

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

AND

BUDGET ESTIMATES

OF THE

COCHIN STATE,

FOR THE MALAYALAM YEARS 1072 AND 1074 RESPECTIVELY,

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From J. D. REES, Esq., C.I.E., Resident in Cochin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camp, Paladipare, 30th July 1898, Ref. on C. No. 1822.

I have the honour to forward herewith the administration report of the Cochin State for M.E. 1072 (1896-97) received by me on the 11th ultimo, ten weeks behind the time prescribed by Government.

The budget estimate for 1074 (1898-99) is printed as appendix 35 to the report, and the Diwan's remarks thereon are contained in paragraphs 303-358 as suggested by Government in paragraph 17 of its review of the report for last year. The Resident's review last year was lengthy and contained quinquennial statistics. I think therefore it is proper that this review should be considerably curtailed.

GENERAL AND POLITICAL.

2. The chief political events of the year were the visit paid by His Highness the Raja to His Excellency the Governor at Madras between the 26th December 1896 and 14th January 1897, and the celebration of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress' Diamond Jubilee. In commemoration of the latter event, it was resolved to erect a town hall and public library at Ernakulam and a women and children's hospital at Trichur. His Excellency the Governor's visit in October 1897 falls with the report of 1897-98. The Diwan, Mr. Rajagopalachari, relieved M.R.Ry. Subramania Pillai on 17th December 1896.

LAND REVENUE.

3. *Area.*—As in previous years, no information is available regarding the area of garden lands in occupation or of dry lands under cultivation. The area under wet cultivation was 1,542,962 paraahs equivalent to 123,437 acres, against 1,553,377 paraahs equivalent to 124,270 acres in 1071. The decrease occurs entirely under kole cultivation due to unusual floods. Kole lands are such as are liable to submersion, being in fact reclaimed from the waters. Arrangements have now been made for conducting a scientific survey of the State which will in due course be followed up by settlement. Mr. Thompson, the survey officer borrowed from Government, has arrived and operations will shortly commence. Meanwhile, a special survey of the kole lands was being conducted at a cost of Rs. 21,049 against Rs. 5,242 in 1071.

4. *Demand, Collection and Balance.*—The following statement shows the demand, collection and balance, current and arrears, under land revenue, as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	Demand.		Collection.		Written off as irrecoverable.		Balance.		Percentage of collection to demand.	
	Current.	Arrears.	Current.	Arrears.	Current	Arrears.	Current.	Arrears.	Current.	Arrears.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.		RS.	RS.	RS.		
1071	6,99,775	98,738	6,76,355	9,977	..	5,385	23,420	83,376	96.6	10.1
1072	7,04,254	81,960	6,57,480	20,835	..	542	46,774	60,583	93.4	25.4

As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of about Rs. 5,000 in the current demand but a decrease of about Rs. 19,000 in the current collections. The current balance thus nearly doubled itself. The increase in demand was chiefly due to certain lands being newly brought to assessment.

The arrear balance brought forward was Rs. 24,836 less than the amount shown as outstanding in the previous year's report, which, however, it is now stated, was incorrect. The collections of arrears were far better than in last year, but the outstanding balance was still heavy and very little of the irrecoverable amounts was struck off the accounts: information is still wanting as to the years to which the arrears relate. A revenue recovery regulation continued to be wanted but is now being drafted. Meanwhile it is not stated what coercive measures, if any, were adopted.

5. *Revenue Cases, etc.*—The total number of revenue cases filed fell from 4,009 to 3,052 and the number for disposal from 5,818 to 3,904. The bulk of these cases was of a miscellaneous nature, transfer of registry forming but a very insignificant proportion and registry of waste lands but 21 per cent. Of the number for disposal, 3,464 were dealt with against 4,966 in 1071 and only 440 were left in arrears against 852. The work of assessing waste lands brought under cultivation and reclamations and accretions proceeded in five taluks, but appears again to have been indifferently carried out, although 768 acres of wet lands and 284 gardens were newly brought to assessment, against 653 acres and 284 gardens, respectively, in 1071. The general inspection work done by peishcars was about the same as in the previous year, the number of days spent by them in camp remaining on the whole insufficient. It is stated that there are three estates under Sirkar management, of which two are portions situated in Cochin of estates belonging to Malabar and now managed by the Court of Wards.

LEGISLATION.

6. One regulation—that relating to epidemic diseases—was passed during the year, while another dealing with the destruction of records reached its last stage. Several bills were however under the consideration of the Law Committee, of which the Limitation and Prisons Bills have since the close of the year been finally approved by Government. The Civil Procedure, Chief Court and Civil Courts Bills only require consideration with reference to the Advocate-General's remarks and will presumably be now passed. I have, however, already asked why the Civil Procedure Bill, at least, cannot be immediately passed. Where a need is really felt for a law, no inordinate delay should occur in passing it and the Civil Procedure, Chief Court and Civil Courts Bills are required. The Sirkar is bringing out a compilation of the regulations of the State and of the rules and notifications having the force of law as suggested in paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 615, Political, dated 17th September 1897.

POLICE.

7. *Strength.*—The sanctioned strength of the force remained almost the same as in the previous year, viz., 451 against 450, but the actual strength at the close of the year was 14 short of the sanctioned strength. Of the actual strength, 316 only were employed on purely police duties, the rest being engaged as guards and orderlies. This figure gives a proportion to population of 1 to 2,288 against 1 to 1,936 and 1 to 1,669, respectively, in Travancore and Madras. No town has a separately organized police force of its own. The total cost of the force was Rs. 61,569 against Rs. 55,724 in 1071 and the cost per head Rs. 141 against Rs. 124. The figures of 1071 represent however the charges of only eleven months.

8. *Punishment and Prosecution.*—The casualties during the year rose from 24 to 45 or by 87 per cent., the increase being chiefly under desertions and discharges. In departmental punishments there was even a greater increase from 73 to 153 or by 109 per cent., this increase falling under fines and black marks. The Superintendent explains, however, that this does not mean that 153 men were punished, it being possible for the same man to come in for punishment in seven forms. The increase in punishment is ascribed to the maintenance of better discipline. Of criminal prosecutions, there were only 41 against 48 in 1071, but seven of the former were departmental and none in the previous year. The total number of men involved was

54 against 62. Proposals for effecting an improvement in this behalf have been under consideration since the close of the year. The Diwan thinks that most of the prosecutions are absolutely wanton, but it is quite possible that the police may be as much to blame in the matter as their opponents, and it is not desirable to adopt measures which may give the impression that the Sirkar discourages complaints against the police.

9. *Processes.*—The number of processes served by the police shows a slight fall from 19,941 to 18,312, but owing to a change in the method of calculating the effective strength, the average number of processes falling to the lot of a single policeman was 58 against 49·8 shown in the previous year's report. The average in Travancore was 65·7, but nevertheless there is room for further reduction in Cochin which will, I hope, be effected.

