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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2045 Press/Mis.

Dated 2-9- 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 3. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th April 1867, No. 2,204.

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 31st May 1866, No. 89 :—

From Board, 24th June 1863, No. 3,831.
To ,, 4th July ,, ,, 117.
Procs. of the Board of Rev., 14th July 1863.
G. O. thereon, 24th July 1863, No. 1,380, R. D.
From Board, 27th July ,, ,, 4,653.
To ,, 18th Aug. ,, ,, 169.
To ,, 18th ,, ,, ,, 161.
Board's Procs., 23rd Oct. ,, ,, 6,812a.
Procs. of the Madras Govt., 14th Dec. 1863, No. 2,231, Revenue Department.
To Board, 21st November 1865, No. 191.
From ,, 11th December ,, ,, 7,916.

* Enclosure II.

1. With advertence to the correspondence marginally noted, I have now the honor to forward the report* of Mr. Sewell, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, of the results of his visit to the Laccadive Islands attached to this district, in December 1865 and January 1866.

2. Mr. Sewell's visit, I may observe, was somewhat a hurried one, but this was altogether unavoidable, for at the time Mr. Sewell left Mr. Webster was on the eve of obtaining a medical certificate to Europe, and the number of examinations (including Mr. Sewell's own) to be held in February rendered it necessary that Mr. Sewell should return to Mangalore by the end of January. Under these circumstances I hope the Board will concur with me in thinking that the report of Mr. Sewell does him credit, and that though his visit was necessarily brief, it has on the whole been satisfactory, and at all events shews that the condition of these islanders has not retrograded since the islands were last visited by Mr. W. Robinson.

† Enclosure I.

3. A copy of my letter† of instructions to Mr. Sewell is herewith forwarded for the information of the Board, and I will now proceed to offer a few remarks on such points in this report as seem to call for observation.

Paragraph 6.

4. Mr. Sewell remarks that serious offences on the islands are rare ; that murders are almost unknown, not one having occurred since the visit of Mr. Robinson. I am, however, inclined to think that this statement is open to question ; Mr. Sewell's opportunities of observation were necessarily but limited, and looking to the character of the islanders (especially those belonging to the adjoining islands of the Beebees) have obtained as being wholesale plunderers, and their independence and virtual freedom from all regular control, I question whether deeds of violence are not more common than is supposed. Of late years, the difference of manner in the islanders is very remarkable ; in former years they were timid and backward to a degree and shrank from observation ; now they exhibit a spirit of boldness and independence, and are fully aware and keenly tenacious of what they conceive to be their rights.

Paragraphs 6 and 7.

5. Mr. Sewell in describing the duties of the Monigar remarks that he exercises the power of a Police Ameen under Section 40, Regulation XI of 1816, and that the administration of justice, as at present carried out, seems to give satisfaction. From information which has, however, since reached me, and especially, from what has transpired since the Monigar himself returned from the islands,

I am inclined to think that virtually he possesses very little authority, and that the islanders have altogether outgrown the state of simplicity and pupilage in which they were formerly; the appointment of a Sub-Monigar, which took place on the 1st May 1865, and who has not been on good terms with the Monigar, has, I think, also tended to weaken the authority of the latter, and when, as will be seen from another* part of Mr. Sewell's report, the islanders have gone the length of resorting to our Civil Courts on the main land, I think the time has come when some change must be made in the position which the chief officer on the islands holds. It is almost unnecessary for me to remark that the law under which the Monigar now exercises his Police powers, is altogether obsolete, that Regulation having been rescinded by Act XVII of 1862. I propose, however, alluding to this subject more particularly in a future paragraph of this Report.

* Paragraph 22.

Paragraph 11.

6. The improvement in the general condition of the people is very satisfactory, and is no doubt to be attributed to the increased facilities of communication with the main land, and to the almost unlimited market which would seem to exist for the products of the cocoanut, especially for the copra for making oil. The islanders would, however, seem to be still as dependent as ever on extraneous sources for their supplies of food, and especially on those furnished annually by Government, and the Board will remember that even so lately as the year 1863 (as also previously in 1851) a famine on the islands was only averted by the prompt despatch of steamers from Bombay with supplies. Such events ought not to occur if the Government servants on the islands take ordinary precautions in despatching the coir in proper time; this was a point which I expressly requested Mr. Sewell to urge as much as possible, and I am glad to say with success, the majority of the boats having arrived this season within the month of March, and all having returned to the islands by the 24th April.

Paragraph 12.

7. The general census of the district will take place next Fusly, and, as recommended by Mr. Sewell, arrangements will be made for having the census of the islands taken simultaneously.

Paragraph 13.

8. It will be seen that the islands only suffer periodically from outbreaks of cholera and small-pox, and not annually, as is generally the case on the main land; these outbreaks, particularly of cholera, when they do occur, are however very severe, and from the figures given by Mr. Sewell, it will be seen, that nearly thirteen per cent. of the whole population of the islands belonging to this district were swept away by that disease in one year, 1863. I would strongly urge that supplies of cholera medicines should be furnished to the Monigar as recommended by Mr. Sewell, and I am also about to apply to the Superintendent General of Vaccination for the services of a vaccinator to proceed to the islands as soon as the monsoon is over.

Paragraph 14.

9. The number of wrecks which are known to have taken place is not so great as I anticipated, and it is a somewhat singular fact that they should all have

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd September 1867.

taken place during the fine season. The islands and reefs are, it is believed, very carefully laid down on the charts, and with ordinary care ships ought to be able to keep well clear of them.

Paragraph 16.

10. I had hoped to have been able to submit with this report a statement of the exports and the imports of the islands, and indeed this alone has delayed its transmission. After much labor and trouble the returns on the spot were found to be very defective, and the Monigar and servants of the islands having returned almost immediately after Mr. Sewell's report was received, it has been impossible now to complete them. Besides the produce imported in this district, large quantities of nuts and copra are imported at Honore, and also in Malabar and at Goa. Before another year I shall hope to make arrangements for having these accounts kept regularly in future.

Paragraph 18.

11. Cultivation seems to be rather on the decrease, and there can, I conceive, be but little doubt that the easy terms on which the islanders obtain their supplies of rice, together with the very high prices which they obtain for their nuts and copra, have a tendency to discourage cultivation. The habits of the islanders are such that not much exertion can be expected from them in the way of increased cultivation, and I conceive that, under the present monopoly coir system, they will continue to direct their efforts to extending their cocoanut plantations more than in the way of raising locally a supply of food.

Paragraph 19.
Cultivation of the Cocoanut.

12. It will be seen that, notwithstanding the severe check to the population, which was experienced in all of the islands by the outbreak of cholera in 1863, the number of cocoanut trees has been steadily on the increase: this is shewn in the subjoined Statement:—

Years.	Population.	Productive trees.	Coir brought to Mangalore.
	No.	No.	Candies.
1844...	3,609	69,254	623
1847...	3,496	78,118	497
1858...	3,880	78,512	646
1861...	4,085	82,782	739
1866...	3,551	87,817	734

Paragraph 20.

13. In this paragraph, Mr. Sewell gives his reasons for thinking that much illicit traffic does not take place, and so far as the Coir monopoly goes, I think his reasons are sound. There can, however, be no question but that the islanders have, during the past year, derived very large profits from the sale of articles taken by them from the wreck of the "Lord Brougham," and particularly by the sale of the copper and other metals which formed a large part of the cargo of that unfortunate vessel.

Paragraph 21.

14. There seems to be no desire for anything in the shape of education at present, and any movement would, I think, therefore now be premature,

15. The following Statement exhibits the population of each island, the number of cocoanut trees on each, number of cattle and boats, in the years specified below :—

Islands.	Years.	Population.	Cocoanut trees (total)	Cattle.	Large boats	Small boats
Aminy	1844 ...	2,315	64,172	167	18	115
	1847 ...	2,044	75,511	202	19	115
	1858 ...	2,348	79,974	160	26	130
	1861 ...	2,519	94,491	234	21	129
	1866 ...	2,123	96,636	203	23	137
Kadamat	1844 ...	133	3,319	...	No Koondries or large boats; but now 12 small boats and 3 moderate-sized ones.	
	1847 ...	167	10,140	...		
	1858 ...	193	9,022	...		
	1861 ...	217	10,417	...		
	1866 ...	179	12,704	...		
Kiltan	1844 ...	639	29,297	69	12	84
	1847 ...	716	31,184	19	12	93
	1858 ...	758	43,663	3	11	82
	1861 ...	750	44,992	15	24	75
	1866 ...	692	53,500	69	26	74
Chetlat	1844 ...	522	25,665	47	8	89
	1847 ...	569	26,124	31	8	100
	1858 ...	579	29,836	5	8	108
	1861 ...	599	32,721	11	7	101
	1866 ...	557	32,418	53	6	92

Coir monopoly.

16. Mr. Morris having, in his letter of the 18th August 1863, submitted a full report of the working of the Coir monopoly up to date, I did not consider it necessary to require any report on the subject from Mr. Sewell. I beg, however, to submit the statements forwarded by that gentleman with the further particulars up to the present date, being the results of the monopoly for the three past Fuslies, including the present, and the transactions for which as regards coir are altogether closed.

Enclosure III.

17. From Statement No. 1, it will be seen, that the amount of coir imported during the last twenty years has been 13,011 candies, giving an average of about 650 candies yearly; the average for the past three years is, however, 740 candies, and if a European officer is sent over annually and in good time to urge on the preparation of the fibres, there is, I think, no reason why there should not be a very considerable increase in the quantity imported. I have reason to believe that the quality of this coir is so superior and so much in demand, that a much larger quantity could be sold without almost any diminution in the price.

Enclosure IV.

18. Statement No. 2 shews the annual quantity of rice given to the islanders for the past twenty years, the value thereof at Rupees 2 per moorah, and the prices at which it was purchased by Government. From this, it will be seen, that latterly the loss to Government in this item has been very considerable, nor indeed with present prices is it at all likely that the exchange will ever again be in

favor of Government. The prices paid last year were, however, exceptionally high, and by timely arrangements in making purchases when the bulk of the harvest is brought to market, some saving can be effected. This has been done this year, and the Board will observe that the prices paid have been more moderate. It is, however, but right I should add that the price of rice this season has been throughout less than it was last year.

Enclosure V.

19. Statement No. 3, likewise, gives the same particulars as those given at paragraph 15 of Mr. Morris's letter,* but completed up to date. The sales, it will be seen this year, are large, but this is to be attributed to the larger quantity sold, and also to the requirements of the Bengal Government having been supplied from the coir imported this season. The stock on hand is, therefore, smaller than usual, and there will be corresponding decrease in the receipts of next year.

