On the fourth, Androth, I found the Kariastan was temporarily absent at Cannanore. I am bound to say that the three I saw did not seem disposed to throw any difficulty in my way, but were willing to give any information they could.

5. I shall, for convenience, notice the islands in the order in which Mr. Logan has placed them.

Kalpani.—The population of this island is said to number 1,126, showing an increase of 140 in three years. At this rate the population will soon be as large as it was before the storm. This is the first season the inhabitants have totally ceased to send coir to Cannanore. They told me that this year as usual some boats carried coir thither, but that they were annoyed and assaulted because all the coir was not brought. So they landed only so much of their cargoes as consisted of coir, the produce of Pandarom land, and carried away their own to Calicut.

6. No petitions were presented in this island, and the people generally seemed satisfied with the way in which the Mukhyasters, with the assistance of the Kazi, settle such petty disputes as may arise. The Kazi, however, complained that he has to some extent lost the respect of the islanders, because when he went to Cannanore this season he was insulted by the Pandarom people, as stated in last paragraph.

7. No attempt whatever has been made to settle the very numerous boundary disputes noticed by Mr. Logan in paragraphs 8, 9, and 78, clause 11 of his report, nor have the other grievances been alleviated. Other complaints were that they are not paid a sufficient freight for the conveyance of the Pandarom Coir to Cannanore. They said they got only Rupees 2½ per boat which is no recompense at all; they would not carry this coir, only that they are threatened if they refuse. The

local Kariastan said he knew nothing about this, as payment should be made at Cannanore. They used formerly to receive six bundles of coir per centum, and presents of rice besides, for this service. The Androth boats are thus paid.

8. All the people professed to be anxious that their island should be assumed by Government and managed on the same system with the Canara Islands. They are unwilling to go back to the Rajah on any terms and at any prices, alleging, as reason, their fear of the thefts, robbery, extortion, and other vexations they had to put up with. They say they do not make more by selling in the open market than the Canara Islanders do under the Government monopoly, now that they have to pay an import duty of 7½ per centum in the Malabar Ports (this duty, I am informed, has not yet been imposed on produce from the Rajah's Islands imported into Mangalore). From inquiries I have made I am of opinion that they do make more in the open market, but the universal desire to be assumed by the Government is due to the uncertainty in which the islanders are as to the intentions of Government. They believe that, if Government do not assume the islands, the only other alternative is that Government will assist the Rajah to enforce the monopoly.

9. A very serious calamity threatens this island in the shape of a disease fatal to the cocoanut tree. It is conjectured that a fourth of the trees on the island have already been attacked, and most of these have already perished. I had not time to go over the whole of the island, but I think the number is somewhat exaggerated. The disease is still spreading. It is said to be caused by a small white maggot in the top of the tree; but I am not by any means sure this is not an effect of disease rather than its cause. The same disease has destroyed 2,000 or 3,000 trees at Androth in the last two or three years. They say it appeared once before eight or nine years ago in Kalpani, but destroyed only a few trees at that time.

10. *Androth.*—The population of this island is said to be now 3,000 or rather more, so that it has more than recovered in this respect from the effects of the storm.

11. There were not many petitions received here. They are chiefly to the effect that there is no justice done in case of disputes. The Mukhyasters are clearly losing the influence they formerly had and exercised to the benefit of the community. It is worthy of note that several of the petitions are against the Mukhyasters or their relations. They themselves made no secret of their loss of power, but openly said, in reply to questions as to why they did not interfere, that the Kudians will not come when sent for and will not acknowledge the Mukhyasters' awards. The only remedy they could suggest was that the Government should send a man with authority. They, as indeed the other classes, are anxious that the island should be taken in hand by Government and worked on the monopoly system. I observed here, as on the other islands, that the people have no objection to a monopoly as such, but only to the grasping and annoying manner in which it was worked. In fact, to the islanders it seems the most natural and obvious arrangement, and should the islanders ever come under Government management again, this is, in my opinion, the way in which they should be worked.

