

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

AND

BUDGET ESTIMATES

OF THE

COCHIN STATE,

FOR THE

MALAYALAM YEARS 1074 AND 1076 RESPECTIVELY.

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# ADMINISTRATION REPORT AND BUDGET ESTIMATES

OF THE

## COCHIN STATE,

FOR THE MALAYALAM YEARS 1074 AND 1076.

*From G. T. MACKENZIE, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Trivandrum, 26th April 1900, Ref. on C. No. 1237.*

I have the honour to forward herewith the administration report of the Cochin State for the Malabar year 1074 (1898-99) and the budget estimate for 1076 (1900-01). The report, which was due on the 1st April, was received by me on the 22nd April, the Diwan explaining that much of his time was occupied in arranging for the periodical payments for the construction of the Shoranur-Cochin railway and in framing the budget accordingly.

### GENERAL AND POLITICAL.

2. Mr. J. D. Rees was Resident at the beginning of the year, and on the 22nd August 1898 gave charge to Mr. F. A. Nicholson, who gave charge to me on the 11th July 1899. Mr. P. Rajagopalachariar was Diwan throughout the year.

### LAND REVENUE.

3. The revenue survey which was commenced in the previous year under Mr. John Thompson, of the Madras Survey, was continued during the year, but as much time was spent in preparations, the outturn of work in the year is not great. Thirty and a quarter square miles are field demarcated, one hundred and eleven square miles are theodolite surveyed, and three taluks are eye surveyed. Upon this coast, where so much of the cultivation is in gardens and orchards and even the fields are small plots, a survey must necessarily be more tedious than in the many aced fields of the inland Madras districts.

4. There was an increase of 2,861 acres in wet cultivation. Much of this is said to be land hitherto occupied and not assessed but now brought to account by the survey operations. The total demand, including devasoms, rose to Rs. 8,19,630, of which Rs. 7,89,355 or 96.3 per cent. was collected. Of the current demand the very high percentage 99.5 was collected, but some long standing arrears which still disfigure the accounts were not collected and this spoils the percentage for the total demand. The year closed with arrears amounting to only Rs. 3,662 in the current demand and to Rs. 26,158 in arrears of former years. This list of old arrears is a sad blot upon the administration of the Cochin State. They go back to seventy-six years. The Diwan explains that these arrears depend upon old disputes which are now being taken up and decided on their merits. Of course these cases are a legacy which the present administration has received from their predecessors, but nevertheless no time should be lost in clearing them off.

5. The very creditable collection of almost all the current demand and of the arrears except those old contentious cases was accomplished with less use of coercive process. Notice was issued in 4,496 cases, movable property was distrained in 376 cases, and was sold in eleven cases. In 46 cases the land of a defaulter was given to another on nadupattom, that is to say, subject to the arrears due by the defaulter, and in no case was there a sale of a defaulter's interest in the land. The figures for the previous year were 5,755, 1,165, 15, 67, and 2.

6. The number of revenue cases that were filed before the two Peishkars was very much larger, and although the disposal by these officers was creditable, they did not overtake the work that came in, and the number of pending cases has increased. The touring by both officers improved, the Northern Peishkar being on circuit for 199 and the Southern Peishkar for 123 days.

7. Because of the cost of the survey operations the expenditure that is charged against revenue rose from Rs. 94,019 to Rs. 1,17,610.

8. There were three estates under management by the Cochin Darbar. Koda-cheri was under management for the last thirty-five years, and at the request of the family was given back to them after the close of the year under report. Punathur and Kavalapara are estates situated in Cochin territory but the property of persons who are wards under the Madras Court of Wards. The debts of the Punathur estate are being paid off, and the Kavalapara estate has a surplus at credit.

#### LEGISLATION.

9. During the year six regulations were passed: a Survey Regulation and a Regulation to enable the destruction of records, with Regulations to amend the Coffee-stealing, Land Acquisition, Stamp and Criminal Procedure Regulations. The Chief Court Bill, the Civil Courts Bill and other Bills are under consideration.