10. *Registration of Crimes.*—The total number of crimes registered during the year amounted to 1,732 against 1,479 in 1071, the increase (17·1 per cent.) being mostly under local and special laws and minor offences against property. Including 106 cases pending investigation at the commencement of the year, there was a total of 1,838 for disposal, of which 639, or 34·8 per cent., as compared with 50·8 per cent. in the previous year, were referred as false and 1,034 charged before the magistracy, leaving 165 in arrears against 106. The percentage of grave crimes referred as false, for which details are given in paragraphs 63 to 69 of the report, continued to be high, especially in the case of robbery. Of the arrears, 71 were pending more than a year. In regard to the registration of known depredators, it appears that no regular register has hitherto been kept, but such has now been opened.

11. *Detection.*—Including the 26 cases pending trial at the close of the previous year, 1,060 cases were charged before the magistracy, of which 781 or 73·6 per cent. ended in conviction and 235 in discharge and 44 remained in arrears. The total number of persons charged was 1,649, of whom 1,028 or 62·3 per cent. were convicted against 56·8 per cent. in 1071, 5·0 were discharged and 71 remained under trial. These figures taken from paragraphs 52 and 53 of the report differ from those given in paragraph 55. The alleged value of property lost during the year was Rs. 13,712 and property of the value of Rs. 8,267 or 60·3 per cent. was recovered, against 66·4 per cent. in the previous year.

12. *Duration.*—The average duration of cases charged by the police has fallen from 12·1 to 10·2 days. That of the cases referred as false also fell from 44·9 to 29·3 days. The average duration of the detention of accused persons in police custody was 1·7 days in charged, and ·8 day in referred, cases and 9·6 days in others, against ·9, 1·6 and 2·3 days, respectively, in 1071.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

13. *Courts and Cases.*—Excluding the Samprithy or Head Gumastah Magistrates of Trichur and Chittur who did not exercise any criminal jurisdiction during the year, there were at the close of 1072 six third-class, eleven second-class and two first-class (district) magistrates' courts, two sessions courts and the appeal court, against nine third-class, nine second-class and two first-class (district) magistrates' courts, two sessions courts and the appeal court at the beginning of 1072. The total number of original cases for disposal was 3,883 and that of appeals 237 against 3,554 and 269, respectively, in 1071. The increase in original cases was mainly under special and local laws.

14. *Magistrates' Courts.*—Of the total number of cases for disposal, 3,868 involving 7,702 persons came before the magistracy against 3,563 affecting 7,888 persons in 1071, and of these 3,841 cases involving 7,643 persons were disposed of, compared with 3,542 cases affecting 7,823 persons. Of the persons dealt with, 4,283 only were actually brought to trial, of whom 101 were committed or referred to higher courts, 2,758 or 64·4 per cent. acquitted and the remaining 1,424 or 33·2 per cent. convicted. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 4,047, 164, 2,798 or 69·1 per cent. and 1,085 or 26·8 per cent. The percentage of convictions in 1072 was thus better than in 1071.

The proportion to population of persons dealt with by the magistracy was 1 to 95 against 1 to 92, Muhammadans taking the lead with a proportion of 1 to 59 against

1 to 53 and Christians (1 to 74 against 1 to 78), Jews (1 to 88 against 1 to 34) and Hindus (1 to 111 against 1 to 107) following in succession. The Travancore proportion is much higher, being 1 to 55 in the case of the total number, 1 to 28 for Muhammadans, 1 to 45 for Christians and 1 to 63 for Hindus.

			Number of juveniles dealt with.	Proportion to total number dealt with.
Travancore—				
1071	..	..	785	1 to 57
1072	..	..	482	1 to 97
Cochin—				
1071	..	..	11	1 to 711
1072	..	..	7	1 to 1,092

Of the total number of persons dealt with, 382 were females and seven juveniles as compared with 451 and 11 in 1071. The fall under juveniles is satisfactory, but the disparity between Cochin and Travancore in this aspect noticed in the previous review continued to be as great as ever and is unexplained, little boys being much alike in either State.

15. *Punishments.*—Of the persons convicted, 815 or 57·2 per cent. were sentenced to fine only against 61·4 per cent. in 1071, 278 or 19·5 per cent. to rigorous imprisonment as compared with 15·3 per cent., and 183 to fine with imprisonment or to fine with whipping and imprisonment against 178; all other kinds of punishment making up the balance of 148. Over 72 per cent. of the fines inflicted were below Rs. 10 against 75 per cent. in 1071, while 25 per cent. ranged between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50. Of the rigorous imprisonments awarded, 78·8 per cent. against 79·5 per cent. were between fifteen days and six months. The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 12,988 against Rs. 9,451 in 1071, and out of this and the unrecovered fines of previous years, Rs. 8,060 was realized against Rs. 6,088. The fines averaged Rs. 13 per head against Rs. 7·4 in Travancore and Rs. 4·2 in Madras. Information is still wanting in the report as to the amount, if any, written off the accounts and as to the total balance outstanding.

16. *Quality of Work.*—The quality of the work done by subordinate magistrates shows a slight improvement as only 24·6 per cent. of the appealable sentences passed by them were actually appealed against, as compared with 37·1 per cent. in 1071, while in 51·6 per cent. against 51 per cent. of the appeals the original sentences were confirmed, and in only 40·2 per cent. against 45 per cent. were they reversed. The work done by first-class (district) magistrates however considerably deteriorated, since though appeals were preferred in only 45 per cent. of the appealable sentences passed by them, only 33·3 per cent. of the appeals ended in confirmation against 88 per cent. in 1071.

17. *Duration of Cases.*—The average duration of cases showed a further and satisfactory fall from 9 to 6 days, but the duration in three of the courts—Trichur district, Kanayanur second-class and Kannankulam third-class magistrates' courts—was still considerable.

18. *District Magistrates—Appellate Jurisdiction.*—The total number of appeals for disposal in the two district magistrates' courts amounted to 206 against 243 in 1071 and all were disposed of before the close of the year, the average duration of an appeal being seven days in Anjikaimal and twelve days in the Trichur court, against six and twelve days, respectively, in the previous year. The District Magistrates had also 154 revision cases involving 238 persons against 150 affecting 195 persons in 1071. It is satisfactory that 72·7 per cent. of the orders brought for revision resulted in confirmation against 59 per cent., but the proportion of persons in whose case new trial or further enquiry was ordered (23·1 per cent.) was still high.

19. *Sessions Courts.*—These courts had to deal with 36 original cases against 30 in the preceding year, the number of persons involved being 100 against 111. All the 36 cases were disposed of during the year, 46 per cent. of the persons involved being convicted against 45 per cent. in 1071. There was a further increase from Rs. 4,731 to Rs. 5,625 in the amount of fines imposed, but only Rs. 162 was realized. Information is again omitted from the report regarding the amount written off and that still outstanding. Unless a fair proportion of the fines imposed is realizable and realized, the utility of adopting this mode of punishment is questionable. There can, however, be no doubt that as in the case of magisterial fines, these also are at present too heavy as they average Rs. 170 per head. As tested by the result of appeals, the quality of the work done by the sessions courts was better than in last

year. Only 95·6 per cent. of those on whom appealable sentences were passed preferred appeals, whereas last year all appealed, and in the case of 72·7 per cent. of the appellants, against 31·2 per cent., the sentences were confirmed. In the case of 22·7 per cent., however, they were reversed against only 20·8 per cent. in 1071. The average duration of a sessions trial also shows improvement, being 8 days as in the previous year in the Trichur Court, but only 7 against 12 days in the Anjikaimal Court.

