

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4935

DATED 4th December 78

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording as follows. Submitting to Govt. the report
from the Collector of Malabar on the admini-
stration of Laccadive Islands for fasli 1307.

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
no	7408/99		12/11/98				

Revenue
Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 8176



From *The Board of Revenue*
Land Revenue,
Madras.

Order *mis. No. 4935 of 14th Dec 1898*

Referred.

No. 315 P

Dated *22nd November '98*

Received }
 Registered } *30/11*

Enclosures —

Spare copies

Note

There are no points in the report requiring the orders of Govt. *signed B.D.*

and
7-12-98
RS
10-12-98

See me
12/12/98

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government the report from the Collectors of Malabar on the administration of Laccadive Islands for fasli 1307.

2A
10-11-98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed November th.

Proceedings, No. 315, 22nd November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

Submitting to Government the report from the Collector of Malabar on the administration of Laccadive Islands for fasli 1307.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

READ—the following letter from F. C. PARSONS, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 30th September 1898, R. No. 215-IsL. :—

I have the honour to submit my report on the administration of the Laccadives and Minicoy for fasli 1307.

2. I enclose two statements showing the receipts and charges under the different heads. The total revenue from the islands including the proportionate Amin Divi compensation of Rs. 3,984 aggregated Rs. 69,872-10-9 as against Rs. 51,582-3-6 during the previous year. To meet the working expenses incidental to the administration of the islands during the year, Rs. 7,000 were taken from the amount lying at the Rajah's credit. The total charges of the year amounted to Rs. 65,426-15-2 as against Rs. 67,608-1-5 in the previous fasli.

3. A consignment of 500 bags of rice was sent over to Minicoy in May 1898 as the supply of rice on the island was insufficient to meet the demand during the monsoon. Rs. 7,693-4-8 were recovered from the rice contractor on account of rice entrusted to him for sale in Minicoy in the previous fasli. The amount still due by him is Rs. 651-6-6 for the recovery of which steps are being taken. The cost of the consignment entrusted to him during the current fasli is expected to be recovered by the 30th November 1898, i.e., as soon as the articles bartered for rice on the island are brought and sold on the mainland.

4. I subjoin a statement showing the quantities of coir imported from the different islands during the last five years :—

Islands.	Quantities in candies of 560 lb. each.						Increase or decrease as compared with the average.
	Fasli 1303.	Fasli 1304.	Fasli 1305.	Fasli 1306.	Average.	Fasli 1307.	
Agathi	241	228	216	189	218	277	+ 59
Kavarathi	354	285	368	316	331	375	+ 44
Androth	132	418	268	256	268	437	+ 169
Kalpeni	372	381	325	392	367	454	+ 87
Minicoy	182	51	21	..	63	..	- 63
Total ..	1,281	1,363	1,198	1,153	1,247	1,543	+ 296

No coir was imported from Minicoy in the fasli under report probably as a result of the fire and cyclone that visited the island during the previous fasli. The increase from Androth is due to the previous year's supply which was not wholly brought to the mainland having been received during the year. The excess under Kalpeni is due to almost the whole of the rent due on the pandaram (crown) lands having been recovered.

5. All the coir imported was sold during the fasli. The price averaged Rupees 35-9-9 per candy against Rs. 34-6-5 in the previous year. The increase is attributable to a rise in the price of coir in the local markets. No first-class coir was imported from any of the islands.

6. The quantity of cowries imported amounted to 9 candies 7 maunds and 11 lb., against 9 candies and 11 lb. This, together with last year's stock, was put up to auction, but not sold as no reasonable bid was obtained.

7. No tortoise shell was imported during the fasli.

8. No loan was taken from the imperial treasury. But advances, amounting to Rs. 7,000, were taken from the amount held in deposit in the treasury in favour of the Rajah.