* 18th August 1863.

20. Statement No. 4 is, likewise, the same as that submitted with Mr. Morris's second letter of the same date, but somewhat re-cast; it shews the entire transactions of the Coir monopoly from Fuslies 1258 to 1275 inclusive, a period of eighteen years. From this, it will be seen, that in eighteen years the net revenue has been Rupees 1,75,646-1-3; that in three of these, there having been a loss of Rupees 8,751-12-0, the actual revenue, therefore, realized has been 1,66,894, and which gives an average revenue of Rupees 9,271 for each year. From this, however, the sum lost to Government by the supply of salt to the islanders at cost price, instead of at the monopoly selling price, is not deducted, and which in the present Fusly, and at the lately enhanced prices, amounts to Rupees 734.

21. Excluding this sum, the net revenue of the Coir monopoly will still be found to average about Rupees 8,500 per annum, and I am very strongly of opinion that, for the present at least, no change should be made in the system. It is at best doubtful whether an equal amount of revenue could be realized by any other system, and the present system, while it is one which is well understood by, and acceptable to, the people, is attended with very little annoyance and interference on the part of the public servants. I am also of opinion that were the people left to their own resources, the preparation of the coir would, I fear, not only be neglected, but they would be entirely dependent for a market on the Merchants and Banians on the coast, and who, knowing that the islanders must return to their islands within a certain time, would lower the prices as they pleased.

Establishment.

22. The present establishment consists as follows :—

On the Islands.

	Rs. A. P.		Rs.
1 Head Monigar,	at 25 8 0	per mensem, or	300 per annum.
1 Sub-Monigar,	at 10 0 0	do. or	126 do.
8 Peons, at 6 Rs. each,	at 48 0 0	do. or	576 do.
4 Karanies, at 84 muras of rice per annum, or at the current prices (Fusly 1275)			254 do.
			1,256

On the main land.

Coir Establishment kept up at Mangalore.

1 Gumastah,	at	15	0	0	per mensem, or	180	per annum.
1 Weigher,	at	7	0	0	do. or	84	do.
4 Peons, at 6 Rs. each,	at	24	0	0	do. or	288	do.
						552	
						1,808	

23. As already pointed out, the Monigar can now legally exercise no Magisterial powers, and I presume it was not the intention of Government, when ordering* the appointment of a Sub-Monigar for the island of Chetlat, that he should also exercise such powers. I find, however, that in practice he has been permitted to do so, and as might have been expected, the number of instances in which he has exercised this authority, and on the one island, is even greater than those in which the Monigar has so done in the remaining three islands. Since the Government Order was passed, the district has now been provided with three Assistants, and I trust, therefore, that in future the islands will be visited, if not annually, at least every second year by a European Officer; the retention of the Sub-Monigar, therefore, seems to me no longer necessary, and I would respectfully beg to suggest whether it would not be advisable to do away with his appointment altogether, and to appoint as Monigar a superior and responsible officer on a salary of Rupees 35 per mensem, and who might be vested with the powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the second class throughout the islands. As an additional reason for making this suggestion, I may state that in practice the authority of these two officers has been found to clash, and situated as these islands are, away from all immediate and superior control, I conceive that the appointment of the one officer on a higher footing is in every way more desirable than a distant and possibly divided authority.

* G. O., 11th December 1863, No. 2,281, Revenue Department.

24. With reference to the other arrangements recommended by Mr. Sewell in the concluding paragraph of his letter, I would only add that they shall receive every attention. I do not, however, think it necessary or desirable to add to the *number* of Government servants on the islands, and the establishments seem to me already amply sufficient for all the duties which are required of them.

From the Collector of South Canara, to the Assistant Collector of South Canara, dated on Circuit at Uppinangady, 23rd November 1865, No. 135.

1. With advertence to the instructions conveyed in the Board's Proceedings of the 23rd October 1863, and the Orders of Government, marginally noted, I have the honor to request you will hold yourself in readiness to proceed to the Laccadive or Amindivy Islands, with a view to inquire into and report on their present condition, and especially as to the progress made since the years 1844 and 1845, when the islands were visited by Mr. W. Robinson.

14th December 1863, No. 2,231, Revenue Department.

2. A copy of that gentleman's report is forwarded for your information, also the following papers:—

Board's Proceedings, 23rd October 1863, No. 6,812 A.
Government do. 24th July ,, ,, 1,390.

3. With these papers before you, and especially the report of Mr. Robinson, you will, I think, have no difficulty in ascertaining the topics on which information is now desired. I would, however, request especial attention to the following subjects:—

(1.) Whether there has been any marked or visible change in the shape or conformation of any of the islands or reefs since the report of Mr. Robinson, and whether there are indications of any changes being now in progress.

(2.) The administration of Justice, Civil and Criminal, whether there has been any progress or not, and whether there is reason to believe that crime of a grave type ever occurs.

N. B.—In connection with this, it would be interesting to complete up to date the statistics of crime as given by Mr. Robinson.

(3.) What are the duties of the Monigar, and what authority does he really possess? Does he appear to give satisfaction to the islander in the discharge of his duties? Has he any records, and if so, what records, and what condition are they in?

(4.) Are there any Government buildings on the island, and are any required? Are there any Mosques or Musjids, and if so, of what kind?

(5.) The condition of the people, their dwellings, dress, habits of living, &c.

(6.) The number of the population, males and females.

(7.) The prevalence of disease, and to what diseases are the islanders liable.

(8.) The prevalence of cholera, does it appear annually, if so, in what months; if only periodically, the number of outbreaks in recent years, and the amount of mortality in each?

(9.) The prevalence of small-pox, or the contrary.

(10.) Is vaccination known or not? and would its introduction be hailed as a benefit or not?

(11.) The number of shipwrecks of late years with their locality; in connection with this, do many of the islanders seem to be in possession of articles which could only be obtained by wrecking.

(12.) The number of Coondrahs or boats belonging to each island.

(13.) *Trade.*—What trade exists in the islands, and to what markets is the surplus produce of the islands conveyed? and what is received in return, what money or coins are made use of, and are Bills of Exchange or Hoondies known?

(14.) Whether the production of dry grains is on the increase or not.

(15.) Is rice ever sown, and are there any lands on which rice requiring only rain-water could be cultivated?

(16.) Is cocoanut planting on the increase, and in connection with this subject, it would be well to inquire and ascertain how, as shewn in the 15th paragraph of Mr. Morris's letter quoted in the Board's Proceedings, while the number of cocoanut trees has so largely increased, why the increase in the production of coir has been so trifling.

(17.) Is there education of any kind to be had on the islands, and can any large number read and write, and if so, in what language?

(18.) Is there any desire for education in its improved and extended sense, and what measures are necessary or practicable on the part of Government for improving the position and condition of the islanders generally.

4. I have also to request you will do all in your power to forward the early transmission of the coir to this coast on behalf of Government.

5. The Superintendent of Sea Customs has been directed to procure a Pattamar for you, and his Clerk, Mr. A. J. Rego, will be directed to accompany you, as also any other servant whom you may be desirous of having, and also two peons.

6. The Ameen and the other servants of Government on the islands will also be placed under your orders during the time of your visit, which, I presume, will not extend further than three or four weeks.

From the Acting Head Assistant Collector, South Canara, to the Collector of South Canara, dated Cundapur, 15th April 1866, No. 27.

1. With reference to your letter, No. 135, dated November 23rd, 1865, I have the honor to submit the following report on my visit in December 1865, and January 1866, to the Laccadive islands attached to South Canara.

Aminy, Kadamat, Kiltan, Chetlat, } Inhabited.
Bitra, uninhabited.
Rahapany, or Cherubyany, Cheryapany, or Bigrangoor, Perumalpar, } Open reefs.

2. I visited the first five of those marginally noted, and made an attempt to get to the two first reefs, but was obliged to give it up in consequence of unfavorable weather.

3. Mr. Robinson, in his report of July 6th, 1846, has gone so fully into the general description of these islands, their appearance, products, &c., that I presume it is unnecessary for me to touch upon those points, except for the purpose of pointing out any changes that may have taken place since the time of his visit.

4. I propose, first, to give what information I have been able to collect on those points specially alluded to in your letter, and afterwards, to touch upon any other subjects that may demand notice.

Changes in the formation of Kiltan.

5. The only inhabited island in which any material change appears to be taking place, is Kiltan. The western shore of that island is curved in the shape of the figure (3), and the coral formation is extending in the two curves, so that in course of time the line of shore will become nearly straight. The Islanders are planting new lines of cocoanut trees on this beach, at the rate of about one row in four or five years, which would make the extension of the shore about five yards in that period, or about one yard a year. The Islanders have a belief that the whole lagoon enclosed by the reef will be filled up in course of time. The depth of water has decreased of late years, but I am inclined to think that the increase of the shore will cease when this island has assumed the same shape as the others of the group. If the lagoon was ever to fill up entirely, it would damage the prosperity of the island most seriously. The uninhabited island of Bitra, I think, must also be undergoing a similar change, though none of the Islanders could give any information about it. The coast line of this island is more irregular than that of the others, and is indented with several small bays. In two or three of these at low water I noticed the coral worms just within the low-water line as at Kitlan, and I infer from that circumstance, that coral formation is still going on there. The Islanders would not be likely to notice it, as the change must be very gradual, and they are not interested in planting fresh trees as in Kitlan. The entrances to the outer reefs of all the islands get filled up by stones and rocks from time to time which have to be removed at low water by the Islanders. At the northern and southern extremities of the Baliapany reef are small sand-banks above high watermark. The Islanders state that no alteration has taken place in these of late years, but I should be inclined to think that some increase, though very slight, must be gradually taking place by the accumulation of drift, &c.

State of Crime.

6. Serious offences are of very rare occurrence in these islands. The ordinary crimes still are those mentioned by Mr. Robinson—Petty assaults, thefts of cocoanuts, mischief done to trees by cattle, &c. These are punished by the Monigar (who exercises the powers of a Police Ameen under Regulation XI. of 1816,) with fines in coir, or confinement in the Cutcherry or stocks. The latter mode of punishment seems from the returns to have been given up of late years. There is no confinement place for confining offenders. The Penal Code has never been formally extended to the islands. When offences of a serious nature occur, the parties are sent over to the District Magistrate at Mangalore, and are either punished by him, or committed to the Session Court. Murders are almost unknown. Not one is said to have taken place since Mr. Robinson's tour. The principal cases sent over, are cases of stealing property from wrecks, housebreaking, &c. The natives, especially the women, are very averse to going over to give evidence.