In their appellate jurisdiction, the sessions courts had 4 appeals and 16 revision cases for disposal against 7 and 33, respectively, in 1071, and they were all dealt with. The duration of an appeal rose from 9 to 14 days in the Anjikaimal Court, but fell from 24 to 13 days in the Trichur Court.

20. *Appeal Court.*—This court had for disposal 27 appeals, 3 references, 56 revision cases, 21 miscellaneous petitions and 279 calendars, against 19, 9, 68, 27 and 308, respectively, in the previous year, and all were disposed of with the exception of 12 revision cases. The average duration of an appeal was 10 days against 9 days.

JAILS.

21. *General.*—The total number of jails remained the same as in previous years, viz., the Central Jail at Ernakulam and the seven subsidiary jails in the seven taluks. The central jail was in charge of a separate superintendent, while the subsidiary jails were under the supervision of taluk magistrates.

22. *Central Jail.*—This jail contained 154 convicts at the commencement of the year as compared with 123 at the beginning of 1071, and 340 were since added against 161. Of the total of 494, 318 were discharged, &c., leaving 176 at the close of the year, the average daily number being 150·7 against 129·6 in 1071. The total number of convicts gave a proportion to population of 1 to 1,461; the proportion among the several classes of the population being 1 to 527 for Muhammadans, 1 to 1,114 for Christians, and 1 to 2,006 for Hindus. With the increase in the jail population, the jail offences also increased from 22 to 46. The general health of the prisoners was satisfactory. A daily average of 61 convicts was employed on intramural and of 83 convicts on extramural labour, and a sum of Rs. 1,067, as compared with Rs. 684 in 1071, was realized from the former source, while the value of extramural labour is estimated at Rs. 3,804 against Rs. 2,822. The total cost to the jail was Rs. 9,740 against Rs. 9,757, and the average cost per convict Rs. 64 against Rs. 74. In addition to the number above given, 52 civil debtors and 12 under-trial prisoners were also confined in the central jail, of whom 8 and 2, respectively, remained at the close of the year. With reference to paragraph 136 of the report, a new Prisons Regulation has just been drafted and approved by Government. It will shortly become law, when such reforms as are required will be introduced. With reference to paragraph 113 of the report, I have asked the Diwan how the snider carbines and swords were obtained, as they do not appear to have been supplied by the Madras Ordnance department.

23. *Subsidiary Jails.*—These contained 55 prisoners at the commencement of the year and 941 prisoners, including under-trial prisoners, were since admitted, while 943 were released. There were thus 53 prisoners at the close of the year. Here also Muhammadans were proportionately the largest in number and Christians and Hindus followed them in succession. The total cost of these jails was Rs. 2,040 against Rupees 1,989 in 1071, while the value of the labour of the convicts is estimated at Rs. 974.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

24. *General Summary.*—The number of civil courts remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 6 munsifs' courts, 2 zillah courts, the appeal court and His Highness the Raja's Court of Appeal. The total number of original suits filed during the year rose, however, from 8,224 to 9,499 or by 15·5 per cent., while that of appeals fell from 881 to 852. There was a similar increase in the aggregate and average value of claims involved in the original suits from Rs. 10,75,605 and Rs. 130·8 to Rs. 12,60,412 and Rs. 132·7, respectively. The average value of appeals before the

zillah court and the appeal court also fell from Rs. 145·2 and Rs. 2,142 to Rupees 126·2 and Rs. 1,224, while that of a special appeal before the appeal court rose from Rs. 183 to Rs. 195. With the increase in original litigation, there was also a rise, from 1 to 38 to 1 to 31, in the proportion of litigants to population. This increase was from 1 to 37 to 1 to 31 under Hindus, from 1 to 30 to 1 to 25 under Muhammadans, and from 1 to 49 to 1 to 37 under Christians, while under Jews and others the proportion fell from 1 to 8 to 1 to 9. Of the total number of litigants, Hindus formed 71·1, Christians 20·2, and Muhammadans 8·1 per cent., the proportion of these classes to the total population being 69·4, 24 and 6·4 per cent., respectively. In Travancore, the proportion of litigants to the total population was 1 to 27.

25. *Munsifs' Courts.*—Of the total number of suits filed during the year, the munsifs' courts contributed 9,121 or 96 per cent. against 96·3 per cent. in 1071, and of these 5,503 were ordinary, and 3,618 small cause, suits. With arrears there were 5,854 and 3,646, respectively, of these suits for disposal, of which 5,653 ordinary, and 3,637 small cause, suits were dealt with, the average disposal by a munsif being 942 and 606, respectively, against 988 and 724 in Travancore. Two hundred and one ordinary and 9 small cause suits were thus left in arrears, as compared with 351 and 28, respectively, at the close of the previous year. Of the arrears under ordinary suits, 2 were pending over a year and 28 between six months and one year, against 4 and 63, respectively, in 1071. The average value of an ordinary suit was Rs. 102 against Rs. 98·8, and that of a small cause suit Rs. 12·4 against Rs. 11·9. The Travancore values were Rs. 102·7 and Rs. 14·4, respectively.

The average duration of a contested ordinary suit rose from 2 months and 3 days to 2 months and 10 days, and that of a small cause suit from 13 to 17 days, the Vadakancheri Court having again mainly contributed to the increase.

The quality of the work done by the munsifs remained almost the same as in the previous year.

Of miscellaneous and execution applications, there were 19,646 and 10,362, respectively, for disposal, against 17,898 and 9,257 in 1071, and of these 19,542 and 8,965 were disposed of, leaving 104 and 1,397, respectively, in arrears against 188 and 1,316 at the close of 1071.

26. *Zillah Courts—Original Side.*—The number of original suits filed before these courts during 1072 was 378 against 300 in 1071, but with arrears there were 522 suits for disposal against 408. Of these 392 were disposed of against 264 and 130 were left in arrears against 144. Of the arrears, 2 were pending over a year and 31 between six months and one year, as compared with 5 and 35 in the previous year. The average value of the claims involved fell from Rs. 2,031 to Rs. 1,730, but the Travancore value was only Rs. 1,086. The average duration of a suit was 7 months and 9 days against 8 months and 26 days in 1071 and, as regards quality, appeals were preferred in the case of only 62·2 per cent. of the appealable sentences against 90·4 per cent. in 1071 and 54·3 per cent. of the decisions were confirmed against 45 per cent. The miscellaneous and execution applications for disposal rose from 3,775 and 620 to 4,939 and 680, respectively, and of these 86 and 161 were left undisposed of at the close of the year against 166 and 176 on the corresponding date in 1071.