12. All parties agreed that they make less by their present sales in the open market than the Canara Islanders make under the Government monopoly. The boatowners say they are at the mercy of the Kudians as to both the quantity and the quality of their coir. The Kudians, on the other hand, assert that they are cheated by the boatowners in the price of the coir they sell for them on the coast. This is an interminable source of dispute on all the islands, and would be entirely removed by a Government monopoly.

13. It is to be feared that, if early steps are not taken to establish some authority in the island, the hopeful prospect of the future of Androth, pictured by Mr. Logan, will not be realized, but it will probably be reduced to the state of anarchy in which Agatti and Kavaratti already are.

14. *Kavaratti.*—The population of Kavaratti is now 1,996, which shows an increase of 212 since Mr. Logan's visit, so that the ravages caused by the cholera of 1039 have almost been repaired.

15. This island was described three years ago as being nearly in a state of anarchy. Its condition is now much worse in this respect. A glance at the register of petitions received here will

show that there is an entire absence of any attempt at a settlement of dispute which has resulted in a state of affairs in which the stronger does what he pleases on the most frivolous pretext.

16. A lamentable feature in the petitions is that a large number of them are against the Karnavers, who had, at least in other islands, until recently, exercised considerable influence for good. The conclusion was forced upon me here that these men, so far from attempting to preserve order, have made use of any influence and prestige they had simply to aggrandize themselves and their relatives. On no other grounds can I explain the number of complaints there are against them. The register does not contain a fraction of the complaints that were made here orally; but I was unable to stay here more than one day, as the anchorage was bad, the weather unsettled, and the Captain was anxious to get to sea. Hence the petitions received may be looked upon as merely a sample of what would have been received had I stayed longer.

17. Another point to be noticed is the number of complaints regarding succession. It would appear that the strongest or the most unscrupulous member of a family seizes on the whole estate on grounds so frivolous that it would not occur to any person to put them forward if there were any sort of authority capable of deciding the claims.

18. Petition No. 1 was received by you at Calicut and referred for inquiry. I made all the inquiries I had time for on the subject. The petitioner had no proof whatever of his assertions. He could give no reason for his suspicion that his brother was poisoned except that he died suddenly. One person named by the petitioner as present when the money (20,000 Rupees, petitioner says) was carried off, said he knew nothing about it. There were some hundreds of people present at the inquiry, but no one would admit that he knew anything of the matter. Petitioner said about fifty persons had shared in the spoil. One thing would probably induce people to refrain from giving evidence in support of the complaint, if true. Two of the accused persons are two of the four Karnavers. It appears that the petitioner has for years past been preferring charges against these and other persons. Several of the petitions noted in the register are against him.

19. The question noticed by Mr. Logan in paragraph 18 has not been settled in any way. But as far as I could learn the Kudians do not now acknowledge any obligation of service or of exporting their produce in any particular boat.

20. *Agatti.*—The present population of Agatti is 1,030, which shows a falling off of 293 since Mr. Logan's visit. As there has been no unusual visitation of disease, I was suspicious of the correctness of this, and had the computation gone over again. There is no reason to doubt the correctness of the figures. It is impossible to account for the diminution.

21. The chief complaint here as at Kavaratti was that there is no justice to be had. The large number of petitions received here are of the same nature as those received in that island, and a considerable portion of them are directed against some of the Mukhyasters. One of these, Seeyamad, who was Adigari of the island when it was under Government management, must be an awful old villain if half the allegations against him are true.

22. In both the last-named islands there was a universal belief left after Mr. Logan's visit, that in a few months a Government officer would be sent out with authority to dispose of all complaints. When they heard of my approach they concluded that the time had at last come. Extensive preparations were made for our reception in the way of pandals, &c. At Agatti nearly all the coast-going boats were ready loaded for their last voyage, but put off their departure for two or three weeks to await our arrival.

23. Probably this expectation of Government interference has, by creating unwillingness to submit grievances and disputes to arbitration or the advice of Kazis, tended to increase the number of pending complaints. However this may be, the assumption of the islands by Government, and the appointment of some one from the coast with authority to administer justice, is looked forward to with the greatest eagerness by all classes from the highest to the lowest.