Besides their objections on the score of caste rules, they have few friends or relations on the coast, and are, therefore, put to considerable expense while remaining here. As serious offences are so rare, I would not advocate any change in the present system. The Monigar, if he does his duty well, is quite capable of disposing of the ordinary cases. The returns entered below were compiled chiefly from the Monigar's records, but I cannot vouch with much confidence for their accuracy. He does not keep any abstract list of cases, and it was with some difficulty that the returns were made out at all. The returns from the years 1855 to 1864 inclusive, which I obtained from your office, differ considerably from those given me by the Monigar himself. I have entered them here as being probably more trustworthy :—

Years.	No. of persons fined.	No. of persons imprisoned or confined in stocks.	Total.
1845	112	10	122
1846	326	18	344
1847	220	16	236
1848	164	9	173
1849	183	12	195
1850	86	3	89
1851	95	2	97
1852	126	20	146
1853	75	5	80
1854	84	1	85
1855	106	21	127
1856	12	5	17
1857	11	...	11
1858	39	1	40
1859	33	...	33
1860	21	3	24
1861	52	9	61
1862	43	...	43
1863	31	...	31
1864	84	...	84
1865	120	...	120

Cases sent over to Mangalore for trial.

	Prisoners.	Witnesses.
1854	22	2
1856	5	44
1857	7	59
1858	29	31
1859	1	7
1860	2	7

These returns are of too vague a nature to draw any satisfactory inference as to the state of crime; but if they are to be trusted at all, it would seem to be on the decrease.

Duties of the Monigar.

7. The principal duties of the Monigar besides those alluded to in the preceding section are the assembling of Punchayets for the decision of petty disputes of a civil nature, the examination of boats, when they arrive at, and depart from, the islands. He has then to see that the port-clearance is correctly made out by the Karany, and that no coir is smuggled at the time for shipping coir to Mangaloro; he has to see that it is got off in proper time, and that the cargoes are properly measured and freighted. He also goes over with the boats to Mangalore, and assists there in the settlement of accounts between Government and the Islanders. He ought to return

before the monsoon sets in, but last year owing to the late shipment of the coir he was unable to do so. This ought not to occur again. When he returns, he takes up his head-quarters generally at Aminy. In the breaks of the monsoon, however, he can occasionally visit Kadamat, which is only eight miles distant. I have directed him this season at all events to visit this island as often as possible during the monsoon, and to encourage the Islanders in every way to plant cocoanuts in which they appear to be rather remiss. In the dry season, he is supposed to visit each island once a month. He does not really do so more than once in two or three months, and I think this is about sufficient, as otherwise his visits would be too hasty to be of any use. He seems to be on good terms with the Islanders generally speaking; but this year he has had some little trouble in dealing with them. He has held the post now about fifteen years, and is very anxious to exchange it for some appointment on the coast. I think it would be a decided advantage to put in some younger and more energetic man in his place. The present Monigar, though I have no definite fault to find with him, is rather wanting in energy. I would recommend that if any vacancy of equal pay should occur in the Sea Custom Department he might be transferred to that branch, the duties of which he would be quite capable of performing.

Records.

8. The records of the islands are not very numerous. They are all contained in two moderate-sized boxes which the Monigar takes with him when on circuit. They comprise Police cases disposed of by the Monigar, Revenue Returns, Huzoor Orders, Reports from Karanics, Peons, &c., decisions of Punchayets, Port-clearances of vessels, and other miscellaneous documents. They appeared at first sight to be carefully arranged, but I found that the Monigar had considerable difficulty in laying his hand on any particular papers that might be wanted. Most of them, however, are written in the Arabic character, with which he is but slightly acquainted. The oldest dates back about fifty years.

Government Buildings.

9. The only Government buildings are the Cutcherries, one in each island used for the transaction of Custom-house business, &c., by the Monigar and Karanics. They are small, but substantially built of blocks of limestone cut in the islands, are thatched with cocoanut leaves, and have a good sized pandal attached to them. The only repair necessary is the renewal of the thatch, which is done when required by the Islanders at very slight cost and trouble. No new buildings are required. These Cutcherries are quite sufficient for all present purposes.

10. There are a few Musjids on the islands, the numbers being noted marginally. They are built of the same limestone, and roofed in the same manner as the houses and Cutcherries. There is not much attempt at decoration about them. One in Kiltan was, I think, the most pretentious of any that I saw. There are, of course, no temples or pagodas belonging to any other caste.

	Musjids.
Aminy	38
Kadamat	5
Kiltan	14
Chetlat	9

General condition of the Islanders.

11. The people, I should imagine, are on the whole better off than at the time when Mr. Robinson visited the islands. This, of course, should be the natural result of improved communication with the main land. There seem to be very few really poor among them. There are only thirteen persons in all the islands at present receiving support from the charitable fund established by Mr. Robinson, and these are persons incapacitated for work either by age or infirmity. Every able-bodied man by doing a small amount of labor can earn sufficient for his sustenance. The houses are built generally of blocks of limestone and are thatched with cocoanut leaves, presenting a far more comfortable appearance than the ordinary native huts on the coast. The men dress like the ordinary Moplas on the main land. The women, of whom I saw very little, as they consider it a disgrace to be seen by strangers, appear to be better and more comfortably dressed than the low-caste women in Canara. The food of the natives is much the same as that of the fishing classes on the coast, fish, fresh and salt, rice, jary, and cocoanuts, &c. They are

not, however, so dependent as they formerly were on salt-fish, and to this, I think, may be attributed the apparent decrease of skin diseases, scurvy, leprosy, &c., which Mr. Robinson mentioned as prevalent especially in Kadamat. The women appear to do the greatest amount of hard work, soaking the coir, separating the fibre, cleaning it, &c., besides their household duties. The men confine themselves chiefly to fishing and conveying the produce of the islands to the coast.

Census.

12. The number of the islanders, as will be seen from the subjoined Returns, was on the increase up to the year 1861, but has fallen off since then, which I imagine is to be attributed to the severe outbreak of cholera in the year 1863. The details of the population in the different islands are given subsequently. The following are the general returns according to the accounts taken by the Monigar, which, however, I do not think very trustworthy. The comparative numbers of the two sexes remain, as will be seen, very nearly equal with a slight preponderance in favor of the females :—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1844 ...	1,792	1,817	3,609
1847 ...	1,717	1,779	3,496
1858 ...	1,910	1,970	3,880
1861 ...	1,991	2,094	4,085
1866 ...	1,732	1,819	3,551

I think it would be advisable in future that the Monigar should be directed to take a census regularly at fixed intervals, corresponding if possible with the years fixed for the census here.

Diseases.

13. The principal diseases prevalent in the islands are cholera and small-pox, but these are by no means frequent. A severe outbreak occurred in 1863, when a great number of persons were carried off in all the islands. The numbers were given roughly as follows: Aminy, 300; Kiltan, 250; Kadamat, 42; Chetlat, 175; total 767. Before this attack no severe cholera had occurred for eighteen or twenty years. The usual time for its breaking out is the hot season about February, March, and April. Small-pox also is of rare occurrence. There was an outbreak in 1862, but not many cases proved fatal. A vaccinator was sent over to the islands shortly after Mr. Robinson's visit, and vaccinated a good number of the inhabitants. Another was sent about ten years ago, and the natives expressed a strong wish that some one might be sent over this year. There does not appear to be the slightest prejudice against vaccination. On the contrary, when I suggested the idea, a ready assent was given. One of the natives in Chetlat, I found, was in the habit of practising inoculation. He declared that his treatment had been very successful, but I warned him strictly to discontinue the practice in future, which he promised to do. Other diseases are very rare. Fever occurs occasionally but not in a serious form. The natives also complained of a disease, which, as far as I could make out from their vague description, was a kind of rheumatism, not however of any serious nature. Ophthalmia and other skin diseases appear to be also very rare. I only saw one or two cases in Kadamat island. I would beg your favorable consideration of the wish expressed by the islanders to have a vaccinator sent over as soon as possible, and would also suggest that a small supply of ordinary medicine for cholera and fever might be furnished yearly to the Monigar. I do not apprehend that its use would be very often called for, but in case of a sudden outbreak, it would be of great importance to the islanders to have medicine at hand.

Shipwrecks.

14. The earliest shipwreck of which I could get any definite information was in 1828, when a ship, name unknown, was lost on the Byrankoor reef. It was laden with silver, silk, &c., bound from China to Bombay. In 1844, the "Ceylon" bound from England to Bombay was wrecked on the Cherubyany reef. All the crew were lost, but a good deal of the property was recovered by the exertions of Mr. Robinson. In 1853, the "Vizier" from England to Bombay laden with stuffs, piece-goods, cutlery, &c., was wrecked on the Cherubyany reef. All the crew were saved, but one of them, the ship's carpenter, Primrose by name, died subsequently on Chetlat

island, where a tombstone still in existence was put up in his memory. In 1854, the "Homidy," an Arab ship, from Bombay to Mauritius, was wrecked on the Byrankoor reef. The cargo consisted of sugar, grain, tea, cattle, &c. The crew and part of the cargo were saved. On this occasion, more than twenty prisoners were sent to take their trial at Mangalore for the theft of the cargo.

In the same year, the "Mahommed," an Arab vessel with pilgrims bound to Mecca from the Malabar coast, went on shore at Aminy island when shifting her anchorage. No lives were lost. This wreck was caused simply by the carelessness of the crew, not by any stress of weather.

In 1858, the "Alchemist," an English ship from England to Bombay, was wrecked on the Byrankoor reef. The crew and some of the cargo consisting chiefly of piece-goods were saved.

In 1862, the "Sultan," a native ship, returning empty from Mauritius to Bombay, was lost on the Byrankoor reef.

In 1863, the "General Simpson" from Bombay to England laden with cotton, &c., ran on the reef at Chetlat during the night time. Most of the crew and some of the cargo were saved.

In 1864, the "Tutch Rusack" came from Bombay to Chetlat with the intention of recovering the cargo of the last ship, but instead of doing so, ran on another part of the reef herself during the night time, and was lost, the crew being saved. She had recovered a small amount of property from the "General Simpson" which was again recovered from her.

In 1865, the "Lord Brougham" was wrecked on the Cherubyany reef. She had a large cargo of iron and miscellaneous goods, part of which has been lately brought over to Mangaloro. All the earlier wrecks are said to have taken place about the end of the fine season, in the beginning of the south-west monsoon, and the greater number of them happened on the Byrankoor reef which lies farthest west of the group, and is, therefore, naturally more in the course of ships sailing to or from Bombay.