27. *Appellate Side.*—The two zillah courts had for disposal 746 appeals, or 13 less than in the previous year, 579 having been received during the year as compared with 583. Of these, 704 were disposed of against 592, and 42 were left in arrears against 167. The average duration of appeals was reduced from 4 months and 28 days to 3 months and 3 days. Special appeals were preferred before the appeal court in the case of 41·6 per cent. of the appellate decrees against 46·7 per cent. in 1071, with the result that 72·4 per cent. of the appeal decisions were confirmed against 70·1 per cent. Besides the above ordinary appeals, the two courts had 100 miscellaneous and 24 registration appeals for disposal against 64 and 21, respectively, in 1071, and of these 13 and 7 were left in arrears against 20 and 3, respectively, in 1071.

28. *Appeal Court.*—This court had for disposal 196 regular and 173 special appeals, against 197 and 174 in 1071, and of these 129 and 145 were disposed of, leaving 67 and 28 in arrears, against 66 and 30, respectively, at the close of

the previous year. Taking both classes of appeals together, the average duration rose from 3 months and 19 days to 4 months and 16 days, the hearing of a few appeals having at first been postponed till the new Chief Court Regulation could be passed into law. As, however, there was some delay in this, the appeals were subsequently heard and disposed of—a course which had better have been adopted at the beginning. About half the arrears pending were filed during the last three months of the year, but no information is furnished about the pendency of the remainder. The appeal court disposed of also 38 miscellaneous appeals, 278 civil petitions and 6 stamp references against 23,246 and *nil*, respectively, in the previous year.

29. *His Highness the Raja's Court of Appeal.*—Ten appeals were pending before this court at the commencement of the year and 8 were filed during its course. Of the total, 9 were disposed of, leaving as many in arrears, of which 3 were over two years old and the rest below one year.

30. *Financial Results.*—The receipts and charges on account of civil justice were Rs. 86,058 and Rs. 58,063, respectively, against Rs. 80,779 and Rs. 58,039 in 1071. Those on account of criminal justice having been Rs. 8,230 and Rs. 33,515 against Rs. 2,861 and Rs. 32,189, there was a net surplus of Rs. 2,710 against a deficit of Rs. 6,588. It is gratifying to note that, for the first time, law and justice have proved self-supporting during the year under review, but the revision of the Court-fees Regulation, now under contemplation, should make it actually profitable as in Travancore and Madras. Provided the charges are moderate, I see no objection to such profits, and extra revenue may be wanted in the next few years for works of public utility and, notably, for the railway negotiations regarding which have, since His Excellency the Governor's visit in 1897, assumed a new and very hopeful aspect.

REGISTRATION.

31. *Offices and Transactions.*—During the year under review there were 13 registration offices at work, or the same number as in 1071, but the aggregate number of registrations fell from 30,561 to 29,374 or by 3.9 per cent. The compulsory registrations in book I showed a decrease of 2,990 or 13.1 per cent., while the optional registrations in the same book showed an increase of 813 or 12.2 per cent. The registrations in book II, which are all optional, rose from 1,173 to 2,177 or by 85.6 per cent. The number of wills registered fell from 50 to 36.

The aggregate and average value of the transactions also fell from Rupees 1,17,08,388 and Rs. 383 to Rs. 1,00,13,918 and Rs. 341. This fall was spread over all classes of documents except sale-deeds and mortgages under Rs. 100. The general average value was still considerably higher than in Madras and Travancore, where it came to only Rs. 216 and Rs. 208, respectively, against the Rs. 341 of Cochin. Classified according to value, 30.9 per cent. of the documents registered did not exceed Rs. 50 in value, 19.4 per cent. exceeded Rs. 50 but did not exceed Rs. 100, and 35.7 per cent. exceeded Rs. 100 but did not exceed Rs. 500, against 31.3, 16.5 and 36.4 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. In Travancore 36 per cent. of the documents registered were of the value of Rs. 50 and below and 24 per cent. exceeded Rs. 50 but did not exceed Rs. 100.

32. *Time taken to register.*—The percentage of documents registered on the day of presentation rose from 78.2 to 89.9, but, nevertheless, it did not reach the figure attained in the three years prior to 1070. That of documents registered within a week and after a week fell from 6.9 and 14.9 to 3.8 and 6.3, respectively.

33. *Financial Results.*—The receipts and charges of the year were Rs. 40,730 and Rs. 23,938 against Rs. 43,628 and Rs. 18,679, respectively, in 1071, the net surplus being thus Rs. 16,792 against Rs. 24,949. The increase under charges was due to the enhancement of the salaries of registrars and their clerks and payment of commission to the registrars according to the scale sanctioned towards the close of 1071.

The inspection work done by the huzur registrar and the deputy registrar showed considerable improvement.

MARINE.

34. The number of vessels that called at the Sarkar port of Malipuram fell from 109 to 80 or by 26.6 per cent. against a fall of 12.1 per cent. in 1071. Their tonnage

also fell from 88,039 to 62,811 or by 28.6 per cent. as compared with a fall of 21.8 per cent. last year. The amount of port dues collected was, however, about the same as in the previous year, viz., Rs. 5,488 against Rs. 5,576. This seems somewhat curious and should have been explained.

SEASON AND RAINFALL.

35. The season was not quite favourable to agriculture, the north-east monsoon being inadequate and the south-west monsoon being too heavy, while the hot season between them was long and severe. The total rainfall was in excess of normal and prices ruled high. The area under coffee and tea cultivation was 3,624 and 67 acres, respectively, against 3,359 and 66 acres in 1071, but the average yield per acre was only 105 and 68 lb., respectively, against 310 and 105 lb. During the year I spent some weeks in and around the planting district and subsequently communicated with the Darbar concerning its wants and communications.

FORESTS.

36. *General.*—During the year the office of Conservator of Forests was abolished and the departmental method of felling and removing timber to depots was abolished and replaced by the contract system. The existing system of administration, under which obviously insufficient revenue is collected from forests, was condemned by Mr. Thomson and myself in 1895, and after communication with the late Diwan, I asked Government, in 1896, for the services of a British officer to report on the subject and to make practical suggestions for reform. In 1897 this officer, Mr. Foulkes, made his report, which I am now considering while touring in the localities to which it relates. The Diwan has not yet addressed me regarding the report. These facts are briefly noted as from G.O., No. 615, Political, dated 17th September 1897, I should infer that Government was under the impression that the discovery that reform was needed was of later date. It is no question, such as arises in British India, of complaints by the people, of forest maladministration resulting in oppression. It is rather of reformation resulting in collections that they will be inclined to complain, though I have, as far back as 1895, deprecated an Act running exactly on the lines of ours in Madras and have advised, following the later and more lenient resolutions of that Government and of the Government of India. The action I suggested was taken in the interests of the revenue. In his review of the forest report for this year, the Diwan says: "there has been a slight improvement;" the Conservator, Mr. Kolhoff, "worked loyally, for which the Diwan feels bound to express his thanks."