9. When the accounts were adjusted on the last day of the fasli after paying peshkash due on account of the islands there was a balance of Rs. 4,445-11-7 to the credit of the Rajah. This amount has been held in deposit as required by Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2018, dated the 1st May 1896. The balance at the end of the fasli in favour of the Rajah is as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Balance at the end of the fasli 1306	24,506	14	9
Balance in favour of the Rajah at the end of the fasli 1307.	4,445	11	7
Total ..	28,952	10	4

10. The islands were not visited during the year. The last visit was Mr. Hewetson's in 1895-96.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.
STATEMENT No. I.—Receipts.

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) No. 315, 22ND NOVEMBER 1898.

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.		Kalpeni.		Minicoy.		Mainland.		Grand Total.	
	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.
<i>Revenue from Monopoly articles—Cont.</i>	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
Balance of last year stock—														
First-class ..	275 12 3	8,807 10 6	366 13 23	13,067 6 9	427 5 2	15,222 15 6	399 8 15	14,231 1 10	..	..	..	..	1,408 19 15	52,329 2 7
Second-class ..	1 9 15	72 1 2	8 19 6	247 7 2	10 1 19	275 13 3	14 3 20	359 4 8	..	..	..	..	34 14 4	954 9 10
Third-class ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Portion of current year's stock sold within the year—														
First-class ..	277 1 18	9,879 11 8	375 13 1	13,314 13 11	437 6 21	15,498 12 9	455 8 11	16,032 7 9	..	..	..	..	1,545 9 23	54,725 14 1
Second-class ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Third-class ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cowries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of monopoly articles ..	277 1 18	9,879 11 8	375 13 1	13,314 13 11	437 6 21	15,498 12 9	455 8 11	16,032 7 9	..	..	..	..	1,545 9 23	54,725 14 1
<i>Miscellaneous Revenue.</i>														
Cocoanuts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fines ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poll-tax ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sundries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of Miscellaneous Revenue ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Receipts other than ordinary.</i>														
Proportionate ameeni compensation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Loans ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of receipts other than ordinary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand total ..	277 1 18	1,1112 6 10	375 13 1	14,123 10 5	437 6 21	15,957 13 1	455 8 11	16,032 7 9	..	..	..	..	1,545 9 23	60,872 10 9

• The details of the items under sundries are given below :—
 (1) Value of articles recovered from the Superintendent of Central Museum, Calcutta. 27 14 0
 (2) Value of articles purchased by Messrs. D. Mand & Co. in fuel 1308, but remitted in 1307. 500 0 0
 (3) Value of rice recovered from the late-filial observatory clerk Mr. Francis .. 47 8 0
 (4) Amount of rice money recovered from the late-filial observatory clerk Mr. Francis .. 7,693 4 8
 (5) Amount remitted by the Minicoy grain after the inspection of his accounts .. 191 9 8
 (6) Value of rice paid by the Minicoy grain .. 58 1 0
 (7) Sale-proceeds of timber remitted by Agathi amin .. 4 0 0
 (8) Sale-proceeds of boatsam and jetsam remitted by Androth amin .. 14 1 4
 Total .. 8,662 4 8

ENCLOSURE No. 2.
STATEMENT No. II.—Charges.

BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), No. 315, 22ND NOVEMBER 1898.