#### POLICE.

10. The Police establishment was re-organised during the year and now consists of one Superintendent, eight Inspectors and 475 men. The head-quarters were moved to Trichur, which is in the centre of the State. During the year there were two departmental and forty-four private prosecutions of police officers, and all these cases ended in acquittal. The number of departmental punishments fell from 204 to 102. The very good percentages of conviction and of recovery of stolen property and the very brief detention in custody, which attracted attention last year, still continue. The percentage of conviction in cases which were charged under the Penal Code was 72 and in cases under other laws was 92, and the percentage of property recovered in these cases was 61. The average detention in custody was only a few hours. The Superintendent maintains that these figures are correct and explains that an arrested man is usually placed before a magistrate an hour or two after his arrest. With reference to the percentage of conviction it appears to me that in British districts the percentage is taken on the number of cases on the file, while in Cochin the Police seem to refer as false every case in which they are unable to arrest a man and place him before a magistrate, and when a case has been referred it is disregarded for the purposes of these statistics, although no order may have been received to remove it from the file. Thus the percentage of conviction is calculated not on the number of cases on the file, but on the number of cases placed before the magistrate. At the same time it must be remembered that the Cochin State is a very much smaller charge than is a British district, and that the present Superintendent, Mr. Bruce Ferguson, has his men well in hand, and that Mr. Nicholson last year said that in the Cochin State many alleged dacoities, robberies, thefts and house-breakings are exaggerated quarrels about property and are rightly referred by the Police. In the year under report there was a marked decrease in the number of cases filed which may perhaps indicate that Mr. Bruce Ferguson's system of referring cases is checking the habit of making reckless accusations.

11. A special patrol, consisting of a head constable and ten men, was stationed on the shore at Cranganore during the shipping season to check the alleged acts of piracy on native craft sailing along the coast. The great difficulty in the way of this

coast-guard patrol is that at this point on the coast there is Cochin territory, Travancore territory, and British territory, so that the boatmen can easily evade search and arrest. The Malabar Police officers and the Cochin Police officers have been in consultation about joint action, and possibly some proposal may be made for a patrol boat carrying men of the three forces to avoid the territorial difficulty. However, I must mention that many persons think that there is no piracy, that the cargo short-delivered at Cochin port is not taken forcibly, but is sold over the ship's side into boats from the shore, and that the whole matter might perhaps be unravelled by a detective. If the masters of native craft trading with Cochin are really afraid of pirates off Cranganore they would not hug the coast and find themselves becalmed off Cranganore but would stand out to sea.

12. During the year under report 534 known depredators were registered. These, added to the 482 registered last year, make a total of 1,016 in a population of 723,000, so that one in three hundred of the male population is now registered as a known depredator.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

13. There was a slight decrease in the number of cases and a slight increase in the number of persons dealt with by the magistracy. Of the 9,674 persons dealt with 131 were committed for trial, 1,474 were convicted and 3,448 were acquitted or discharged. The balance, 4,621, were otherwise disposed of. I suppose this means that the complaints against these persons were referred for enquiry and were struck off the file as untrue without formal trial. The work which came before the magistrates was done, only fourteen cases remaining at the close of the year. The very large amount of uncollected fines on which Mr. Nicholson commented last year is only one part of the incredible confusion of Cochin accounts which Mr. Swaminatha Aiyar has attempted to set in order. During the year Rs. 19,253 were written off, Rs. 500 of old fines were collected, and in the adjustment of old accounts Rs. 1,750 were credited to fines, but the amount outstanding is still Rs. 23,495. Mr. Nicholson suggested that the bulk of these old fines might be wiped off, and Government followed up the suggestion by the remark that the Courts ought not to impose fines which are not likely to be collected, but in this year the fines imposed were only Rs. 9,401, and of this sum Rs. 7,288 was collected within the year. Also, the fines are not only magisterial fines. They include revenue penalties in tobacco cases, and therefore it may be desirable to keep some of them pending over the heads of smugglers.