Stolen property.

15. As regards property stolen from the wrecks, the islanders do not appear to be in actual possession of much. Ship timbers are the most useful things to them for private purposes, and these may be seen to a large extent used for the roofing, &c., of their houses. Other kinds of property, I imagine, they conceal until they find a favorable opportunity for taking it over to the main land, and disposing of it there. Shipwrecks usually take place about the end of the fine season. The islanders take advantage of the absence of the Monigar and some of the Peons (who go to Mangalore about that time in charge of the coir) get what they can from the wrecks, conceal it either in their houses or more frequently in some unoccupied part of the island under sand and bushes, and when an opportunity offers, carry it over to the coast for sale. They often evade detections by concealing the property in some uninhabited island to which they go after getting their port-clearance from their own island.

Trade.

16. The exports from the islands consist principally of cocoanuts, jaggery, mats, limes, shells, tortoise-shells, shark-fins, firewood, &c. Limestone in small quantities is brought over for making chunam, and is used by the Department of Public Works, but the extra cost entailed by transporting it prevents its being used very generally on the coast, though the chunam manufactured from it is of a superior quality. In return for their exports, the islanders carry back rice and other grains, vegetables, sugar, tobacco, betel-nuts and leaves, cloths, earthen and copper pots, salt, and such articles of daily use as they cannot manufacture or procure for themselves. Their boats touch at most of the ports on the coast between Cochin and Goa, but never venture round to the other side. The Monigar was directed to make out returns from the port-clearances of the exports and imports during the last five years. But I regret to say he has not been able to find time to draw them up. He should be directed to send annual returns to Mangalore. The trouble of compiling them would be very slight, and they would afford satisfactory evidence of the increasing prosperity or otherwise of the islands.

Money, &c.

17. The ordinary Rupees and small coins of India are in common use in the islands much more so than I had expected to find. The natives, as a general rule, preferred being paid for work in money to receiving rice or other food. Bills of Exchange, Notes, Hoondies, &c., are quite unknown.

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Dry cultivation.

18. The production of dry grains is only carried on to any extent in Aminy. The tot, as described by Mr. Robinson, is a regularly defined area of which the whole surface has been dug out to some depth. No attempt is made to extend this, and the actual space for the cultivation of grain has of late years been rather decreased by planting cocoanut trees, which the islanders find more profitable. In this tot they grow raggy, jary, a few other dry grains, plantains and limes. No rice is grown on the islands, nor do I imagine the soil is fitted for it. Water could not be procured in sufficient quantity for irrigation. About sixteen years ago, Mr. Hall, Additional Sub-Collector of Canara, sent over some paddy seed as an experiment. It grew for a short time, but was destroyed, as the islanders say, by the rats, and no further attempt has been made in that direction. The Aminy Islanders used formerly to go over to Kadamat island, and make a kind of Hakkal cultivation there during the monsoon. A great part of the island is covered with low brushwood which they burnt, and then planted dry grain. But this has been given up by them of late years as being less profitable than the cocoanut planting, though the Kadamat people still carry it on to a small extent.

Cocoanut planting and manufacturing of Coir.

19. The following are the numbers of the cocoanut trees, according to the five last Census Returns :—

		Productive trees.	Coir imported to Mangalore. Cds. Mds. lbs.
1844...	Aminy	44,229	622 15 4
	Kadamat	2,361	
	Kiltan	14,917	
	Chetlat	7,746	
	Total...	69,254	
1847	Aminy	46,265	497 10 0
	Kadamat	2,956	
	Kiltan	17,672	
	Chetlat	11,225	
	Total...	78,118	
1858	Aminy	45,951	646 12 7
	Kadamat	2,884	
	Kiltan	18,764	
	Chetlat	10,913	
	Total...	78,512	
1861	Aminy	48,810	739 0 0
	Kadamat	3,017	
	Kiltan	18,798	
	Chetlat	12,157	
	Total...	82,782	
1866...	Aminy	49,586	732 2 10
	Kadamat	3,637	
	Kiltan	22,109	
	Chetlat	12,515	
	Total...	87,847	

It will be seen, as pointed out by Mr. Morris in his letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 160, dated August 18th, 1863, that the increase in the total number of productive trees between 1844 and 1861, is 13,528, and if Mr. Robinson's standard of 100 trees to one candy of coir be adopted, a greater increase ought to be shown in the Coir Returns. But although this standard might doubtless be reached, if the islanders were more energetic, and worked their trees to the full power, yet from the above returns, it is clear that the standard never has been reached as yet. In 1844 one candy of coir appears to be the produce of about 157 trees; in 1858 of about 121 trees; in 1861 of about 112 trees, showing an average of 130¼ trees to one candy instead of 100. Still the increase in the coir imported is not so great as it might be, and the only explanation I can suggest of this is that the increase depends not only on the number of the trees, but also on the number of the population.

The islanders are a decidedly easy-going race, and are not inclined to do more work than is necessary to support them in comfort. Planting cocoanut trees is a simple matter, and when planted, they require little looking after. The fruit is of use for food, and the surplus nuts can be exported without much trouble to the coast. But a largely increased manufacture of coir would entail more labor on the islanders than they would relish. It must be remembered also that it is the women who do by far the greater part of the work of manufacture. The men gather the nuts and then leave the women to perform the various operations of soaking, beating, and twisting the yarn. I scarcely ever saw a man working at this part of the business while I was in the islands. The increase, therefore, in the supply of coir would depend jointly on the variable quantities, the number of cocoanut trees, and the number of the population or more strictly of the female part of it. I took every opportunity of impressing on the islanders the necessity and advantage to themselves of planting more trees and of manufacturing more coir, and they seemed fully to understand the reason given them. I also directed the Monigar to encourage in every possible way the planting of fresh trees, specially in the island of Kadamat. I have not submitted any information on the actual working of the Coir monopoly, as Mr. Morris in his report of 1863 gave the details up to that year, but if required, I will do so.

Illicit traffic.

20. I do not believe from the inquiries I made that illicit traffic is carried on to any extent in coir. The terms on which the islanders supply Government are so favorable to them owing to the increased price of rice that it is manifestly for their advantage to deal with Government rather than elsewhere. They have a regular market at which they are certain of disposing of all the coir they bring over. The price which they receive, though nominally below the market value when the exchange of rice is taken into account, is probably higher than the average price they would get if left to seek their own market at different ports on the coast. One of the Aminy islanders said to me that they would, if it were possible, willingly buy coir from elsewhere, and re-sell it to Government as they were so contented with the arrangement.

All the islanders expressed the strongest satisfaction with their present mode of contributing to the revenue, and the greatest dislike to any idea of a change in the system. The reasons against change have been so fully stated before by Mr. Robinson that there is no need to recapitulate them here.

Education.

21. Education in the islands is carried on mainly by the Priests attached to the Musjids. They instruct the children in Arabic and a dialect of Malayalam called Battite. I inquired in all the islands as to their wishes for their further education. All were willing to accept if given to them, but stated that they could do nothing in the way of contributing towards the expense of it themselves. Few of the older inhabitants can read and write. Most of them make their signature by a mark. On the whole they are apathetic about it; and I doubt whether it would be advisable to take any steps in that

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direction at present. Intercourse with the main land must by degrees open their minds, and give them more extended ideas, but at present they do not seem to appreciate the advantages of education. As regards their general condition, there is scarcely anything to be done in the way of improvement. They are comfortably off, are well-housed, and anything like real poverty is unknown among them. Their condition altogether is far better than that of the lower classes of natives on the main land.

Aminy.

22. This island still retains its chief position among those of the group attached to South Canara. No alteration has taken place in the four divisions of the island as mentioned by Mr. Robinson, and the four principal and the seventeen second class families also remain the same. Cultivation of the cocoanut has increased to a moderate extent, as will be seen from the Returns given below, but there is still a considerable amount of waste, and apparently unprofitable land;—

Years.	Productive.	Chouk.	Young trees.	Total.
1844	44,229	4,052	16,091	64,172
1847	46,265	5,450	23,796	75,511
1858	45,951	4,859	29,164	79,974
1861	48,810	4,168	41,513	94,491
1866	49,586	4,375	42,675	96,636

The tot has, if anything, rather decreased in extent owing to the cause above-mentioned, namely, the encroachment of cocoanut planting on its limits. In a case in which I was directed by the Civil Judge to examine and report on two pieces of land about which a suit was pending in the Mangaloro Court, one of the pieces had formerly been a plantain garden included in the tot, but had lately been reclaimed and planted with cocoanut trees. No tax or rent of any kind is imposed on the tot. Limes grow well here, and bread-fruit trees, but the areca trees are fewer in number than they were—

	Areca.	Bread-fruit.	Limes.
1844	322	853	101
1847	477	1,489	206
1858	268	995	275
1861	200	939	275
1866	123	652	169

The population, it will be seen from the returns given below, has decreased since 1844. It appears to have received a check about the years 1847 and 1863, when there were severe outbreaks of cholera—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1844	1,142	1,172	2,315
1847	997	1,047	2,044
1858	1,144	1,204	2,348
1861	1,226	1,293	2,519
1866	1,042	1,081	2,123

Cattle.	
1844	167
1847	203
1858	170
1861	234
1866	203

The number of cattle is slightly on the increase, but the islanders object to increasing their stock largely, owing to the damage done to young cocoanut plants. There are also a good number of boats in this island.

There is an improvement since 1844 in the number of boats, which speaks well for the prosperity of the island—

	Large boats.	Small boats.
1844	18 ...	115
1847	19 ...	115
1858	26 ...	130
1861	21 ...	129
1866	23 ...	137

Smuggling would, I should think, be easier in this island than in any of the others, as landing is practicable on both sides of this island instead of only one. I do not, however, imagine that it goes on to any extent even here.

The inhabitants of Androt and Kalpeny, transported to this island by Mr. Robinson after the great storm in 1847, are doing well. Some of them have returned to their old homes, and there are now forty-six Circar cocoanut trees relinquished by them, application for which was made by Avala Kuttee and Kunni Kadre who had come over, the former from Androt, the latter from Kalpeny shortly after Mr. Robinson's visit. They had been reduced to poverty by the hurricane, but did not come over in time to get trees allotted to them. I allowed them, as a temporary measure, to take possession of these trees pending your sanction of the arrangement which I have now the honor to request.

Kadamat.