5

Items.	Agathi.		Kavarathi.		Androth.		Kalpeni.		Minicoy.		Mainland.		Grand Total.	
	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.	Quantity or weight.	Amount or value.
<i>Charges on account of monopoly articles.</i>	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.	C. M. LB.	RS. A. P.
First-class ..	275 12 3	8,793 9 4	332 14 20	11,904 12 1	7 24	11,859 6 11	373 0 4	12,588 14 5	..	..	..	..	1,352 14 23	45,146 10 9
Second-class ..	1 9 15	37 4 3	8 19 6	226 3 0	1 19	234 8 4	14 3 20	330 1 8	..	..	..	..	34 14 4	848 1 3
Third-class ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Freight paid on Government coir ..	0 2 16	6 5 0	13 19 3	27 14 6	75 17 6	151 11 5	26 8 11	52 13 2	..	..	..	..	116 4 20	232 7 1
Cowries ..	..	..	..	..	0 6 27	15 7 0	8 17 24	321 12 0	..	..	..	..	9 7 11	343 8 0
Total of monopoly articles ..	277 4 6	8,837 2 7	375 13 1	12,158 13 7	7437 13 20	12,281 1 8	422 10 3	13,293 9 3	..	..	..	..	1,513 1 2	46,570 11 1
<i>Miscellaneous charges.</i>														
Cocoanuts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sea Customs charges ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Travelling allowances, contingencies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Visit to the islands ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sundries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Establishment salary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of miscellaneous charges ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Special payments.</i>														
Repayment of loans ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peishch arrears ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Municipal tax on behalf of Rajah ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total of special payments ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	277 4 6	9,299 2 7	375 13 1	12,620 6 1	7437 13 20	12,928 0 5	422 10 3	13,664 6 3	..	..	..	..	1,513 1 2	65,426 15 2

• The chief items under sundries are detailed below :—
 (1) Cost of ten bags of rice supplied to Minicoy hospital servants .. 89 9 5
 (2) Cost of ten bags of rice supplied to Gulam Qadir Gumsata, of Minicoy .. 79 3 0
 (3) Cost of purchasing a spinning jenny .. 9 6 0
 (4) Advance paid to the new hospital assistant at Minicoy .. 200 0 0
 (5) Cost of repairing three old boxes belonging to Island Department .. 4 6 3
 (6) Refund of fine to three Agathi islanders .. 34 0 0
 (7) Expense for bringing certain boatsam and jetsam from Androth to Calcutta. 2 12 0
 Total .. 4,470 11 11

(8) Price of 500 bags of rice supplied to Minicoy Islanders in May 1898 including freight and other charges .. 4,011 4 3
 (9) Cost of purchasing books and stationery articles for the use of the Kalpeni school .. 40 3 0
 Total .. 4,470 11 11

Reference on the above, No. 1166, dated 15th October 1898.

From paragraph 5 of the letter read above and from the statement of receipts which has accompanied it, it would appear that the entire stock of coir, including the unsold balance of the previous year, was sold during fasli 1307. But according to the particulars of import in paragraph 4 of the Collector's letter and those of sales in the statement of receipts, 39 and odd candies of coir should have remained unsold at the end of the year as shown in the margin*. The Collector is requested to explain the discrepancy.

2. According to paragraph 3 of the Collector's report for fasli 1306, a sum of Rs. 10,364-8-6 was outstanding at the end of that year on account of rice supplied to the Minicoy islanders in November 1896 and May 1897. A sum of Rs. 7,693-4-8 having been recovered during fasli 1307, the balance still due should be Rupees 2,671-3-10. But in paragraph 3 of the letter read above, the Collector says that the balance due is only Rs. 651-6-6. It is presumed that the difference was recovered in the current fasli.

3. The peshkash adjusted for the year is Rs. 11,383 instead of Rs. 11,383-0-11, the usual amount. The omission of 11 pies should be explained.

4. In paragraph 5 of the Collector's letter, the average sale-price per candy of coir is quoted as Rs. 35-9-9. It is not understood how this rate was calculated. The rate arrived at with reference to the particulars of sales in statement I is Rs. 35-6-7.†

† At Rs. 54,725-14-1 for 1,545 candies 9 maunds 23 lb.

Year.	Quantity imported.
	C. M. LB.
Fasli 1305	7 14 15
" 1306	9 0 11
" 1307	9 7 11
Total	26 2 9

5. The cowries imported during the last three years ‡ remain unsold owing, it is said, to the absence of reasonable bids at the auction sales. The Collector is requested to report how he proposes to dispose of the stock now accumulating.