24. There are some grievances common to all the islands. One is that noticed in paragraph 12, the complaint that the boatowners cheat the lower castes in the sale of their produce. This

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17th February 1875.

charge is universal. The Kudians do not acknowledge obligation of service or the right which the Karnavers claim to export the produce of their tenants in their own boats. The Karnavers in consequence take every opportunity they can of overreaching the tenants. Hence a state of mutual distrust and suspicion which gives rise to endless recriminations.

25. Other evils everywhere lamented are physical, but aggravated by the lack of a governing power. The rats are increasing at a tremendous rate. Formerly they used to be kept down by periodical hunts organized by the headmen, which is after all, the only effectual way of dealing with these mischievous vermin. Now there is never a rat hunt as there is no one to "give the order." I got up a hunt at Agatti one morning and great numbers were killed.

26. Again, the mischief done by cattle especially goats is immense. I saw hundreds of young cocoanut trees destroyed by them. Under the old regime the owner of the animal would have been obliged to replace the plant and pay a fine besides. Now nothing is done; consequently within the last two or three years the lower castes who have little or no land or trees have imported goats in great numbers. This is such a serious evil that I believe an order to kill or deport all goats would be most welcome.

27. It is abundantly evident that the Rajah has entirely failed, if indeed he ever attempted, to carry out the conciliatory measures suggested by the Government in their last order. The islanders universally object to go back to their allegiance on any terms. Owing to a want of any recognised authority two of the islands are in a state of complete anarchy. It speaks volumes for the innate mildness of the people's temperament that as yet personal violence is rare even in Agatti and Kavaratti. But there is no time to be lost in taking measures for the restoration of order in these two islands.

28. I suppose I shall be expected to make some suggestion as to what should be done. The most obvious as well as the most desirable plan would be to restore and support the authority of the headmen of the islands. But it is now too late, and things have gone too far for this. The Mukhyasters themselves do not wish it. The only way will be to send a man from the coast with the necessary powers; if two men with proper qualification could be found, I would send one to each of the islands of Agatti and Kavaratti until the present crop of disputes be settled. It is too late, of course, to do anything this season, but no time should be lost after the monsoon.

29. The persons sent ought to have the powers of a third-class Magistrate and the civil powers of a District Munsiff. I would recommend the passing of an Act giving the Collector the same powers in the islands as Agent to the Governor as are possessed by the Collectors of Ganjam and Vizagapatam in the non-regulation parts of those districts. As order is restored, the Mukhyasters might perhaps be gradually entrusted with authority; they would be employed as punchayets to assist the Government officers as under the Agency Rules in Ganjam in disputes of a civil nature. After a year or so, one Government officer would perhaps be sufficient to have charge of all the islands.

30. In Kalpani and Androth the Mukhyasters may be entrusted with powers to settle disputes in which they are not personally concerned.

31. As I think I may assume that the islands will at no distant date come under Government management, I would here record my conviction that the only way to work them satisfactorily is the monopoly system. The people would view any innovation with suspicion. The objection to a settlement of the nature suggested in paragraph 33 of the Government Order referred to, viz., a fixed share of the estimated produce, is that the produce varies very considerably in different years. The monopoly in the Canara Islands has long worked fairly. Should the Southern Islands be assumed, perhaps it would be as well that they should be managed from Mangalore, where the system is understood. A strong argument in favor of the monopoly is that it is almost the only certain way to put a stop to the dispute about prices noted in paragraph 24. The experiment might be tried of allowing persons desirous of selling in the open market to do so on payment of a moderate export duty.

REGISTER of Petitions received from the Divi Islands.