23. Kadamat is still the most backward of the four inhabited islands. The inhabitants, appear to stand in considerable awe of their high-caste neighbours in Aminy, though I could not ascertain that any acts of positive oppression had been committed by the latter. It appears to be merely the feeling of fear for high caste. Several of the principal inhabitants of Aminy own cocoanut trees in Kadamat, which are tended and looked after by Kadamat tenants. The coir made from these trees is shipped in the Aminy boats for the coast, and it is also a long established custom for the other coir, also belonging to the Kadamat islanders themselves, to be shipped in the same way, the Kadamat people paying ten per cent. as freight.* Mr. Robinson, in order to relieve the inhabitants from the pressure of their powerful neighbours, proposed in his report of 1846, that an advance should be given to them by Government, to enable them to build two large shore-going boats on which they might export their own coir direct to the main-land. In his subsequent report after the storm of 1847, he repeated this proposal, mentioning Rupees 500 as the amount which would be sufficient. The Board of Revenue recommended, and the Government sanctioned the advance, but as far as I can ascertain, no further steps were taken in the matter. An advance of Rupees 432-12-0 was made to certain of the islanders of Aminy, Chetlat, and Kiltan, I imagine, to assist them in repairing damages caused by the storm, and the amount was subsequently recovered by stoppages in payment for the coir. But no advance was made to any of the Kadamat people. On asking them they seemed very apathetic on the subject, and said they would be glad to ship their coir direct, if Government would "protect" them from the Aminy people—

* I suspect also that in settling accounts the Kadamat people come worst off.

The population of the island is still very scanty, and has fallen off considerably since the last census in 1861—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1844	71 ...	62 ...	133
1847	84 ...	83 ...	167
1858	101 ...	94 ...	195
1861	107 ...	110 ...	217
1866	88 ...	91 ...	179

Cocoanut planting is slightly on the increase, but there is still a large quantity of waste land available for it. I impressed on the Muktesars the importance of extending their cultivation, and

directed the Monigar to do all in his power to encourage and assist the planting operations—

	Productive	Chouk.	Young.	Total.
1844...	2,362 ...	153 ...	1,804 ...	3,319
1847..	2,956 ...	80 ...	7,104 ...	10,140
1858...	2,884 ...	98 ...	6,040 ...	9,022
1861...	3,017 ...	76 ...	7,324 ...	10,417
1866...	3,607 ...	336 ...	8,761 ...	12,704

There are no areca trees here, and only a few bread-fruit and lime trees—

	Bread-fruit.	Lime trees.
1844	8 ...	2
1847	11 ...	2
1858	7 ...	5
1861	26 ...	7
1866	23 ...	1

The small boats have increased in numbers from eleven and twelve only, and there are no large Kundries. There are, however, three moderate-sized boats on which the islanders export cocoanuts, &c., not coir to the coast.

In 1844 they had a few cattle on this island, but owing to the damage caused to the young cocoanut shoots, they were nearly all removed. A small extent of dry grain, such as raggy and jary, is cultivated on the island like Hukkal by burning the brushwood with which nearly two-thirds of the island is covered.

The principal grievance that the islanders complained of was, that the inhabitants of the Cannanore Beebees' islands were in the habit of coming to Bitra (the uninhabited island under South Canara, to fish and catch turtle, &c., which the Kadamat people seemed to consider a sort of preserve of their own. I do not imagine this is a matter which calls for interference. Several of the Kiltan islanders expressed a wish to be allowed to settle in Kadamat. In their island cocoanut planting has almost reached its farthest limits, and there is scarcely any waste land left. I also received an application from the former Monigar of the islands, Jainoodin, requesting permission to take up 25 acres of land in Kadamat for planting cocoanuts. The area of the island roughly speaking is about 1,280 acres, of which about 850 remain waste. Jainoodin has some trees on the other islands as well. If he is allowed to plant them, he stated that he would let them out to Kadamat islanders as tenants. I would beg to recommend that both these applications should be sanctioned. The Kiltan islanders are of the same caste as those of Kadamat, though superior to them in energy. I think that they would probably combine with the Kadamat people, and enable them more easily to resist any encroachments on the part of the Aminy islanders. At all events it would infuse some new blood into the island. Jainoodin would not, I imagine, settle in Kadamat, but any increase of planting in the island would be advantageous. He formerly planted a number of trees on some land allotted to him by Mr. Robinson in the island, and gave them over for the support of the Musjid which he had built at Aminy. I have not received formal applications either from him or from the Kiltan people,* but I imagine if general sanction was once given, applicants would soon come forward with definite proposals.

* (He presented a petition some time ago to a former Collector on which no order has yet been passed. It was deferred till the islands were visited officially.

Kiltan.

25. There is not much that calls for remark in the island of Kiltan. Though the smallest in extent, it appears to be the most thriving of the group, and the inhabitants seem gifted with far more life and energy than their neighbours.

The census returns show an increase of population up to the year 1861, but a falling off since then, which is attributable as in the other islands to the cholera in 1862.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1844...	316 ...	323 ...	639
1847...	350 ...	366 ...	716
1858...	370 ...	388 ...	758
1861...	367 ...	383 ...	750
1866...	340 ...	352 ...	692

Cocoanut planting appears to have increased rapidly between 1844 and 1858, but not so rapidly subsequently, which I imagine is the result of want of room. They show, however, a fair increase in the returns for this year—

	Productive.	Chouk.	Young plants.	Total.
1844	14,917 ...	2,525 ...	11,855 ...	29,297
1847	17,672 ...	1,180 ...	12,332 ...	31,184
1858	18,764 ...	1,555 ...	23,349 ...	43,668
1861	18,798 ...	1,930 ...	24,264 ...	44,992
1866	22,109 ...	2,417 ...	28,974 ...	53,500

The number of large boats has increased from 12 to 26, between 1844 and 1866, but the smaller boats have decreased from 84 to 74—

	Large boats.	Small boats.
1844	12 ...	84
1847	12 ...	93
1858	11 ..	82
1861	24 ...	75
1866	26 ...	74

Cattle decreased in number up to the year 1861, but the return for this year shows a large increase—

	Cattle.
1844	69
1847	19
1858	3
1861	15
1866	59

Bread-fruit trees have increased slightly, while lime trees appear to have died out, and to have been introduced again lately. There are no areca trees—

	Bread-fruit.	Lime trees.
1844...	21 ...	23
1847...	12 ...	4
1858...	19 ...	0
1861...	34 ...	5
1866...	51 ...	23

On the whole these islanders seem to be the best off of any of the group.

Chetlat.

25. Chetlat is an important island from its situation as being the one to which vessels from Mangalore usually sail direct. It has also been prominent lately in connection with the wrecks of the "General Simpson," "Futch Busack," and "Lord Brougham." The islanders must have made considerable profit out of these wrecks by lawful as well as unlawful means, by getting employment in recovering the property, as well as by carrying it off and selling it themselves.

The population returns for this year show a slight falling off as compared with the four previous returns—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1844...	263 ...	259 ...	522
1847...	286 ...	283 ...	569
1858...	295 ...	284 ...	579
1861...	291 ...	308 ...	599
1866...	262 ...	295 ...	557

The soil of the island is poor. Very little is cultivated besides the cocoanut, the returns of which show a fair increase—

	Productive.	Chouk.	Young plants.	Total.
1844	7,746 ...	1,399 ...	16,520 ...	25,665
1847	11,223 ...	1,200 ...	13,699 ...	26,124
1858	10,913 ...	1,065 ...	17,858 ...	29,836
1861	12,157 ...	1,452 ...	19,112 ...	32,721
1866	12,515 ...	2,271 ...	17,632 ...	32,418

There is still some ground unoccupied which might be planted, but the soil is not good, all the best portions being already taken up.

The areca trees have disappeared from the island, and the bread-fruit trees are fewer in number than they were—

	Areca.	Bread-fruit.	Limes.
1844...	6 ...	24 ...	22
1847...	1 ...	23 ...	20
1858...	0 ...	14 ...	25
1861...	0 ...	15 ...	23
1866...	0 ...	14 ...	26

The number of cattle is on the increase—

	Cattle.
1844	47
1847	31
1858	5
1861	11
1866	53

The large boats have decreased from eight to six, but the smaller ones are ninety-one as against eighty-nine in 1844—

	Large boats.	Small boats.
1844	8 ...	89
1847	8 ...	100
1858	8 ...	108
1861	7 ...	101
1866	6 ...	92

Bitra.

26. The uninhabited island of Bitra is smaller in extent than any of the four inhabited islands not being above one mile in circumference, but the reef on which it is situated is very extensive, probably as large as that of Kadamat. It is frequented by the islanders for the purpose of fishing and catching turtle, &c. Mr. Robinson states that formerly an immense number of sea-birds used to frequent this island, but there are no traces of them now. There are about the same number of cocoanut trees here, as there were in 1844, namely, about 200. The nuts are used as food by the islanders who come to fish, but no coir is produced from them. The island, as I have stated above, must, I imagine, be increasing gradually in size, though, of course, at a very slow rate. The water on the island I found was drinkable, though rather brackish, but probably

in the hot season it would deteriorate. In the monsoon there is no difficulty in obtaining good water from the wells, and it is a common practice for parties of the islanders to remain here for two or three months during the rains for the purpose of fishing. The Mussulman tomb is still kept up, repairs being made from time to time by those who frequent the island. There is a great number of rats in the island which do considerable damage to the cocoanut trees. I suggested to the Monigar that it would be for the advantage of the islanders to organize regular meetings every year for the purpose of destroying these rats, as they do on the inhabited islands.

Sibandy.

27. The Sibundy of the islands consists of the following individuals :—

One Monigar, at Rupees 25 per mensem	Rupees	25	0 0
One Sub-Monigar, ,, 10½ ,, ...	,,	10	8 0
Eight Peons, ,, 6 ,, ...	,,	48	0 0
Four Karanies, at 7 murahs of rice per mensem, which, at Rupees 3-4-0 per murah, would amount to	,,	22	12 0
Total per mensem ...		106	4 0
or Rupees 1,275 per annum.			