37. *Financial Results.*—The receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 68,805 and Rs. 37,408 against Rs. 81,352 and Rs. 54,185, respectively, in 1071, the surplus revenue being thus Rs. 31,397 against Rs. 27,167. The receipts mainly consisted of seigniorage and sale-proceeds of timber felled and collected by the department, and the fall above noticed was marked under both these heads. The introduction of changes accounts in part for the decrease. Under charges, there was a large fall in the cost of felling and removing timber.

TRADE.

38. As observed in previous reviews, the returns furnished in the report do not show the entire foreign trade of the State, the greater portion of which passes through British Cochin. So far as the Sirkar monsoon port of Malipuram is concerned, articles of the value of Rs. 12,06,776 were imported and of Rs. 12,91,775 exported, the corresponding values for 1071 being Rs. 23,06,530 and Rs. 14,50,156. The large fall of nearly 50 per cent. under imports is ascribed to the smaller number of vessels that called at the port of Malipuram, but I cannot understand why this should have affected imports alone to such an extent. At the instance of the Chamber of Commerce, Cochin, articles landed directly at British Cochin from vessels anchored off Malipuram are, for the purposes of customs and trade statistics, now treated in the same manner as if they had been landed from vessels anchored in the Cochin roads. It is presumed that this change, which was approved by the Darbar after the close of the year, was not introduced before it ended. The chief articles of import during the year were rice, paddy and piece-goods and of export cocoanut-oil, coir yarn and tea.

PUBLIC WORKS.

39. *General.*—The Maramat department was abolished towards the close of the year under review and all public works in the State were entrusted to the Chief Engineer's department. I need not say that this was a step in the right direction. Including the compensation paid for lands acquired for public purposes, which should have been distributed among the works concerned, the total expenditure on account of both branches was Rs. 5,25,280 against a budget grant of Rs. 4,50,000 and Rupees 4,33,888, the actuals of 1,071. These are, however, the amounts drawn from the treasury. The Chief Engineer has accounted for only Rs. 2,83,684 during 1072—see appendix 30—while the figures relating to works undertaken by the Maramath department are nowhere given. In regard to these recurring variations between the amounts drawn from the treasury and those accounted for, it is explained that the practice hitherto was to draw from the treasury the amounts of sanctioned estimates, whether or not the money was required for immediate expenditure, and to utilize on unsanctioned works, whatever is not required for immediate expenditure. It is, however, not clear why the outlay on unsanctioned works also should not have been accounted for or why the drawings from the treasury should have almost invariably been in excess of the amounts for which accounts are furnished. It would seem, therefore, that the matter requires further investigation. This method of accounting, oft-repeated condemnations of which have reached this office, is now being abandoned.

40. *Distribution of Outlay among the minor heads.*—The following statement shows the details of the total outlay shown in the foregoing paragraph:—

Original works.	1071.	Percentage of outlay on original works.	1072.	Percentage of outlay on original works.
	rs.		rs.	
Communications	1,15,807	45.6	85,785	27.5
Buildings	1,23,297	48.5	1,43,752	46.1
Irrigation works	6,539	2.6	18,573	5.9
Miscellaneous	8,453	3.3	30,643	9.8
Compensation for lands	50	..	33,278	10.7
Total ..	2,54,116	100.0	3,12,031	100.0
Repairs.	1071.	Percentage of outlay on repairs.	1072.	Percentage of outlay on repairs.
	rs.		rs.	
Communications	68,628	48.9	96,371	52.7
Buildings	47,953	34.2	45,524	24.9
Irrigation works	5,319	3.8	20,218	11.0
Miscellaneous	18,427	13.1	20,868	11.4
Total ..	1,40,327	100.0	1,82,981	100.0
—	—	Percentage of outlay on works.	—	Percentage of outlay on works.
	rs.		rs.	
Establishment and travelling allowance	31,845	8.1	21,026	4.2
Contingencies	7,600	..	9,242	..
Grand Total ..	4,33,888	..	5,25,280	..

No expenditure is shown against tools and plant. Of the outlay on works, 63 per cent. was incurred on original works and 37 per cent. on repairs against 64.4 and 35.6 per cent., respectively, in 1071. This appears to be a fair proportion, but it is to be regretted that excluding compensation paid for lands, the expenditure on buildings formed 46.1 per cent. of the outlay on original works, while that on communications was only 27.5 per cent. The proportion in Travancore was 35.3 and 40 per cent., respectively, and this, in my opinion, by no means approximates to the proper proportion. The Diwan, however, promises—paragraph 246—that “every effort will be made hereafter to secure a more rational distribution of the expenditure by reducing the

outlay on buildings and enhancing that on communications," a course the adoption of which I invariably urge. There should I think, too, be little acquisition of lands for public purposes. The principal works undertaken during the year are enumerated in paragraphs 242-244 of the report. On the whole, I think, the works are done relatively cheaper than in Travancore, while the roads are in distinctly better condition. Crossing from Cochin into North Travancore the traveller finds that dismantled bridges awaiting long deferred renewals are not infrequent; if a rider, he has often to dismount on the high road to Trivandrum; if on wheels, he has to cross small streams on ferries. Within two miles of the frontier, in a populous agricultural district, cart traffic has been stopped to the great inconvenience of the people, for about two months during the rains. I have never seen anything like this in Cochin or indeed in South Travancore. The mileage of the roads maintained was 422 against 387 in 1071, and the average cost per mile was Rs. 110 against Rs. 123 in Travancore. The establishment also is proportionately much smaller than in the latter State.

ANCHAL.

41. At the close of the year there were 19 anchal offices and 10 letter boxes against 19 offices and 8 boxes at its commencement. The total number of articles carried rose from 362,105 to 376,823, the increase being pretty evenly distributed between official and private articles. Official, were however still considerably in excess of private, articles being 213,042 against 163,781. The receipts and charges of the department also rose from Rs. 5,723 and Rs. 10,608 to Rs. 6,810 and Rs. 10,788, respectively. The net cost was thus only Rs. 3,977 against Rs. 4,885 and the cost to the Sirkar, of carrying an official cover, 3.58 pies against 4.57 pies.

SALT.

42. No salt is manufactured in the State, the quantity required being obtained from Bombay. At the commencement of the year, there were 98,976 maunds in stock and 126,566 maunds were purchased during its course. Out of the total of 225,542 maunds, 160,151 maunds were sold against 146,914 maunds in 1071, leaving 65,391 against 98,976 maunds in stock at the close of the year. The gross revenue from salt was Rs. 500,030 against 433,320 in 1071, and deducting the expenditure of Rs. 78,157, there was a net revenue of Rs. 4,21,873 against Rs. 3,38,981. The average consumption per head of the population rose from 16.7 to 18.2 lb., but the average in Travancore was 19.4 lb., while in Madras it was only 17.4 lb. The department seems to have been efficiently managed by its present Superintendent.