Number.	Name of the Islands.	Name of Petitioners.	Date of Receipt.	Substance of Petitions.	Remarks by the Acting Sub-Collector.
			1873.		
1	Androth ...	Mukari Koya	7th February ...	Rajah ordered his paramba to be restored to him. The property made over to petitioner's mother. A third person* in possession and not ousted in pursuance of Rajah's order.	* Kunhi Pocker.
2	Do. ...	Cheria Karnaven Ummad ...	7th ,, ...	The paramba that came in possession of the petitioner by apportionment had been disputed by Parembil Veeran Kutti and others, which dispute was decided in favor of petitioner, but the defendant still committing trespass and mischief.	An old dispute.
3	Do. ...	Poker Kadiamoth Koya Kutti.	27th ,, ...	Bought a boat for Rupees 35 from T. Karim. The latter now claims Rs. 40, and will not let petitioner work the boat.	
4	Do. ...	Bee-uma Kunji	27th ,, ...	Defendant misappropriated certain property given to petitioner by his father. Applied to Mukhyasters and got no redress. The Mukhyasters say that the Kudians will not obey them.	A dispute about inheritance.
5 (verbal).	Do. ...	Nilat Ashamma	27th ,, ...	The Karnavers sent people and cut all her trees and carried away all her property which had been placed in her possession, and a boundary marked by Mr. Robinson. She says the reason is that she has no male relations. Attempted to go to Calicut, but the Karnavers drove her from the beach.	The Mukhyasters deny all knowledge of this.
6 (verbal).	Do. ...	H. Musa Poker	27th ,, ...	Two years ago during petitioner's absence at Cannanore, K. Sheik Koya† seized a tree, petitioner's property.	He denies the act. † One of the Mukhyasters.
7 (verbal).	Do. ...	A. Ibram Koya	27th ,, ...	Sent four bundles coir, 400 cocoanuts, and two bundles jaggery in Hydross boat;* received from him only 56 seers of rice, instead of Rs 8-8-0. No redress.	* Complaints of this sort were rife.
8	Do. ...	Bukari Koya...	27th ,, ...	In 1042, a relation of one of the Mukhyasters seized his property. Case settled by Rajah in petitioner's favor. Order not yet executed.	Absent during Mr. Logan's visit. The Mukhyasters say the order was not executed, because the property did not belong to petitioner.
			1873.		
1	Agatti ...	Kunhamad Haji Malumi ...	20th February ...	His cousin forcibly seized his property without cause. Complained to Mukhyasters. No redress. Rajah's Kariastan said he had no power.	A dispute about inheritance.
2	Do. ...	Vakil on behalf of Kunhi Kapla Adiyan.	20th ,, ...	Niece's father's property seized by his sister's sons on the alleged ground that it belongs to them. Got a decision from Kazi at Calicut. Defendant would not agree to it. No redress from Mukhyasters.	Do. do.
3	Do. ...	Kuteeshayuda Avoker	20th ,, ...	Counter-petition to the above.	Do. do.
4	Do. ...	Ambra Pullil Mamad and three others.	20th ,, ...	Certain persons prevented their making coir and broke down their house. No redress.	This appears to have been done by the jenmi in consequence of his consent not being obtained.
5	Do. ...	Challil Moosana Kakada Kuhamad Haji.	20th ,, ...	Defendant claiming to be jenmi usurped land and trees left him by his father a year and two months ago. Complained to Mukhyasters. No redress.	Defendant is himself one of the Mukhyasters. A dispute as to the custom of inheritance is prevailing.
6	Do. ...	Casmy Malmi	20th ,, ...	Defendant borrowed gold jewelry and did not return it.	
7	Do. ...	Raymad Kadian	20th ,, ...	Defendant twenty years ago appropriated certain jewels and trees. Amin ordered restoration to petitioner's mother. Jewels restored. Not trees.	Absent during Mr. Logan's visit.
8	Do. ...	Maki Kullthil Avokar	20th ,, ...	Misappropriation of trees which should properly be tarwaad property. No redress from Mukhyasters.	
9	Do. ...	Mako Amad Casmy	20th ,, ...	Petitioner's father's brother's property usurped by defendants on the ground that it was given them. Mukhyasters would not interfere.	A civil dispute.