Besides this regular establishment, there is an Ugrany in each island. This office is of old establishment. Their duties are much the same as those of the regular peons, namely, to assist the Monigar and Karanies in their general work. In Aminy, the Ugrany has some trees which were granted for his support in the time of the former Government. In Kiltan some Government trees were made over to the Ugrany by Mr. Fischer, the Collector in 1858. I received no complaint from either of these servants, so it may be presumed that the trees which they hold are sufficient for their support. In Chetlat, the Ugrany was formerly paid by irregular contributions in rice from the islanders. But in 1855, Mr. Fischer made over to him seventy-one Circar trees for his support. Of these only forty-six are standing, twenty-three of which are part bearing, fourteen are in full bearing, and nine have not yet come to maturity. Taking the value of the yearly produce of each tree at 8 annas, which was the estimate given by the Monigar and the Muktessars, the present salary of the Ugrany is only 7 Rupees a year. He presented a petition to me when I was in Chetlat, praying that he might be paid in money, or have some additional trees made over to him. But on inquiry I found that no other Circar trees were left in the island, as they had all been made over to the Androt and Kalpeny islanders, by Mr. Robinson, after the storm of 1847. The Ugrany of Kadamat, it appears, has never had any trees allotted to him, and there are no circar trees available there. He is, therefore, still dependent on the casual contributions of the islanders. I would beg to suggest that some small allowance might be made to these two Ugranies, at the rate of about Rupees 3 per mensem. They appear to be useful servants, and their present mode of remuneration is by no means satisfactory.

The establishment as it stands at present is sufficient for all ordinary business in the islands, but is quite inadequate to check illegal proceedings when wrecks occur. I would not, however, recommend any increase in numbers at present, as such an increase to be of real service must be very large, and would be useless except on emergencies. I would, however, suggest, as a matter for consideration, whether the office of Monigar might not be made one of somewhat higher pay and standing. The pay certainly has been increased not long ago, but for Rupees 25 per mensem it is impossible to secure the services of a well-educated and superior officer. The position he holds in the islands is one of considerable responsibility, especially as all communication with the coast is practically cut off for six months out of the year. If some one in the position of a Sub-Magistrate were sent over, I think the difference in salary would be more than compensated for by the additional care taken of the interests of Government. In the event of the present Monigar being transferred to a situation on the coast, I would beg to suggest that the matter might be taken into consideration. As regards wrecks something might be done, I think, by

explaining to the Muktessars in the different islands, the general principles of the Salvage rules, and pointing out to them the advantage of giving every assistance in recovery of property for the lawful owners instead of appropriating it to themselves. The islanders appear to be totally ignorant of the rules, and never to have been treated as Salvors. In the few cases where they have recovered property and given it up willingly, their remuneration has depended on the liberality of the owners. I think if the islanders understood that they would have a claim to a reasonable remuneration under definite rules, they would prefer giving their assistance legally, to concealing property and running the risk of selling it illegally. I impressed this generally on the Muktessars, and they seemed to be sensible of their interests in the matter. Any influence on the islanders should be exerted, I think, through these Muktessars as far as possible, as they occupy an important position representing in fact the landholders, and what is more important in this case, the principal boat-owners in the islands, the lower classes being mostly their tenants. I would suggest that a notice might be published in each island, stating briefly the principal Salvage rules, and pointing out the advantages to which the islanders are entitled if they give their assistance in a lawful manner. Several of the Muktessars, especially those in Aminy, appear to be men of considerable intelligence, though not much education, and I think that their services might be enlisted on the side of law and order, with a view to checking the wholesale plunder which usually takes place when a vessel is wrecked.

28. In conclusion I would beg to recapitulate, briefly, the measures which I have recommended above in detail —

First.—That a regular census of the islands should be taken at fixed intervals corresponding with the census taken on the main land.

Secondly.—That a Vaccinator should be sent over to the islands as soon as possible, and that the Monigar should be furnished annually with a small supply of simple medicines.

Thirdly.—That the Monigar should be required to furnish annually returns of import and export trade of the islands.

Fourthly.—That the two islanders from Kalpeny and Androt should be permitted to take possession of the Circar trees in Aminy.

Fifthly.—That the Kiltan islander should be encouraged to settle and plant on Kadamat, and that the late Monigar should also be allowed to take up some land on that island.

Sixthly.—That a small allowance might be granted to the Ugranies of Chetlat and Kadamat in lieu of the irregular contributions from the islanders.

Seventhly.—That in the event of the present Monigar being transferred, some officer of higher standing and qualifications should be sent over in his place.

Lastly.—That a simple and clear explanation of the Salvage rules might be published for the information and guidance of the principal islanders.

29. I must apologize for the delay which has occurred in forwarding this report. The reason for it was that the Monigar had no time while I was at the islands to prepare the Census Returns for this year which I was anxious to incorporate in my report. I was obliged, therefore, to wait till he brought them over with him at the end of last month.

30. I beg to return, herewith, the Proceedings of Government* and of the Board of Revenue† forwarded to me with your letter, also a Chart of the Divi islands obtained subsequently from your office. The copy of Mr. Robinson's Report has been already returned.

* Proceedings of Government, July 24th, 1863.
† Proc. Board of Revenue, Oct. 23rd, 1863, No. 6,818. To be forwarded.

No. 1.—Statement shewing the amount of Coir received annually at Mangalore, from the Amindivy Islands, from Fusly 1256 to Fusly 1275.

Fuslies.	Coir imported. From Amindivy and Kadamat Islands.	From Kiltan and Chetlat Islands.	Total.
	C. M. D.	C. M. D.	C. M. D.
1256	306 18 0	190 12 0	497 10 0
1257	270 14 3	153 15 23	424 9 26
1258	507 19 15	221 15 6	729 14 21
1259	406 15 8	264 7 19	671 2 27
1260	425 0 2	240 15 9	665 15 11
1261	330 12 14	213 14 1	574 6 15
1262	434 7 0	241 16 1	676 3 1
1263	403 19 18	220 14 23	624 14 13
1264	465 18 22	203 12 8	669 11 2
1265	374 17 10	231 18 20	606 16 2
1266	424 14 5	208 11 23	633 6 0
1267	420 10 18	226 1 17	646 12 7
1268	422 16 13	212 18 18	635 15 3
1269	414 2 11	221 15 25	635 18 8
1270	500 12 23	238 7 5	739 0 0
1271	424 10 0	218 12 2	643 2 2
1272	447 9 4	260 16 21	708 5 25
1273	473 3 22	201 14 20	674 18 14
1274	573 18 19	247 18 9	821 17 0
1275 up to April	440 19 5	291 3 5	732 2 10
Total ...	8,469 19 16	4,541 2 3	13,011 1 19
Yearly average	423 9 27	227 1 3	650 11 2

Mangalore,
31st *May* 1866.

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd September 1867.

No. 2.—Statement shewing the annual quantity of rice given to the Islanders since Fusly 1256, the value thereof at 2 Rupees a Murah, and the prices at which the same was purchased each year by the Government.

Fuslies.	Quantity of rice given each year.	Value at 2 Rupees a Murah.	Paid for the same each year by Government.	Cost per Murah to Government	Difference between Columns 3 and 4. In favor of Islanders.	Difference between Columns 3 and 4. In favor of Government.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Murahs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1256 ...	3,802	7,604 0 0	5,694 7 6	1 8 0	.....	1,909 8 6
1257 ...	3,242	6,484 0 0	4,875 4 6	1 8 0	.....	1,608 11 6
1258 ...	5,565	11,130 0 0	8,154 4 4	1 7 5	.....	2,975 11 8
1259 ...	5,132½	10,265 12 0	7,369 15 6	1 7 0	.....	2,895 12 6
1260 ...	5,086½	10,172 12 0	6,891 8 10	1 5 8	.....	3,281 3 2
1261 ...	4,397½	8,794 8 0	6,271 15 0	1 6 10	.....	2,522 9 0
1262 ...	5,163½	10,327 8 0	8,041 7 4	1 8 11	.....	2,286 0 8
1263 ...	4,769½	9,538 8 0	9,783 5 5	2 0 9	244 13 5	.....
1264 ...	5,101½	10,202 8 0	11,193 1 11	2 3 1	990 9 11	.....
1265 ...	4,634½	9,269 0 0	9,451 11 7	2 0 8	182 11 7	.....
1266 ...	4,828	9,656 0 0	10,823 7 4	2 3 11	1,167 7 4	.....
1267 ...	4,933	9,866 0 0	10,674 8 2	2 2 6	808 8 2	.....
1268 ...	4,846½	9,693 8 0	13,065 13 4	2 11 2	3,372 5 4	.....
1269 ...	4,851	9,702 0 0	17,807 15 2	3 10 9	8,105 15 2	.....
1270 ...	5,629½	11,259 0 0	15,234 9 6	2 11 4	3,975 1 6	.....
1271 ...	4,907	9,813 13 10	12,154 0 9	2 7 8	2,340 2 11	.....
1272 ...	5,408½	10,816 10 0	11,576 9 8	2 2 3	759 15 8	.....
1273 ...	5,140½	10,281 0 0	21,437 13 11	4 2 9	11,156 13 11	.....
1274 ...	6,262½	12,524 8 0	23,133 15 3	3 11 1	10,609 7 3	.....
1275 ...	5,581	11,162 0 0	16,896 9 9	3 0 5	5,734 9 9	.....
Total...	99,281½	1,98,563 7 10	2,30,532 8 9	.....	49,448 9 11	17,479 9 0
					Total loss to Government...	31,969 0 11

Mangalore,
31st *May* 1866.

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

No. 3.—Statement shewing the amount of Coir sold annually either to the Bengal or Bombay Government, or by public auction, since Fusly 1256, together with the prices which it has realized.