With reference to the concluding portion of paragraph 262 of the report, I may observe that an application was received from the Diwan for a reduction, in the frontier depots of the State, of the selling price fixed by Government, but the matter was under discussion between him and myself when G.O., No. 353, Political, dated 23rd May 1898, was received, declining to relax the arrangement under which Cochin salt was sold at Trichur at Rs. 3-2-7 a maund. I had therefore to invite the Diwan's attention to this decision and to ask him whether he still wishes that the application should be forwarded to Government. As, however, it now appears that smuggling occurs on quite a small scale, there would seem to be no necessity for disturbing existing arrangements, all that is required being a strengthening of the preventive force as proposed in the budget for 1074. At present, I am not satisfied that the falling off in the sales in the northern taluks is due to the price fixed by Government being too high, since this falling off is noticeable only during the last three years, while in the four preceding years there was a continuous and steady rise in the sales and the same cause would probably be unlikely to produce, at different periods, opposite results. The Diwan's application contained an alternative proposal to abolish some of the frontier depots, but salt being a monopoly I am not sure that this is desirable.

STAMPS.

43. The new Stamp Regulation was in force for the first time throughout the year. The receipts and charges consequently rose from Rs. 69,507 and Rs. 1,370 to Rs. 1,32,996 and Rs. 17,332, respectively. There was thus an increase of Rs. 47,527 in the net receipts.

TOBACCO, ABKÁRI, OPIUM AND BHANG.

44. The number of licenses issued for the sale of tobacco shows a further fall from 930 to 880. There was in consequence a further fall in receipts, from Rupees 13,630 to Rs. 12,844. Under abkári, however, a new triennial sale of the farms took place with the result that there was a rise of about Rs. 35,000 in the current demand. With arrears, interest, &c., Rs. 1,56,475 was collected against Rs. 1,14,577. The abkári system is still faulty, but a new regulation introducing a better system is being drafted. From opium and bhang Rs. 39,275 was realized against Rupees 25,675 in 1071, the increase being mainly due to the collection of arrears, of which Rs. 3,604 appears to have still remained outstanding.

CUSTOMS.

45. The customs duties collected during the year amounted to Rs. 3,080 against Rs. 5,530 in 1071, but Rs. 1,03,946 due from Government under the interportal trade convention was drawn after the close of the year.

FINANCIAL.

46. *Receipts and Charges under Service Heads.*—Excluding debt head transactions, the receipts and charges of the year amounted to Rs. 20,65,310 and Rs. 18,69,882 against Rs. 18,62,825 and Rs. 18,48,056, respectively, in 1071. The increase in the receipts occurs chiefly under interest (Rs. 1,37,200), salt (Rs. 66,710), stamps (Rupees 63,489), temples and ootupurahs managed by Government (Rs. 58,415), abkári (Rs. 41,898), opium (Rs. 13,610), and law and justice (Rs. 10,649). There were, however, noteworthy decreases under customs—see however paragraph 45—(Rupees 1,06,740), land revenue (Rs. 44,546), miscellaneous (Rs. 25,569) and forests (Rs. 12,547). The increase in the charges is the net result chiefly of the following larger variations:—

	RS.
Land revenue	+ 18,093
Stamps	+ 15,962
Education	+ 10,977
Pension and gratuity	+ 12,565
Stationery and printing	+ 15,884
Public works	+ 91,392
Salt	— 16,182
Forests	— 16,777
Religious	— 26,451
Charities	— 28,922
Miscellaneous	— 58,046

All these variations both under receipts and charges are fully explained in the report. The receipts exceeded the charges by Rs. 1,95,428, which, when added to the opening balance of Rs. 8,68,261, should have raised the closing balance to Rupees 10,63,689, and there was besides an excess of Rs. 1,50,074 in the receipts over the charges under debt heads, but owing to an investment in Government securities of 4 lakhs of rupees at a cost of Rs. 14,585 in the shape of premium, &c., the cash balance available was only Rs. 7,99,178, of which Rs. 4,89,178 was in the Sirkar treasuries and Rs. 3,10,000 in the Bank of Madras, Cochin. The value of the promissory notes held by the Sirkar at the close of the year was Rs. 36,62,100 in all, against Rs. 32,62,100 in 1071. The total balance is more than double the normal receipts of the State, but Rs. 25 lakhs are now set apart for expenditure on the Shoranur-Cochin Railway now under consideration.

47. *Debt Head Transactions.*—The receipts and charges under debt heads aggregated Rs. 13,50,671 and Rs. 12,00,597 against Rs. 63,469 and Rs. 79,727, respectively, in 1071, the large increase under both heads being the result of the changes in the account system now being introduced by a special officer lent by Government. Under the old system there were balances in the taluk treasuries consisting of State receipts which were not remitted into the huzur treasury, of undisbursed portions of amounts drawn from the huzur treasury on cheques issued by the Diwan in favour of Tahsildars, and of deposits and none of them were incorporated in the State accounts. They have, however, now been brought into those accounts, deposits alone being

responsible for Rs. 9,34,026 under receipts and for Rs. 8,35,001 under charges out of the totals above given. The desirability of this measure was pointed out by Mr. Thomson and myself so long ago as July and September 1896. The Diwan hopes that by the end of the ensuing year (1074), the system of accounts will be placed on a thoroughly satisfactory footing and there should be no difficulty in doing so considering the time the special officer will have then been at work. The large figures of this year must, of course, be looked on by way of stock-taking figures, relating to many years, and as wholly exceptional in character and in amount. The figures on both sides of the account will be wiped off when adjustments now proceeding have been completed.

48. *Revised Estimate for 1073.*—When the original estimate was prepared, it was expected that the year 1073 would open with a balance of Rs. 5,23,844, but owing to increased receipts in 1072, as observed in paragraph 46 above, that year closed with an actual balance of Rs. 7,99,178, which is adopted as the opening balance of the revised estimate. The receipts and charges excluding debt head transactions are now estimated at Rs. 22,27,307 and Rs. 20,92,159 against Rs. 20,23,357 and Rs. 20,15,889, respectively, in the budget. The increase of Rs. 2,03,950 under receipts and of Rs. 76,270 under charges is the net result chiefly of the following variations:—

<i>Receipts.</i>							RS.
Land revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	20,350
Salt .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	69,550
Customs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	1,04,500
Law and justice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	28,500
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	24,300

<i>Charges.</i>							RS.
Land revenue .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	20,000
Forest .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	35,100
Religious .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	25,000
Charities .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	26,500
Pension and gratuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	7,000
Stationery and printing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	14,000
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	+	50,500

All these variations are explained in the Diwan's report, but the increase of Rs. 7,000 in the pension charges in addition to Rs. 12,000 in 1072 might be thought to be a matter to be deprecated. It does, of course, not always follow that when one officer is got rid of and pensioned, a better is got in his place, but there were many officers too old for their work. Deducting the charges from the receipts, there will be a surplus of Rs. 1,35,148, which, with the surplus under debt heads (Rs. 1,21,500) and the opening balance of the year (Rs. 7,99,178), will make a total closing balance of Rs. 10,55,826, of which it is proposed to invest one lakh in Government securities at a gain on their accounts of Rs. 5,963 in the shape of discount. The cash balance to be carried forward to the ensuing year's budget thus Rs. 9,61,789.