Number	Name of the Islands.	Name of Petitioners.	Date of Receipt.	Substance of Petitions.	Remarks by the Acting Sub-Collector
			1873.		
10	Agatti ...	Kunnumel Kunhamad and another.	20th February ...	Defendant usurped fifteen years ago petitioner's father's property on the ground that he is the jenmi. Mukhyasters would not interfere. Defendant is himself one of them. Says he inherited the property from his own brother.	
11	Do. ...	Patinryuda Seeyamed Camal..	20th ,, ...	Rupees 116 due to petitioner from defendant. Panchayet decided in petitioner's favor. Defendant will not pay. Nobody to enforce decision.	Petitioner one of the Mukhyasters.
12	Do ...	Buyakuttiyuda Esuff	20th ,, ...	Twenty years ago defendant, one of the Mukhyasters, usurped certain of his trees and lands.	Absent during Mr Logan's visit.
13	Do. ...	Kotayil Kamal	20th ,, ...	Defendant misappropriated certain property left to petitioner by his mother's sister's son. Kazi decided in petitioner's favor. Defendant will not agree. Mukhyasters will not interfere.	
14	Do. ...	Ummaya	20th ,, ...	Husband's sister's son usurped his property on the ground that they are entitled to it. Mukhyasters will not interfere. A decision in petitioner's favor was obtained from Ponany Kazi.	
15	Do. ...	Pocker Mali	20th ,, ...	A counterpart petition to No. 13.	
16	Do. ...	Attacharayil Baduven	21st ,, ...	His relations usurped all his property during his absence. No redress.	
17	Do. ...	Shiniadayil Beeran Kutti ...	21st ,, ...	Defendant trespassed on his land and carried away cocoanuts, &c., forcibly without any claim.	
18	Do. ...	Edachary Kudiyapudigayil Ermullan	21st ,, ...	Misappropriation. Collector in 1861 ordered Amin to settle the matter, but nothing yet done.	
19	Do. ...	Kamal Malmiyuda Kasmy ...	21st ,, ...	Counterpart petition to No. 11.	
20	Do. ...	Pusinda Abdul Assess Haji...	21st ,, ...	Defendant Seeyamad usurped all the property of petitioner's family. Defendant says he knows nothing about it.	Defendant is one of the Mukhyasters.
21	Do. ...	Patamadathil Avoker	21st ,, ...	Petitioner's sister's daughter's husband died. Her lawful share in his property not made over although Kazis at Calicut and Ponany gave decision in his favor.	
22	Do. ...	Patimodayil Seeyamed Koya..	21st ,, ...	Petitioner's sister's husband died, and defendant took the property. Defendant, one of the Mukhyasters, says he made over the property to deceased's mother, and it will revert to his widow after her death. He admits the mother has since died, and he has not made over to widow. Says it is a case for the Kazi, &c.	There are several complaints against this Mukhyaster Seeyamed. He was employed as Adigari, when the islands were under Government management.
23	Do. ...	Thekotathil Avoker Koya ...	21st ,, ...	Seeyamed usurped petitioner's father's property.	Another.
24	Do. ...	Mukhyasters...	21st ,, ...	Assert that the statements of the Malacheries that they have now no complaints against Mukhyasters, with regard to the export of their produce, are untrue. The Mukhyasters sell the Kudians coir for inferior prices to those they get for their own.	See paragraph 37 of Mr. Logan's Report. The Malacheries stated that they had no complaints of this sort. This petition is signed by nearly all the Malacheries. They have no boats of their own.
25	Do. ...	Thodadayil Baduvethi	21st ,, ...	Her Karnaver's son appropriated all the tarwaad property, alleging that his father gave it to him. No redress.	
26	Do. ...	Makur Madayil Fatuma ...	21st ,, ...	Defendant misappropriated certain property acquired by his Karnaven, deceased.	
Verbal.	Do. ...	Avoker and others	21st ,, ...	The four Mukhyasters who hold the small islands will not allow them to fish there.	

Numbers of other complaints were made verbally about trespass, mischief caused by cattle especially goats. The latter are really a most serious evil. Under the old regime the owner of the offending animal was obliged to replace the plants destroyed, and was fined besides. Now nothing is done, consequently within the last two or three years the lower castes who have little or no land have imported numbers of goats which do an incredible amount of mischief to the young cocoanut plants.