Fuslies.	Amount of Coir sold to Bengal Government.	Rate per Candy.	Amount of price paid.	Amount of Coir sold to Bombay Government.	Rate.	Amount of price paid.	Amount of Coir sold in the market.	Rate.	Amount of price realized.	Total receipts.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	C. M. D.	Rs. A.	Rs. A. P.	C. M. D.	Rs. A.	Rs. A. P.	C. M. D.	Rs. A.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1256...	300 0 0	25 0	7,500 0 0	.....	.....	.....	16 15 12	24 10	413 1 8	7,913 1 8
1257...	572 15 2	25 0	14,318 13 5	.....	.....	.....	22 8 11	25 0	561 4 7	14,880 2 0
1258...	430 8 7	25 0	10,760 5 0	.....	.....	.....	22 9 6	24 12	556 13 3	11,317 2 3
1259...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	402 12 25	25 0	10,063 10 6	10,063 10 6
1260...	500 0 0	30 0	15,000 0 0	.....	.....	.....	975 11 12	27 2	26,463 9 3	41,463 9 3
1261...	402 4 15	30 0	12,066 11 2	.....	.....	.....	29 14 19	25 0	744 11 4	12,811 6 10
1262...	389 19 18	30 0	11,699 7 5	56 13 26	30 0	1,700 14 4	0 16 24	29 15	24 2 10	13,424 8 7
1263...	780 19 20	30 0	23,429 9 2	4 0 0	30 0	120 0 0	1 14 19	24 15	44 9 9	23,594 2 11
1264...	472 11 14	40 0	18,903 0 0	285 0 0	30 0	8,550 0 0	15 8 6	38 2	585 9 4	28,038 9 4
1265...	541 0 20	40 0	21,641 6 11	400 0 0	40 0	16,000 0 0	1 5 11	39 0	49 12 0	37,691 2 11
1266...	600 0 0	40 0	24,000 0 0	.....	.....	.....	50 0 6	45 8	2,297 5 9	26,297 5 9
1267...	615 0 0	40 0	24,600 0 0	180 0 0	45 0	7,200 0 0	0 19 26	43 0	42 13 9	31,842 13 9
1268...	517 3 11	45 0	23,272 10 2	.....	.....	.....	0 14 21	45 0	33 3 0	23,305 13 2
1269...	701 0 0	45 0	31,545 0 0	.....	.....	.....	0 9 21	45 0	21 15 0	31,566 15 0
1270...	500 0 13	45 0	22,501 3 3	.....	.....	.....	10 8 0	39 8	411 0 0	22,912 3 3
1271...	100 0 0	45 0	4,500 0 0	.....	.....	.....	806 8 18	37 2	29,933 15 2	34,433 15 2
1272...	300 0 0	40 0	12,000 0 0	.....	.....	.....	352 13 3	34 10	12,191 2 2	24,191 2 2
1273...	200 0 0	40 0	8,000 0 0	.....	.....	.....	501 3 21	40 0	20,067 8 4	28,067 8 4
1274...	120 0 0	40 0	4,800 0 0	.....	.....	.....	460 4 0	40 1	18,448 0 0	23,248 0 0
1275	400 0 0	50 & 40 0	17,200 0 0	4 0 0	50 0	200 0 0	800 5 14	37 4	29,836 0 0	47,236 0 0
								Total Rupees...		4,94,299 4 10
								Yearly average...		24,714 15 5

Mangalore,
31st May 1866.

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

No. 4.—Statement shewing the transactions of the Coir Department in the District of South Canara.

Fuslies.	Quantity of Coir received from the Islands.	Payments to the Islanders.					
		In rice or its value at the standard rate of 2 Rupees per Murah.	Actual cost to Government upon do.	Profit or loss to Government upon do.		Portion paid in cash.	Total Columns 4 and 7.
				Profit.	Loss.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	C. M. D.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1258	729 14 21	11,130 0 0	8,154 4 4	2,975 11 8	... ...	3,701 4 6	11,855 8 10
1259	671 2 27	10,265 12 0	7,369 15 6	2,895 12 6	... ...	3,414 6 7	10,784 6 1
1260	665 15 11	10,172 12 0	6,891 8 10	3,281 3 2	... ...	3,383 10 6	10,275 8 4
1261	574 6 15	8,794 8 0	6,271 15 0	2,522 9 0	... ...	2,923 9 3	9,195 8 3
1262	676 3 1	10,327 8 0	8,041 7 4	2,286 0 8	... ...	3,438 8 7	11,479 15 11
1263	624 14 13	9,538 8 0	9,783 5 5	... ...	244 13 5	3,178 11 10	12,962 1 3
1264	669 11 2	10,202 8 0	11,193 1 11	.. ..	990 9 11	3,405 11 3	14,598 13 2
1265	606 16 2	9,269 0 0	9,451 11 7	... ...	182 11 7	3,094 14 3	12,546 9 10
1266	633 6 0	9,656 0 0	10,823 7 4	... ...	1,167 7 4	3,225 13 10	14,049 5 2
1267	616 12 .7	9,866 0 0	10,674 8 2	... ...	808 8 2	3,295 4 0	13,969 12 2
1268	635 15 3	9,693 8 0	13,065 13 4	... ...	3,372 5 4	3,240 10 4	16,306 7 8
1269	635 18 8	9,702 0 0	17,807 15 2	... ...	8,105 15 2	3,241 3 4	21,049 2 6
1270	739 0 0	11,259 8 0	15,234 9 6	... ...	3,975 1 6	3,769 1 5	19,003 10 10
1271	643 2 2	9,813 13 10	12,154 0 9	... ...	2,340 2 11	3,271 13 10	15,425 14 7
1272	708 5 25	10,816 10 0	11,576 9 8	... ...	759 15 8	3,608 13 7	15,185 7 3
1273	674 18 14	10,281 0 0	21,437 13 11	... ...	11,156 13 11	3,434 2 9	24,872 0 8
1274	821 17 0	12,524 8 0	23,133 15 3	... ...	10,609 7 3	4,177 14 1	27,311 13 4
1275 up to April	732 2 10	11,162 0 0	16,896 9 9	... ...	5,734 9 9	3,722 14 6	20,619 8 3
Total...	12,089 1 21	1,84,475 7 10	2,19,962 12 9	13,961 5 0	49,448 9 11	61,528 8 5	2,81,491 5 2

Statement showing the transactions of the Coir Department, &c.—(Concluded.)

Faslies.	Establishment.	Contingencies.	Total annual expenditure.	Sale proceeds of Coir credited to Government.	Result. Profit.	Loss.	Remarks.
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1268 ...	836 9 4	a 763 1 10	13,155 4 0	11,317 2 3	.....	1,838 1 9	(a). Buildings of godown here charged.
1269 ...	835 8 0	58 10 8	11,358 8 9	10,063 10 6	.....	1,294 14 3	(b). Pay of Karanies or Carnums and their number increased this year.
1260 ...	b 622 4 3	59 11 8	10,957 3 3	41,463 9 3	30,506 6 0	.....	(c). Additional establishment maintained at Mangalore Depôt at 50 Rupees per month, and paid for only from January in this year.
1261 ...	629 13 0	7 12 0	9,833 1 3	12,811 6 10	2,978 5 7	.....	(d). The above additional establishment paid for the full year.
1262 ...	c 890 13 0	23 8 2	12,891 5 8	13,424 8 7	1,030 2 11	.....	(e). Arrears in 1266 paid in the following year.
1263 ...	d 1,278 1 0	200 5 4	14,440 7 7	23,534 2 11	9,153 11 4	.....	(f). Of this Rupees 577-8-5 are packing charges in sending provision in aid to the islanders, debited against Government.
1264 ...	1,198 5 4	1 2 0	15,708 4 6	28,018 9 4	12,210 4 10	.....	
1265 ...	1,277 3 11	41 5 0	13,965 2 9	37,691 2 11	23,826 0 2	.....	
1266 ...	e 1,055 0 0	5 11 9	15,110 0 11	26,247 5 9	11,137 4 10	.....	
1267 ...	1,733 10 0	75 5 7	13,578 11 9	31,842 13 9	18,264 2 0	.....	
1268 ...	1,328 10 3	f 663 10 2	18,298 12 1	23,305 13 2	5,007 1 1	.....	
1269 ...	1,480 14 9	24 2 3	22,554 3 6	31,566 15 0	9,012 11 6	.....	
1270 ...	1,340 4 3	36 15 8	20,380 14 10	22,912 3 3	2,531 4 5	.....	
1271 ...	1,113 6 3	66 3 8	16,593 8 6	34,433 15 2	17,838 6 8	.....	
1272 ...	1,353 12 8	23 12 7	16,563 0 6	24,191 2 2	7,628 1 8	.....	
1273 ...	1,394 6 10	9 6 6	20,275 13 11	28,067 8 4	1,791 10 5	.....	
1274 ...	1,527 5 0	27 9 8	28,806 12 0	23,218 0 0	.....	5,618 12 0	(g). The further sanctioned addition of Rupees 37 per month, or Rupees 434 per annum, carried out at the latter end of Fusly 1274.
1275 up to April.	g 1,710 15 2	h 265 0 0	22,585 8 2	47,236 0 0	24,650 7 10	.....	(h). Consists chiefly of charges attending the visit of an Assistant Collector to the Islands.
Total...	20,806 15 0	2,313 7 9	3,04,611 11 11	4,71,500 1 2	1,75,646 1 3	8,751 12 0	N. B.—It must also be observed that variations in the actual cost of rice given to the Karanies in the islands is another cause for fluctuations in the yearly charges shown for establishment.
				Net profit...	1,66,894 5 3		
				Yearly average...	9,271 14 6½		

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

MANGALORE,
31st May 1866.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd September 1867.

1. Ordered that the foregoing papers be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 14th December 1863, directing that a European Officer should visit and report on the progress of the Laccadive Islands, attached to the Canara District, as soon as arrangements could be made for the purpose. The illness of Mr. Webster, the Head Assistant, delayed matters, and eventually rendered it necessary to intrust the duty to Mr. Sewell whose report does him very great credit. The Collector trusts that hereafter he may be enabled, from the increased facilities for communicating with the islands, to arrange for their being visited by one of his Assistants at least every second year, and the Board will be glad to learn that his anticipations are fulfilled.

2. Mr. Sewell's report will be perused by Government with interest, and it is unnecessary for the Board to analyze it. They will briefly notice the several points which seem to call for remark.

3. As regards the state of crime on the islands, the Board are disposed to adopt Mr. Sewell's opinion notwithstanding Mr. Cadell's doubts. The islanders used to be eminently truthful, and the Board believe that had crimes of violence occurred, the fact would have come to light when inquiries were being made on the subject. That the islanders are given to plundering deserted wrecks on the reefs in the neighbourhood of their islands can scarcely fairly be adduced as evidence of a tendency to violent outrages.

4. It would be surprising if they abstained on such occasions, more especially when, as Mr. Sewell points out, they have never been treated as Salvors. The tendency may be discouraged by adopting Mr. Sewell's suggestion that a brief statement of the rules relating to Salvage be published in the islands, and carefully explained to the Muktessurs, and the Board request Mr. Cadell to see to this if he has not already done so.

5. The lessening of the Monigar's influence by the appointment of the Sub-Monigar which necessarily led, from the peculiar circumstances of the island, to a divided authority is a matter deserving of consideration, and the Board support Mr. Cadell's recommendation that the appointment of the Sub-Monigar be abolished, and the pay amalgamated with that of the Monigar, thus providing the means of paying Rupees 35 monthly to an officer of superior qualifications, who should be intrusted with the powers of a Sub-Magistrate of the second class.

6. If this arrangement be sanctioned by Government, the Collector should take an early opportunity of relieving the present Monigar and Sub-Monigar, the former of whom Mr. Sewell found scarcely equal to the duties of his post.