14. As already stated, the magistrates tried about five thousand persons, and the number of witnesses examined was a little more than seven thousand or one and a half witnesses to each case, which shows that the cases are not of much intricacy. Only eight witnesses were detained more than three days.

#### JAILS.

15. As in previous years there were eight jails, the Central Jail at Ernakulam and seven subsidiary jails elsewhere. Before I came here as Resident I had been accustomed to visit every month a Central Jail in British India, and I was much astonished when I saw the easy discipline of the Ernakulam jail. The convicts live in separate wards according to race. There is one ward for Muhammadans, one for Christians, one for caste Hindus, another for non-caste Hindus. They mess together in these classes and to each man is issued a Cochin measure and a half of rice and three pies in cash to buy condiments. They club together this money and do their own marketing at the gate of the jail. I noticed that silence was not kept by the prisoners at work. This system is pleasant for the convicts and saves the jail staff much trouble, but it is not deterrent, and I do not understand why any prisoner ever escapes. I expressed this view in the visitors' book, and the Diwan thereupon informed me that considerations of expense prevent the Darbar from altering this system. However, I note that three warders were dismissed and that one was suspended during the year, which is a sign of supervision. As no new clothing was issued during the year the cost of each convict fell from Rs. 79 to Rs. 69, and the average earnings of each convict rose from Rs. 36 to Rs. 37. The statistics of the health of the convicts are almost the same as those of last year.

## CIVIL JUSTICE.

16. There was a slight decrease in the number of suits filed in the year and the number of appeals remained the same. The District Munsifs, of whom there are six, had for disposal 7,327 ordinary and 3,949 small cause suits, and decided all but 194 and 13 respectively. The duration of a contested suit fell from two months and four days to one month and twenty-four days, and in the case of small cause suits remained the same, fourteen days. The two District Judges had 681 suits to try and left 199 pending at the close of the year. It is hoped that the Civil Courts Bill, by raising the powers of the District Munsifs, will afford relief to the zillah judges. In appeals both the zillah judges failed to keep pace with the work that came in and the number left pending has risen. The Appeal Court at Ernakulam consists of three judges, who, during the year, disposed of 227 appeals and left pending 45, of which four appeals were pending for more than a year. The Trivandrum High Court manages to show a file much clearer than that. Lastly comes the Court of Appeal of His Highness the Raja, a court which will be abolished when the Bills now under consideration become law. This court is constituted by the Diwan and one or more judges of the Appeal Court and has always been dilatory. It had 21 appeals pending at the commencement of the year and received 11, making a total of 32 for disposal, but only four were decided and 28 remained at the close of the year. Of these 28 appeals thus left pending one is more than four years old.

## REGISTRATION.

17. There was an increase in the number of documents registered from 30,067 to 32,203. Of these documents 99·5 were registered on the day of presentation and the remaining ·5 per cent. within the week, so that none was beyond a week. There was a decrease in the number of refusals to register and in the number of appeals, while the number of inspections rose from 43 to 54, and the net receipts from Rupees 19,988 to Rs. 21,208. Thus there was improvement in every direction.

## MILITARY.

18. Before the close of the year the Diwan sent in a proposal to refrain from filling up vacancies in the Nayar Brigade and thus to reduce the numbers in order to raise the pay of the force. I replied that the suggestion was sound. The force nominally consists of 376 men.

## MARINE.

19. During the monsoon the shipping trading with British Cochin takes shelter under the lee of the mud bank off Malipuram or Narakal in Cochin territory, but this year the monsoon was very light and the mud bank moved south, so that by 21st July steamers were again anchored in British waters.

## SEASON AND RAINFALL.

20. The season was favourable, the deficient rainfall which ushered in the present drought coming only at the close of the year under report.

## COFFEE AND TEA.

21. There are nineteen coffee estates on the Neliampathy Hills, south of Palghat, a continuation of the mountains which in Travancore are called the High Ranges and in Coimbatore the Anamallays. The yield per acre is now quoted at 220lb. There are four small tea estates, not yet in working order.