Register of Petitions, &c.—(*Continued.*)

Number.	Name of the Islands.	Name of Petitioners.	Date of Receipt.	Substance of Petitions.	Remarks by the Acting Sub-Collector.
			1873.		
1	Kavaratti ...	K. Pakrudin Musaliyar ...	23rd February	Petitioner's brother died last December. After his death defendants, two of whom are two of the four Karnavers, expelled petitioner from the house and carried away all the property including 20,000 Rupees.	Petition presented to Magistrate of District and referred for inquiry. No proof whatever forthcoming owing to position of defendants and the number of shares in the spoil. Nothing done by Kariastan on complaint.
2	Do. ...	P. Kunhi Koya	23rd ,, ...	That defendant (petitioner in No. 1) takes all the produce, and will not pay his dues to petitioner.	Petitioner is one of the four Karnavers, and accused in No. 1.
3	Do. ...	A. Rahumullan Uma	23rd ,, ...	Defendant (one of the four Karnavers) expelled her from her house and seized her property.	
4	Do. ...	Kodathil Esuff	23rd ,, ...	Defendant seized all his property. No redress.	Defendant is petitioner in No. 1.
5	Do. ...	Mokari Palli Kunhi Poker ...	23rd ,, ...	Eight defendants severely beat petitioner, an aged man, because he attempted to prevent their planting in his land.	
6	Do. ...	Kadiapada Saliman and others.	23rd ,, ...	Sheik Koya (Karnaven) seized all petitioner's property.	
7	Do. ...	Pootholathil Casmi	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner's son's wife with all her jewels was taken by another man.	
8	Do. ...	Kariakaren Mamed	23rd ,, ...	Defendants pulled up all petitioner's cocoanut plants and beat him.	Counter-petition to No. 5.
9	Do. ...	Representative of all the caste on the island.	23rd ,, ...	Requesting that the island be taken by Government on the system obtaining in the Amendivi Islands.	
10	Do. ...	Kunem Palli Ashoma Bibi ...	23rd ,, ...	Refusal to maintain a wife.	
11	Do. ...	Umer Manoda Assancer, &c...	23rd ,, ...	A tomb at which ceremonies used to be performed by petitioners forcibly enclosed and cultivated by defendant P. Kunhi Koya.	Defendant is one of the four Karnavers.
12	Do. ...	Do. do. ...	23rd ,, ...	Defendants still hold land of petitioners, but refuse to perform the services, boating, &c., on condition of which the land is held.	
13	Do. ...	Umma Umma	23rd ,, ...	Defendant misappropriated her property without any cause.	
14	Do. ...	Edakana Parakel Bappen Haji.	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner's wife died ten years ago, and the Rajah's Kariastan gave over some of his own acquired property to his wife's family.	Absent at the time of Mr. Logan's visit.
15	Do. ...	Kunhi Parayil Ibram Kutti...	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner's deceased father's property which should come to him misappropriated by his father's niece.	A dispute about inheritance.
16	Do. ...	Kasalabee Athika...	23rd ,, ...	His niece's (deceased) property was divided before Kazi. His share not yet made over to petitioner.	Kazi says he offered petitioner his share, but he refused saying it is not enough. Kazi produced the property—a lot of jewels.
17	Do. ...	Thithipurayil Ismal	23rd ,, ...	Defendant broke open her house and took away more than Rs. 150 Complained to Rajah's Kariastan and Karnavers. No redress.	
18	Do. ...	Kutaya Paveayil Mukary ...	23rd ,, ...	Defendant, a relation of said Ismail Koya, one of the Karnavers, seized petitioner's property.	
19	Do. ...	Poker and others	23rd ,, ...	Petitioners' father's Anandaraven seized on his property after his death. The family is Makatayom.	A dispute about succession.
20	Do. ...	Kurichapandiyal Adian ...	23rd ,, ...	Defendant forcibly seized petitioner's house and property three years ago.	Absent when Mr. Logan visited the island. Defendant is a relative of one of the Karnavers. He says he rented the house to petitioner.
21	Do. ...	Kasmi Koya	23rd ,, ...	About five years ago Rajah's Kariastan seized his trees. The present Kariastan says the property was sold by another man and purchased on behalf of the Rajah.	Absent during Mr. Logan's visit.
22	Do. ...	Vathiyalata Kunjachi	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner's niece's property was seized by defendant, a nephew of one of the Karnavers. Defendant says he married and divorced the woman, but did not take any property.	
23	Do. ...	Kurhadathil Ashy Mukry ...	23rd ,, ...	His father's brother forcibly put him out of his house and seized his property.	
24	Do. ...	Chethparayil Poker	23rd ,, ...	Defendant seized petitioner's property without cause.	