6. In paragraph 9 of the Collector's letter, the closing balance for fasli 1307 is worked out on the basis of the balance shown in the administration report for fasli 1306. The Collector is requested to state whether the accounts have been revised with reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2072, dated 4th August 1898, and the prescribed separate interest accounts opened.

7. It is presumed that the system of sale by tender instead of by public auction was adopted in disposing of coir during fasli 1307, as in faslis 1304 and 1305 and presumably also in fasli 1306.

8. An early reply should be sent to the present reference.

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.

READ—the following letter from F. C. PARSONS, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Calicut, 30th October 1898, R. No. 233-IsL. :—

Adverting to Board's Reference, dated 15th instant, No. 1166, I have the honour to state as follows.

Paragraph 1 of the Board's reference.—The discrepancy referred to is due to the balance of the previous year's stock, viz., 41 candies 16 maunds and 4 lb. of coir having been included by mistake in the imports during fasli 1307. The imports as

given in the following statement, amounted only to 1,504 and not 1,543 candies as stated in paragraph 4 of my letter, dated 30th ultimo, No. 215-IsL. :—

Islands.	Quantities in candies of 560 lb. each.						Increase or decrease as compared with the average.
	Fasli 1303.	Fasli 1304.	Fasli 1305.	Fasli 1306.	Average.	Fasli 1307.	
Agathi	241	223	216	189	218	277	+ 59
Kavarathi	354	285	368	316	331	376	+ 45
Androth	132	418	268	256	268	437	+ 169
Kalpeni	372	381	325	392	367	414	+ 47
Minicoy	183	51	21	...	63	...	- 63
Total	1,281	1,368	1,198	1,153	1,247	1,504	+ 257

Paragraph 2.—Particulars of the amount due on account of rice supplied to the Minicoy islanders are given below :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Price of 700 bags of rice supplied to Minicoy	5,087	10	9
Price of 34 bags of rice supplied to gumastah and hospital staff at Minicoy	248	10	0
Charges incurred for the shipment of 700 bags to Minicoy. Freight paid to a Minicoy vessel on 300 bags at 6 annas per bag	532	0	0
Freight paid to a Minicoy vessel on 688 bags at 6 annas per bag	112	8	0
Price of 988 bags of rice supplied to Minicoy in (1897)	258	0	0
Weighing and shipping charges of 988 bags shipped over to Minicoy	8,039	9	0
	86	2	9
Total	14,364	8	6
(a) Add landing charges at Minicoy	123	8	0
Total	14,488	0	6
(b) Deduct price of 34 bags of rice supplied to the Minicoy island gumastah and hospital staff and recoverable from them and not from the rice contractor	248	10	0
Balance	14,239	6	6
(c) Amount recovered in fasli 1306	4,000	0	0
Amount recovered in fasli 1307	7,693	4	8
(d) Amount written off under Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 2977, dated 10th August 1897	807	13	0
(e) Price of 116 bags of rice distributed among the poor and those who suffered during the cyclone	1,086	14	4
Total	13,588	0	0
Balance due	651	6	6
Total	14,239	6	6

Out of Rs. 1,086-14-4 referred to in item (e) above, Rs. 58-1-0 were recovered during the past fasli. A great portion of the amount is, however, irrecoverable, as the rice was ordered by Mr. Dance to be supplied gratis to those who had no means of paying at all and who were absolutely starving. The island gumastah was, however, directed to prepare a list of such persons showing the amount supplied to each, so that the price may be recovered from them later on. The officer next visiting the islands will be requested to enquire and report as to what portion is recoverable and what should be written off.

Paragraph 3.—The correct amount appears to be Rs. 11,383 (*vide* Treaty No. CXXVI published at page 259 of volume III of the Malabar Manual; (*vide* also Government Order, No. 460, Political, dated 23rd July 1896, and this office letter to the Board, dated 25th October 1897, Dis. No. 132-Is.).