## FORESTS.

22. The importance to the Cochin State of its forests is very great. The area of the State is 1,361 square miles, and of that area 605 square miles, or almost one-half, is forest land and, with slight exceptions, the property of the State. But this valuable property has in past years been sadly neglected, and there has been much waste. I am told that for twenty years some timber merchants in the villages south of

Palghat have been sending over the Cochin frontier into the Machad forest woodmen who carried off each year about fifty thousand rupees' worth of teak. This year in the collecting depots of one forest were found over two thousand logs felled and collected against rule. The plunder of the Cochin forests in past years must have been very great.

23. Government lent the services of Mr. Foulkes, of the Madras Forest Department, to inspect these forests, and he has written a lengthy report upon them. In April 1899 Mr. Kohlhoff gave over charge of the department to Mr. Alwar Chetty, of the Madras Service, and under this officer there has been a gratifying improvement. A Forest Code was prepared by the Controller of Accounts and was brought into force. A Forest Regulation was drafted and is now before Government for approval. The old forms of permit were revised and new rules about their issue were introduced. There were forty-two prosecutions in the year as against twenty-two in the previous year. Six of these cases were withdrawn and twenty-one were convicted. A contract was entered into with the Madras Railway for the supply of firewood and a very important negotiation was commenced to supply the sleepers for the Shoranur-Cochin line. Since the close of the year the sleepers have been supplied and the railway authorities have expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the sleepers supplied, a result which is very creditable to Mr. Alwar Chetty. Much yet remains to be done. The forests are not surveyed and a great part of the forest area is at present inaccessible either by road or by river. There is hardly any protection against fire and the wasteful system of clearing patches in the forest for cultivation still exists. Mr. Alwar Chetty has his work before him, but I have every confidence that he will bring these forests into order before the expiry of the seven years for which his services have been lent to Cochin.

24. There was a slight increase in expenditure on establishment from Rs. 17,614 to Rs. 18,137, and a considerable increase on conservancy and works from Rs. 24,816 to Rs. 39,544, but the revenue increased from Rs. 51,157 to Rs. 91,421 so that the net revenue rose from Rs. 8,727 to Rs. 33,740. With anything approaching good management the revenue derived by the Cochin State from its forests ought to be more, very much more than that.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

25. The task of unravelling the tangle into which the Public Works accounts had fallen was continued during the year. Since the close of the year it has been completed. The necessary completion certificates have now been signed by the Chief Engineer for all works, and henceforth the accounting for works in progress will be easy. A Code framed by the Controller of Accounts was introduced and is said to work satisfactorily.

26. During this year the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the construction of a metre gauge railway from Shoranur to Ernakulam, at the cost of the Cochin State. Since the close of the year work was commenced and has progressed rapidly, so that it is hoped that the portion of the line to Trichur may be ready to be opened in February 1901.

#### POST OFFICE.

27. In the Anchal post which is kept up by the Cochin State one office and three letter boxes were added during the year and a branch line of six miles was opened, so that the expenditure increased but the new postal cards were used so much that there was an increase of revenue and the deficit or net loss fell from Rs. 3,956 to Rs. 3,810. In addition to the stamped letters the department carried free 259,344 official letters. Thus the cost to the State was 2·8 pies for each letter. Since the close of the year the Madras Postmaster-General has made a fair offer to the Cochin Darbar to take over the Anchal post on certain terms, but the Darbar is unwilling to accept the offer.

#### SALT.

28. The depots on the British frontier sold hardly any salt, and the Darbar has since abolished them. The total sales, however, slightly increased, so that the

consumption is reckoned at 19.25 lbs. instead of 19.18 lbs., but the expenditure increased so that the net revenue fell from Rs. 4,12,684 to Rs. 4,03,341.

#### STAMPS.

29. At the suggestion of the Controller of Accounts several useful rules were introduced for the custody of stamped paper.