Number.	Name of the Islands.	Name of Petitioners.	Date of Receipt.	Substance of Petitions.	Remarks by the Acting Sub-Collector.
			187C.		
25	Kavaratti ...	Paki Umma and others ...	23rd February ...	Defendant seized her deceased father's property. He says the deceased was his Karnaven, and he is entitled to it.	This is a very common ground of dispute and of false claims.
26	Do. ...	Kootikal Avu Umma	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner's father's property taken by father's brother. He says he kept the property, but they did not ask for it.	
27	Do. ...	Avoo	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner's cousin died. A share of his property should come to petitioner.. Kazi retains the property.	See No. 16. Another claim to a share in the same estate.
28	Do. ...	Kapadathil Pathuma	23rd ,, ...	Property acquired by petitioner's father seized by her Karnaven.	A dispute about succession.
29	Do. ...	Oodipurayil Ahmed	23rd ,, ...	Defendant seized petitioner's father's property.	,, ,, inheritance.
30	Do. ...	Parakatil Ahmed Hajiyar Koya.	23rd ,, ...	Petitioner has two coast-going boats. His Kudians will not perform their duties on board there.	See Mr. Logan's report, paragraph 18, latter part.
31	Do. ...	Ayithodiyil Haji Umar ...	23rd ,, ...	Defendant seized her tarwaad property. ...	A dispute about inheritance.
32	Do. ...	Abusal Koya, &c....	23rd ,, ...	Defendant owes him 8 Rs., which he refuses to pay.	
33	Do. ...	Kallayil Adiyan	23rd ,, ...	Defendant seized upon petitioner's property.	
34	Do. ...	Kaniakadi Koya Cooty ...	23rd ,, ...	His wife died, and her relations misappropriated her property.	
35	Do. ...	Kasali Malmi	23rd ,, ...	Stating that one Poliproth Abubuker broke into his Charikal house at the night of Kani last, and defiled the girl who lived there.	
36	Do. ...	Alinakatil Daya Musaliar ...	23rd ,, ...	His elder brother misappropriated the property belonging to his children.	
37	Do. ...	Arnakal Said Ismal Koya ...	23rd ,, ...	Stated that 10 Sovereigns were stolen from his House. Suspected some persons whose names he mentioned to the Kariastan of the Rajah. Obtained no orders on the subject.	
38	Do. ...	Seyd Ismal Koya on behalf of Thacharakal Beyathu and others.	23rd ,, ...	States that the landed property belonging to her, &c., was misappropriated by the Kudians, who managed it before her Karnaven's death.	

TELLICHERRY,
27*th March* 1873.

(Signed) J. B. SPEDDING,
Acting Sub-Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
17th February 1875.

Nos. 61—63.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1875, No. 107.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India :—

[Here enter No. 108, dated 17th February 1875.]

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

True copies
D. F. Carmichael
Actg. Chief Secretary.

To
The Revenue Department.
with Minutes of the Members of Govt—
Precis— Letter to Govt: of India No 108.
and copy of telegram to Collector Malabar.

Exd. J. Wright.

№ 691

Revenue Department

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

POLITICAL.

Dated February, 17th.

Read. —a— 24.

G.O., 17th February 1875, No. 107.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 55—65

G.O. 26 July 1875 № 400.

A communication ordered to be despatched to the Government of India regarding the Laccadive Islands.

№ 400

RECORDED.

26 July 1875