49. *Budget Estimate for 1074.*—Excluding debt heads, the receipts are estimated at Rs. 20,77,257 against Rs. 22,27,307 in the revised estimate, the decrease being chiefly under customs (Rs. 1,05,000), abkari (Rs. 18,000), forest (Rs. 14,000) and miscellaneous (Rs. 18,300). There will, however, be an increase of Rs. 6,500 under land revenue. The charges are estimated at Rs. 19,06,109 against Rs. 20,92,159 in the revised estimate, the decrease occurring mainly under religious (Rs. 15,000), charities (Rs. 27,000), public works (Rs. 1,50,000) and miscellaneous (Rs. 35,000). The land revenue and forest charges will, however, be Rs. 19,200 and Rs. 11,100 in excess. The variations both under receipts and charges are explained in the report. With reference, however, to the item "Tribute from Cranganore, Rs. 6,857," under

receipts, which occurs in the annual budget and report statements, I believe Cranganore is Cochin territory, wherein Cochin laws prevail and that it has no recognised status so far as the British Government is concerned. I do not see, therefore, how the amount can be regarded as tribute. Information as to the relation between the state and this tract of land, which from the accounts appears to be financially independent, would be welcome. On the expenditure side, provision is made, under Land Revenue, for starting the revenue survey, for the revision of the division and taluk establishments, and for regrading the Tahsildars; under Salt, for strengthening the preventive force; under Forests, for the reorganization of the department; under Post Office, for the opening of three anchal offices and a dead letter office; under Huzur Cutcherry, for continuing the special Audit officer for another year—a provision which may be reduced by half, the sanction being accorded for only six months; under Law and Justice, for raising the pay of the Registrar of the Appeal Court, and for appointing a few additional servants; under Education, for opening additional classes in certain schools and for sending teachers to Madras to be trained; and under Medical, for opening one hospital and two temporary dispensaries. The Police force will be re-organized, but at no additional expenditure. The extended conservancy operations of the current year will also be maintained. Under Jails, the supply of prison uniform and the purchase of fetters, &c., in the current year, are expected to raise the expenditure considerably in 1073. These charges will not apparently recur in 1074, but almost the whole of the current year's provision is repeated. The abolition of the Trichur park and museum, which were situated far away from town and were rarely visited, and the contemplated reduction of expenditure on buildings, are proper economies. On the whole, the budget is progressive, and may, I think, be accepted. The year's transactions are expected to leave a surplus of Rs. 1,71,148, which, with the surplus under debt heads (Rs. 6,100) and the opening balance (Rs. 9,61,789), will leave a closing balance Rs. 11,39,037.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

50. *Vital Statistics*.—The births and deaths registered during the year numbered 10,933 and 9,385, respectively, and gave a ratio *per mille* of 15·1 and 12·9 against 13·6 and 10·7 in 1071. The registration is admittedly imperfect, but it is not stated how it is proposed to effect an improvement. Cholera prevailed in an epidemic form in all parts of the state. There were 4,282 deaths from this cause alone against 221 in 1071.

51. *Vaccination*.—The total number of vaccine operations performed during the year amounted to 23,282 against 24,664 in 1071, and of these, 21,419 or 92 per cent. were successful against 22,485 or 91·1 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage in Travancore was 81·7. Infantile vaccination showed considerable improvement, the number of children under one year successfully vaccinated having risen from 764 to 1,308. On the other hand, only 10,924 of the successful operations were verified by the superior officers against 11,456 in 1071, and the average cost of each successful case increased from 2 annas and 6 pies to 3 annas and 4 pies. Arm-to-arm vaccination also was more extensively carried on than in the previous year, but steps were taken for the establishment of a calf depot at Trichur. Details of vaccination work by taluks and as compared with the registered births and in proportion to population, are wanting.

52. *Conservancy*.—The number of towns regularly conserved rose from four to five. In four of these, there were duly constituted sanitary boards. The total expenditure in the five towns amounted to Rs. 10,879. A sum of Rs. 2,184 was also spent in quarantine operations, in preventive operations against cholera in towns not under conservancy and in the burial of dead bodies, so that the total outlay on conservancy was Rs. 13,063 against Rs. 10,979 in 1071.

53. *Medical Relief*.—Including the jail hospital at Ernakulam but excluding the lunatic asylum at Trichur, there were five hospitals and seven dispensaries, as in the previous year; but the total number of patients treated fell from 142,604 to 133,821. Of the latter, 2,629 were in and 131,192 were out-patients. The daily average attendance rose from 82 to 89 in the case of in-patients, but fell from 834 to 769 in that of out-patients. The fall in the total attendance is explained in paragraph 384 to be no fall, the previous figures being in some cases untrustworthy. With reference to paragraph

390 of the report, the distinction between major and minor operations may be artificial, but it is maintained for some good and sufficient reason, I opine, in Madras and perhaps the confidence of the public in European surgical science can be best gauged by the extent to which they submit themselves to major operations.

54. *Midwives*.—Seven midwives were at work as in the previous year, and they attended 145 cases of labour against 70. The figures are still disappointingly small.

55. *Lunatic Asylum*.—There were eight lunatics in this asylum at the commencement of the year, and as many more were since admitted. Of the total of 16, 7 were discharged, cured or relieved and one died, leaving 8 under treatment when the year closed. The Government having now expressed its inability, on legal grounds, to sanction the transfer of the lunatics to a British asylum, the existing building will have to be improved or a new one built; but in view of the small number to be accommodated if a new one is built, it will not be necessary to incur any heavy outlay, which is to be deprecated.

56. *General*.—The total cost of the department was Rs. 39,160 against Rupees 45,938 in 1071, the decrease being due chiefly to the greater portion of the payment for medicines purchased during the year having been debited only in the current year. No information is furnished as to the degree of supervision exercised by the Medical officer over vaccination and the registration of vital statistics. In spite of the retrogressions above noticed, the remark in paragraph 398 of the report that the department was efficiently managed, may, none the less, be justifiable.

INSTRUCTION.