#### ABKARI.

30. The whole system in the Cochin State, as regards both liquor and opium, is in a very unsatisfactory condition. There seems to be reason to think that Cochin gets a good price for its opium monopoly, not because of legitimate sales within the Cochin State of opium brought from British India under pass, but because under the shelter of this monopoly opium can be smuggled into the Cochin State from British India and can be sent into Travancore. The whole matter requires investigation by an Excise officer. The complaints made to me by the Travancore opium contractors are very loud. With regard to liquor the Darbar in this report admit that they do not know the number of liquor shops nor the amount consumed. In August 1899, at the close of the year, the Darbar gave the liquor monopoly of a large portion of the State to a Tamil applicant on a three years' lease, without any restriction of maximum prices. The Darbar has since asked for the services of an officer of the Madras Abkari Department, and I hope that when he comes there will be an improvement.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

31. These statistics become worse instead of better. Last year the birth-rate was eight per mille and the death-rate was twelve, but this year the birth-rate has gone down to seven and the death-rate to seven also.

#### VACCINATION.

32. There was a decrease in the number vaccinated, because the people were afraid of inoculation for the plague.

#### SANITATION.

33. This remained as in previous years except that a private scavenging system introduced at Ernakulam in the previous year was found to work well. Here I wish to make special mention of the very insanitary state of Matancheri, the town which touches British Cochin. When the finances of the Cochin State improve, when the construction of the railway is finished and receipts begin to come in, when attention to Forests and Abkari has increased revenue, then something ought to be done to cleanse Matancheri. At present it is a public danger, because it is a part of a busy seaport, and it may at any moment become a centre spreading pestilence. I spoke to the Diwan, who said that the Chief Engineer and Medical Officer say that six lakhs will be required to put the place in order with masonry drains, and this money is not now forthcoming. That is true but the matter ought to be kept in mind and when finances permit something ought to be done to improve the state of Matancheri.

#### MEDICAL RELIEF.

34. A new dispensary was opened on the Neliampathy hills, and the planters there have offered to contribute towards the cost when it is raised to a hospital. The hospitals and dispensaries in the State are well kept up and managed. In Dr. Coombes, the Chief Medical officer, the Cochin Darbar has a very capable and energetic servant. At Matancheri the hospital for women and children is under Mrs. Williams, who does excellent work. As in Travancore, an unsatisfactory point is the small number of cases which the trained midwives attend. Last year eight midwives attended 170 cases or 21 for each. This year nine midwives attended 254

cases or 28 for each. That is only one a fortnight. Miss de'Araujo, a Dufferin Fund scholar, is now in charge of the female ward in the Trichur hospital. The statistics for this year are very favourable. There is an increase in the number of beds available, in the attendance of both in-patients and out-patients and in the number of operations performed, while there is a decrease in the percentage of mortality among patients. Much credit is due to Dr. Coombes for the successful working of this department.

#### INSTRUCTIONS.

35. As usual the paragraphs on Education contain a mass of figures with very little explanation. At the outset we are told that eight vernacular schools maintained by the State, four aided vernacular schools and one aided special school disappeared during the year. In paragraph 334 I find that this was a "weeding out of worthless institutions," and in paragraph 331 I gather that the aided special school was one of twenty-six Sanskrit schools that were "discontinued". This ought to have been explained. Again, in paragraph 328 it is said that the Darbar discontinued holding the Lower Secondary examination in the State but no reason is given for this change. I have more than once asked the Diwan and Mr. Cruickshank why this examination was abolished, and the only answer I got was that there are too many examinations and that this examination costs money. Meanwhile the abolition has caused much inconvenience. The headmaster of the Nemmara school sent his boys to Palghat for this examination, the Superior of the Convent at Ernakulam, a large school with 113 European and Eurasian girls, complained bitterly that the Darbar had abolished the examination which her girls were accustomed to pass, the Diwan himself had to write an appeal *ad misericordiam* to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, asking that girls who had not passed the Lower Secondary might be permitted to enter the Female Normal School at Calicut. In making this change the Darbar must have had reasons, and these reasons might with advantage have been given in this report.