7. The Collector will, with reference to paragraph 12 of Mr. Sewell's Report, furnish the office-holder with instructions for taking the census at intervals of five years, so as to correspond with the quinquennial return for the main-land. He will also keep him well supplied with cholera medicines, stored in bottles, to avoid deterioration from damp. The Government order on the subject of supplying Talook Officers is applicable to the case.

8. The Board trust that arrangements have been made for procuring the occasional services of a vaccinator, but they see no reason why the Monigar should not be instructed how to perform this very simple operation, and furnished with a lancet and an annual supply of lymph.

9. The Board approve the Collector's intention to instruct the Monigar to keep the returns of exports and imports suggested by Mr. Sewell.

10. The Board see no reason to advocate any change in the existing system by which a revenue is derived from a monopoly of the coir manufactured on the islands. The system seems to work satisfactorily for all parties. The Board suggest to the Collector the experimental cultivation of some sea island cotton on the islands. The Agri-Horticultural Society will doubtless supply him with seed for the purpose.

11. The Board concur in opinion with the Collector that no good end is likely at present to be attained by attempting to interfere for the promotion of education.

12. They deem it unnecessary for them to touch on the detailed recommendations made by Mr. Sewell in regard to the internal affairs of the several islands. They have full confidence in Mr. Cadell's liberal administration of this interesting portion of his charge, and are content to leave these minor matters in his hands.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 2nd September 1867, No. 2,045.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government concur in opinion with the Board that Mr. Sewell is entitled to great credit for the efficient manner in which he discharged the duty entrusted to him, and for the full and interesting report that he submitted.

2. On the whole the condition of the islanders appears to be decidedly improving.

3. The Government entirely approve the Board's instructions to the Collector on the subject of supplying the Monigar with cholera medicines, and desire that remedies for fever be added to them. They wish to be informed what arrangements have been made for affording the islanders the benefit of vaccination which they seem fully to appreciate. The suggestion that the Monigar in charge should be instructed in this very simple operation and supplied with the means of performing it should be carried out.

4. The Government see no reason for hesitating to accept Mr. Sewell's conclusions as to the state of crime among the islanders.

5. The character of wholesale plunderers which Mr. Cadell gives them is not fairly applicable when the nature of the facts ascertained is allowed weight. At most it can only be said that they have used their opportunities for appropriating more than their admitted share of the produce of the islands derived from their industry, and have not abstained from plundering abandoned wrecks. There seems no ground for suspecting the existence of a larger extent of serious crimes of violence than has been brought to notice.

6. The Government, however, concur with the Board and Collector in thinking that the creation of the post of Sub-Monigar by dividing authority may have weakened the rude administration of justice, and approve the proposal to abolish this post and to re-unite its pay to that of the Monigar, thereby enabling the Collector to secure the services of a person of superior qualifications to whom somewhat larger Magisterial powers may be entrusted. They desire that this change may be carried out as soon as circumstances will admit. The Collector

will take the necessary measures to ensure that the islanders are fully informed as to the rules for the benefit of Salvors in case of wrecks, and the Government trust that this knowledge may lead to an improvement in one of the few tangible grounds of complaint against them. The Collector will instruct the Monigar to use his best endeavours to obtain simple but correct statistics of population, houses, cattle, cultivation, fruit-trees, boats, imports and exports, education, disease, crime, and any other particulars which may serve to elucidate the actual condition of the islanders; and to bring to notice any points in which he considers that their condition can be ameliorated.

7. The Government concur with the Board in deeming change undesirable in the system of administering the islands, which cannot be correctly said to entail any loss on Government when it results in an average net annual revenue of Rupees 8,500, after allowing for all charges for establishment, and for supplying rice and salt to the islanders at fixed and favorable rates.

8. It does not appear that much can be done to promote education among the islanders; but enquiry may suggest to the Acting Collector some means for facilitating its progress, and generally on this and all other subjects relating to these people who are so greatly dependant on extraneous assistance for their advancement in civilization, the Government rely on Mr. Thomas to adopt the most liberal measures that occur to him for attaining this end.

9. They do not doubt that he will take a deep interest in the subject, and he may rest assured that the most liberal consideration will be given to any recommendations which, when fully informed on the subject, he may desire to make.

10. They trust that it may be found feasible to effect what Mr. Cadell desired that a European Officer may visit the islands at least once in every two years, if not oftener, and they will look with interest for future reports.

11. The Collector will communicate copy of these Proceedings to Mr. Sewell who has left the district.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Inspector General Indian Medical Department.
„ W. Robinson, Esq.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Literary Society.
„ the Agri-Horticultural Society.
„ the Curator, Museum.
„ the Chamber of Commerce.

Encl. T. O'Connor.

Sec 13th April/67 No 142
24th July — 68 — 46 a 2
14th December — 234-0

Reported to England
D/ 11th Oct No 58 of 1867
Mis

Rev = 1867. ssment.
Int of Govt for 5 yrs

No. 950

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 8th April 1867.
Read 11 June
Rec'd 12th

Acctt 20th 5th Sept

No. 2,204.

Submitting to Government with remarks letter from Collector of South Canara forwarding report of Mr Sewell, Acting Head Assistant Collector, on results of his visits to Laccadive Islands in December 1866 and January 1866; and recommending proposed abolition of appointment of a Sub Monigar on these islands, and appointment of a Monigar on 35 Rupees per mensem.

Ent. J. Wright.

No.

Col Anderson

Revenue Depart.

No 2045

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 2d Sept. 1867

Read the following Proc: of the Bd of Revr

Submitting letter from Colr of South Canara, forwarding report of Mr. Sewell, Actg Hd Asstt Colr, on results of his visits to the Laccadive Islands in Decr 1865 and January 1866; and recommending proposed abolition of a fanam on toddy and a fanam on arrack of a monigar on those islands and 36 Rs per mensem.

(Above letter 8th Augt 1867, No 2204)

The Govt concur in opinion with the Board that Mr. Sewell is entitled to great credit for the efficient manner, in which he discharged the duty entrusted to him and for the full and interesting report that he has submitted.

On the whole the condition of the islanders appears to be decidedly

the increase even
in their numbers which
was caused by the seri-
ous outbreak of Cholera
in 1863 - so that in 1866 the
population (3,537) was if the
returns may be trusted less
than in 1844 (3,609) can
scarcely be deemed cause
for regret when the very
restricted area of the islands
and the limited means
of support afforded by
them are considered -

The Govern-
-ment entirely approve
the Board's instructions to
the Collector on the sub-
-ject of supplying the Mo-
-nigars with Cholera medi-
-cines and desire that
remedies for Sick be
added to them - They
wish to be informed what
arrangements have
been made for afford
-ing the Islanders
the benefit of vac-
-cination which
they seem fully to ap-
-preciate - The sug-
-gestion that the
Monigars in charge
should be instruct-
-ed in this very
simple operation
and supplied
with the means

of performing ex-

it should be car-

-ried out.-

The Govern-

-ment see no reason

for hesitating to ac-

-cept Mr. Sewell's

conclusions as

as to the state

of crime in or

among

among the Islanders.

The character of

wholesale plunderers

which the Condé committed

~~inflicted~~ Given there is not

fairly applicable pleas

the evidence of the fact

contained is allowed

weight. It must

can only be said that

they have assessed their

opportunities for ad-

-ministering ~~and~~ justice

the administer share of the

produce of the Islands

derived from their

industry, and have

not obtained from

plundering abandoned

wrecks. There does

no ground for suspect-

ing the existence of a

Cargo

larger extent of serious crimes of violence than has been brought to notice.

The Government however concur with the Lord Lieutenant-Governor that a Magistrate should be appointed besides the administration of justice and approve the proposal to establish this post and to place under the Magistrate the Chief of the Police.

Such Magistrate by their being constantly among the Islanders would ascertain by close observation the best mode of administering justice and would be able to advise the Governor as to the changes which may be required from time to time.

The Collector to be under the direction of the Superior Magistrate whenever he may be on the Island.

The Governor desires that the changes may be carried out at as early a date as circumstances will admit.

The Collector will take the necessary measures to ensure that the Islanders are fully informed as to the rules for the conduct of seals on the occasion of creche, and the

Govt

Government to report that
the Revenue Officers on board
to carry on surveys and
to undertake the necessary
duties against them. How it
could be made most useful
navigate to ascertain best
and cheapest to attain
desirable but circumscribed
statistics of Population.
Manners. Castes.
Cultivation. Fruits.
Roots. Animals and
Reptiles. Education.
Diseases. Epidemics and
any other particulars

which

which may serve to elucidate
the actual condition of
the islanders, and to bring
to notice any points in
which he considers that
their condition can be
ameliorated.

The Govt. concurs with
the Board in deeming change
undesirable in the system
of administering the islands
which cannot be correctly
to entrust any more on
Govt. when it results in
an average net annual
revenue of Rs. 8,500 after
allowing for all charges for
establishment and for
supplying Rice and Salt
to the islanders at fixed
and favourable rates.

It does not appear that
much can be done to

promote

provide education among
the islanders - but enquiry
may suggest to the Ad. Coll.
some means for facilita-
ting its progress and
generally on this and
all other subjects relating
to these people who are so
greatly dependant on ex-
traneous assistance for
their advancement in civi-
lization - the Govt.
on Mr. Thomas to adopt
the most liberal measures
that occur to him for attain-
ing this end.

They do not doubt that
he will take a deep interest
in the subject and he
may rest assured of the
most liberal consideration
both the Govt. &

2045 Rec.
3 Oct.
1 - 11

Forming recommendations
which when fully con-
sidered on the subject
may desire to make

by the formation
to effect which Mr. Lad
desired that a European
Officer may visit the
islands at least once
every two years if not
oftener they may
the interest for
reports.
Collector will
municate copy of
Proceedings to Mr.
Jewell who has left the
District.

L. B.

To
1/4 — The Bd of Revenue Lond.
1 — Sec. Govt.
2 — Insp. Genl, Indian Med. Dept.
1 — W. Robinson Esq.
— Public Dept.
— Lit. Society
— Agri. Hort. Society

Revenue 1867 Depts
Pro of Court for Sc'tld

20

No. 2045

Pro of Heirs and Court
of 2d Septr 1867.

No. 6 Pos Rec'd 11th Dec 67
No 24434

Rehearsal in Engla
of 11th Feb 1868 in RA 530/13
Mar

21 4 0d

5/1/77
20 Jan 27
8-12-77 5
6 8 7

No. 4