Paragraph 4.—The rate quoted, viz., Rs. 35-9-9, is the average price per candy of second class coir; 1,510 candies of which were sold in the past fasli for Rupees 53,771-4-3.

Paragraph 5.—I propose to publish notices of sale of the cowries now in stock and to widely circulate them. The sales may be held in the beginning of December when Arab vessels generally call at this port, if no reasonable offer is made earlier.

Paragraph 6.—The accounts have been revised and separate accounts maintained. But the closing balance was by mistake quoted from the administration report for fasli 1306. The correct balance at the end of the fasli in favour of the Rajah is Rs. 30,996-7-10.

Paragraph 7.—The system of sale of coir by tender was adopted in faslis 1306 and 1307 as being more advantageous. Owing to the combination among the bidders, good prices are not obtained at sales by auction.

RESOLUTION—No. 315, dated 22nd November 1898.

The Board begs leave to submit to Government the report of the Collector of Malabar on the administration of the Laccadive Islands during the year ending 30th June 1898.

2. The total receipts (Rs. 69,873) show an increase of Rs. 15,291 as compared with the previous year owing chiefly to the increase in the quantity of coir imported and sold during the year. The increase in the import is to be ascribed chiefly to the fact that portion of the previous year's supply from the islands of Androth and Agathi was not brought to the mainland until the year under review. The entire stock of coir was sold under the system of sale by tender commenced in fasli 1304. The average price per candy realised during the year exhibits a satisfactory rise due apparently to the increased demand for the article in the local market. The monopoly price paid to the islanders per candy of coir averaged Rs. 33-2-5 against Rs. 29-10-0 in the previous year, the increase being due partly to the fact that the imports of the year included a larger proportion of coir of the second class and partly to the rise in the value of rice which forms part of the monopoly payment.

3. Exclusive of special payments the expenditure amounted to Rs. 54,044 against Rs. 52,997 in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 1,047 is the net result of the increase under monopoly payments and of a decrease under miscellaneous charges owing to the supply of a smaller quantity of rice to the Minicoy islanders. Under special payments there was a decrease, because the usual payment from the Island funds of the municipal taxes on the mainland property

Items.	Fasli 1306.	Fasli 1307.	Difference.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Monopoly payments	34,584	46,571	+ 11,987
Establishment, &c., charges ..	18,413	7,473	- 10,940
Special payments	14,611	11,383	- 3,228
Total	67,608	65,427	- 2,181

of Sultan Musa Ali Raja was discontinued with effect from fasli 1307 under Government Order, No. 121, Political, dated 24th February 1897.

4. The Collector quotes the net result of the financial administration of the year as a surplus of Rs. 4,445-11-7 and the total surplus at credit of the Raja as Rs. 30,996-7-10. The former result has been arrived at by adjusting towards the peshkash demand a sum of Rs. 11,383-0-0 instead of Rs. 11,383-0-11 as usual.

5. Out of the value of rice supplied to Minicoy in previous years, a sum of Rs. 11,751-5-8 has been recovered; Rs. 807-13-0 has been written off under Government Order, No. 506, Political, dated 31st July 1897, and Rs. 1,680-3-10

are outstanding. Out of the outstandings only Rs. 651-6-6 are believed to be recoverable. As regards the remainder, the Collector reports that the amount was distributed under instructions from Mr. Dance among men who had no means of paying for it but were absolutely starving, and that the officer next visiting the islands will be requested to enquire and report as to what portion is recoverable and what should be written off. The result of the proposed investigation will be awaited.

6. The question of deputing an officer for the next inspection of the islands and the arrangements to be made for the conveyance of the inspection party is now under reference to Government (*vide* Board's Reference No. 1209, dated 28th October 1898).

(True Copy and Extract.)

Daniel Davidson
Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Political Department.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. ✓

" " Collector of Malabar.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

DATED

189 ,

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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