36. There are several points of interest in the statistics. The Jews, a very small community, seem to send all their boys to school even after the usual school-going age, and have three Hebrew schools. Among Christian children one girl in three and two boys in three attend school. As in Travancore one striking point is the vast amount that is done by the people themselves without State aid. There are more than a thousand unaided schools with more than twenty thousand pupils and twenty-four of these schools are girls' schools. Two of the Hebrew schools are unaided and the Muhammadans maintain sixty-one Arabic schools with 1,556 pupils, all unaided.

37. Although the number of State schools and of aided schools decreased the number of pupils increased and there was a large increase in unaided schools and pupils so that there was an increase in the total from 1,042 to 1,190 schools and from 34,316 to 36,057 pupils. The number of girls rose from 9,464 to 10,129. There was an increase of Rs. 4,629 in expenditure but almost all of this, Rs. 4,276, was on account of girls' schools. The State College at Ernakulam did well in passing fifteen in twenty-one candidates for the First Arts examination and at Trichur the State High school passed thirteen in twenty-two and the Church Mission High school passed six in seven candidates for Matriculation. Thus there was good work done during the year and this portion of the report could have been made very interesting.

#### FINANCIAL.

38. Rao Saheb Swaminatha Aiyar, whose services were lent by the Madras Government for the elucidation of the accounts, continued his labours during the year. This officer remained in the State until April 14th, 1901, and a full report upon the work which he did will be submitted to Government, so that it is sufficient to say here that the good results of his toil are met in every direction.

39. Excluding the debt heads, the revenue for the year was Rs. 25,19,110 against Rs. 24,57,860 of last year, and the expenditure was Rs. 23,93,471, leaving a surplus of Rs. 1,25,639. But the accounts are still confused by the adjustment of the old accounts. Thus in the present report is shown as a receipt under Public Works Rs. 3,02,434 and it is explained that this includes large refunds made by the Chief Engineer and the adjustment of old accounts.

40. If these adjustments are left aside and if the Temple department be omitted it appears that only the increase in receipts from Forests has prevented a fall in revenue as compared with the previous year. There is a decrease in Salt, in Stamps, and in Abkari and a very slight increase in Land Revenue.

41. The actual expenditure of the year, excluding debt heads, exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 65,675. The principal items are the new Revenue Survey, an adjustment of old accounts in Forests and the same in Public Works.

42. The financial condition of the State and the transactions during the year appear as follows :—

	RS.
Opening balance—	
In cash in the treasury .. .. .	3,56,900
Fixed deposit in bank .. .. .	5,00,000
Government paper .. .. .	37,62,100
Total ..	<u>46,19,000</u>
Receipts including debt heads .. .. .	37,09,006
Expenditure including debt heads .. .. .	34,42,644
Surplus .. .. .	<u>2,66,362</u>
Closing balance—	
In cash in the treasury .. .. .	6,23,263
Fixed deposit in bank .. .. .	5,00,000
Government paper .. .. .	37,62,100
Total ..	<u>48,85,363</u>

#### REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1075.

43. Because of the unfavourable season a decrease of Rs. 8,500 appears under Land Revenue. There is a very large increase in the receipts under Forests because of the contracts to supply fuel and sleepers to the Madras Railway. In the interest on Government paper there is a diminution as that will be sold to provide funds for the construction of the railway. There is an increase under Public Works because of unexpected adjustments during the year. It is intended to sell eighteen lakhs of Government paper within the year at an estimated loss of 3 per cent.

44. The expenditure under Land Revenue shows an increase which partly arises from the temporary establishment entertained to acquire lands for the railway. Under Forests the new contracts have entailed extra expenditure. There is an increase under Police because of the entertainment of men for the railway, and under Temples because of the higher price of provisions. As the railway is being pushed on with more energy than was expected, the estimate was raised from sixteen to twenty-five lakhs.