57. *General Statistics*.—The following statement shows the number of schools and of pupils at the close of the year, as compared with the figures on the corresponding date of the previous year:—

	Number of schools.		Number of pupils.	
	1071.	1072.	1071.	1072.
Government institutions	60	60	4,997	5,463
Private aided	125	122	9,125	8,738
„ unaided	877	833	17,760	16,349
Total	1,062	1,020	31,882	30,550

There was thus, on the whole, a fall of 3·9 per cent. in the number of institutions, and of 4·2 per cent. in that of pupils. The fall in both cases was entirely under private institutions, both aided and unaided. Of the total number of pupils, 22,906 were boys and 7,644 girls, the total forming 4·2 per cent. of the population against 6·3 per cent. in Travancore and 2·3 in Madras. The boys and girls also formed 42·2 and 14·1 per cent., respectively, of the population of school-going age, calculated at 15 per cent., against 63·9 and 19·3 per cent. in Travancore and 26·7 and 4·3 per cent. in Madras. The numbers in the sirkar and aided schools, for which alone the sirkar is directly responsible, formed, however, only 46·5 per cent. of the total against 48 per cent. in Travancore and 70 per cent. in Madras. Of the total number of boys under instruction, 60·9 per cent. were Hindus, 33·0 per cent. Christians, 5·5 per cent. Muhammadans and ·6 per cent. Jews; and of the girls 46·1, 48·9, 4·4, and ·6 per cent., respectively, belonged to these classes: the relative proportion of these classes to the total population being as follows:—

	Hindus.	Christians.	Muham- madans.	Jews.
Males	69·0	24·4	6·5	·1
Females	69·8	23·8	6·3	·1

The proportionate extent to which the different classes are represented in the numbers under instruction was as follows:—

Percentage of pupils under instruction.

	Hindus.		Christians.		Muhammadans.		Jews.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1071	36.5	9.5	64.5	32.0	37.3	13.2	190.6	47.7
1072	37.2	9.3	57.3	29.1	35.5	9.8	164.7	52.3

Next to the Jews whose total number in the State is insignificant, Christians continued to take the greatest advantage of the educational facilities offered.

58. Of the 182 sirkar and private aided institutions, 1 was a college, 6 high schools, 16 lower secondary schools, 8 primary schools, 142 vernacular schools, and 9 special schools. Of the high schools, one was the Palace school at Tripunitura, and of the special schools one was the Sanskrit patasala in the same place, and another the Normal school at Trichur. The following statement shows their costs to the sirkar:—

	Number of schools.	Strength at the close of the year.	Total cost.	Income from fees.	Net cost.	Grants.	Average cost of per pupil.
			RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS. A. P.
College, Government	1	761	26,672	14,407	12,265	..	15 14 0
High schools, Government	2	498	16,367	6,154	10,213	..	21 2 0
" aided	4	869	..	..	..	* 2,580	3 5 0
Lower Secondary schools, Government.	6	1,083	14,608	4,922	9,686	..	9 4 0
Lower Secondary schools, aided	10	1,156	..	..	..	* 3,936	3 10 0
Primary schools, Government	2	230	1,790	266	1,524	..	7 5 0
" aided	6	520	..	..	..	* 1,164	2 8 0
Vernacular schools, Government	47	2,853	15,960	1,739	14,221	..	5 12 0
" aided	95	6,023	..	..	..	8,091	..
Special schools, Government	2	38	2,416	..	2,416	..	..
" aided	7	170	..	..	..	2,521	..

* These are the sanctioned grants. The amounts actually paid are not separately given.

59. The following statement shows the results obtained by these schools at the public examinations held during the year:—

	Sirkar.		Aided.	
	Number presented.	Number passed.	Number presented.	Number passed.
F.A. Examination	9	7	..	..
Matriculation Examination	68	20	5	..
Lower Secondary "	74	33	93	50
Primary Examination	99	73	75	70

The statistics furnished in the report do not, however, seem to be complete as regards the Lower Secondary and Primary examinations.

60. *Financial.*—The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,01,484 against Rs. 90,507 in 1071, the increase occurring chiefly under Palace and District schools. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 28,462 against Rs. 25,922 was recouped in the shape of school-fees, &c. The net outlay was thus Rs. 73,022 against Rs. 64,585.

GENERAL.

61. In a supplementary note, the Diwan has given separately the expenditure incurred by the Sirkar on account of Residencies. This amounted to Rs. 6,719 in 1072 against Rs. 4,665 in 1071. Besides the former sum, it is stated that Rs. 4,942

was spent on public works sanctioned and started in previous years, apparently before my arrival, as I have not yet sanctioned any work or estimate. I now understand, however, that the most important work in 1072 related to certain improvements to the Bolghotty Residency undertaken without consulting the Resident, for the safety and maintenance of the fabric.

CONCLUSION.

62. The salient features of the year's work are summarized in paragraph 436 of the report. On the whole, I think there was good progress, and His Highness the Raja, of whose earnest desire to wisely govern his State His Excellency the Governor in Council is already aware, is to be congratulated on the results of the year's work, and also the Diwan Mr. Rajagopala Chariar, who has been extremely zealous in effecting reforms and improvements, where they were most required.

(Signed) J. D. REES,
Resident.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 743, Political, dated 20th October 1898.

The report on the administration of Cochin and the budget estimates again reached the Resident after the due date, but, as explained in paragraph 438 of the report, this delay was due to special causes which it is hoped will not operate in the future.

2. *Land Revenue*.—As admitted by the Diwan, the land revenue administration of the State during M.E. 1072 (1896-97) was not efficient. A satisfactory improvement in the collection of old arrears was accompanied by a considerable fall in current collections with the result that the balance under the current demand at the close of the year stood at twice the figure of the previous year.

Paragraph 20 of the report. The supervision exercised by the Peishcars over the assessment of waste lands and the touring of these officers is pronounced to have been inadequate. The survey of the State has now been started and this is to be followed up by settlement.

Paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report. A Revenue Recovery Regulation is also under preparation. These measures should assist in reforming this branch of the administration in some of the directions indicated in paragraph 3 of the review by Government last year.

Paragraph 14 of the report.

3. *Legislation*.—The attention of the Darbar will be drawn to the remarks of the Resident regarding the advisability of expediting the passing of the Civil Procedure, the Chief Court and the Civil Courts Bills.

Paragraph 6 of his review.

4. *Police*.—The working of this department improved so far as can be judged from the statistics in the report. Process-serving work decreased and the Darbar has in contemplation the introduction of a scheme for registering known depre-dators. The institution of this registry appears to be advisable in view of the rise in re-convicted prisoners. The number of punishments awarded to the members of the force again increased.

Paragraph 125 of the report.

Paragraph 41 of the report.

5. *Criminal Justice*.—The quality of the work of the superior magistrates deteriorated, whilst that of the subordinate magistracy showed a slight improvement. The question of the realization of fines is still in an unsettled

Section 86 of the report.

Paragraph 16 of his review.

condition, for, whereas the collections under fines imposed by the magistracy improved, those in the Sessions Courts were unsatisfactory and the old arrears have apparently yet to be investigated. The Resident is of opinion that the fines imposed are too high and the attention of the Darbar should be called to this point.

Paragraph 19 of his review.

6. *Jails*.—Some improvement has been effected in prison discipline, as detailed in paragraph 136 of the report, but the introduction of most of the reforms urged by Mr. Nicholson last year await the passing of the "Prisons Regulation." Extramural labour appears to be still carried on to a greater extent than is necessary. The report by the Resident on the supply of arms to the warder guard will be awaited.

Paragraph 22 of review.