45. Thus, excluding debt heads, the receipts of the revised estimate will be Rs. 23,13,157 and the expenditure will be Rs. 22,76,639. Taking into account debt heads and the sale of Government paper with the expenditure on the railway, the closing balance of 1075 will be Rs. 3,47,281 in cash and Rs. 19,62,100 in Government paper.

#### BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1076.

46. In Land Revenue the budget returns to the normal receipts, but in Salt, Stamps, Opium and Abkari and Tobacco the figures of the revised estimate for 1075 are followed. There is a marked increase in Forests because of the railway contracts. In Public Works the normal figures are taken because it is expected that all the adjustments will then have ceased. All the Government paper will be sold before the close of the year.

47. Excluding debt heads and the cost of railway construction, the receipts are taken at Rs. 23,46,757 and the expenditure at Rs. 22,30,759. The expenditure on the construction of the railway is put at 22 lakhs. The closing balance will be Rs. 2,76,479 in cash and no Government paper.

48. The Cochin State has entered upon a spirited financial policy in spending its reserve in the construction of a railway. So far as one can form an opinion the venture will turn out well, but there is very little margin left for unforeseen contingencies and, indeed, only the business-like energy of the Conservator of Forests, Mr. Alwar Chetty, has enabled the Darbar to make the figures balance.

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#### GENERAL.

49. There are several points in the administration of the State which can be noted with pleasure: the prompt collection of the land revenue demand with very little coercive process, the speedy administration of Criminal justice, the very good statistics of registration, the well-kept hospitals, the extent of education, the order at last introduced into accounts, and the new life put into the Forest department. But the long-pending revenue disputes, the arrears in the Civil Appellate Courts, the want of proper system in the Abkari and Opium monopolies, the worthless vital statistics and the absence from the report of any explanation of the educational policy of the State are defects which may be remedied in future years.

50. In Mr. P. Rajagopalachariar His Highness the Raja of Cochin has a zealous and enlightened Diwan. There are very few officers in Madras who could have carried through all the negotiations about this railway without the least flaw in the arrangements as the Diwan has done.

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 648, Political, dated 26th September 1900.

The administration report of the Cochin State for M.E. 1074 (1898-99) is more condensed than its predecessors, but there is still unnecessary detail and tabulation of statistics which are not required for a general administration report. More careful discrimination in this matter and a corresponding increase of criticism of results would, the Governor in Council considers, greatly enhance the usefulness and interest of the publication. Appendices (32) and (33) and (35) and (36), which exhibit the financial transactions of the year under review separately from the revised estimates for the current and the budget estimate for the ensuing year, might with advantage be combined.

2. The various departments of the administration of the State have been fully reviewed by the Resident. The Governor in Council, whilst noting with pleasure the evidences throughout the report of increased efficiency in the administration, has no doubt that the defects mentioned by the Resident in paragraph 49 of his review will receive careful consideration at the hands of the Darbar. In addition to the matters alluded to by Mr. Mackenzie in that paragraph, the Government considers that the question of making imprisonment in the Cochin State more deterrent calls for early attention from the Darbar. This matter has attracted notice in the past, and it is evident from the facts stated in paragraph 15 of the Resident's review that the prison administration requires to be placed on a more satisfactory footing.

3. As remarked by the Resident, the State has entered upon a spirited financial policy, and for this it is to be highly commended. It is also entering upon an era during which its finances will require careful tending, and every endeavour should therefore be made to regulate expenditure on sound principles. The outlay under "Forests" is increasing, but with the reorganization of this department a largely enhanced net revenue should be obtained. The work accomplished by the special account officer in the reorganization of the accounts system of the State should benefit the administration of all departments, and the Darbar will doubtless take all necessary steps to ensure that a repetition of the undesirable transactions which have been brought to light will not be repeated.

4. The Governor in Council has much pleasure in congratulating His Highness the Raja on the promising condition of his State.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,  
*Chief Secretary.*