

REVIEW

BY THE

MADRAS GOVERNMENT

OF THE



ADMINISTRATION REPORT AND BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE COCHIN STATE,

FOR THE MALABAR YEARS 1076 AND 1078, RESPECTIVELY.

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REVIEW
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION REPORT AND BUDGET ESTIMATES
OF THE
COCHIN STATE,
FOR THE MALABAR YEARS 1076 AND 1078.

*From G. T. MACKENZIE, Esq., I.C.S., Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the
Chief Secretary to Government, dated Resident's Office, Trivandram, 14th April
1902.*

I have the honour to forward herewith the administration report of the Cochin State for the Malabar year 1076 (1900-1901) and the budget estimate for 1078 (1902-1903). The report which was due on the 1st April was received by me on the 10th.

GENERAL AND POLITICAL.

2. I was Resident throughout the year under report. At the commencement of the year, Mr. Locke, Chief Judge, acted for the Diwan on leave until September 20th. On the last day of the year Mr. Rajagopalachari again took leave. Mr. Locke acted as Diwan and Mr. Gover, a practising barrister, acted as Chief Judge. That arrangement still continues and this report has been written by Mr. Locke.

3. His Excellency the Viceroy visited Cochin on the 18th and 19th November 1900. Her Highness the Senior Rani, mother of His Highness the Raja, died on the 26th January 1901.

CENSUS.

4. The census of 1901 gives a population of 812,025. Of these, 198,239 or nearly one-fourth are Christians and 1,137 are Jews. The area of the State is 1,363 square miles, of which one-half is dense forest sparsely inhabited, and the other half is cultivated land with a teeming population of more than a thousand to the square mile.

LAND REVENUE.

5. The Revenue Survey is doing useful work and is increasing the receipts of the State treasury. The areas of the irrigated or, more accurately, rainfed rice lands in the Cochin State have been estimated according to a rough calculation of the amount of seed required to sow each field. The survey is bringing to account very large excesses of actual area over those rough estimates. See paragraph 15 of the report on pages XIV and XV of the appendix. Mr. Thompson, of the Madras Survey, is quietly doing good work in the Cochin State, and I am glad that the remonstrance which he makes in paragraph 16 of his report has been heeded and that his budget allotment for next year stands at Rs. 65,000.

7. The word *kole*, which is used in paragraph 4 of the Diwan's report, denotes rice lands which are peculiar to this coast. The cultivators, with brushwood, straw and clay, erect long cofferdams enclosing an area of shallow lagoon. From the enclosure the brackish water is pumped out, and in the *polder*, as the Dutch call it, rice is sown and a crop is raised below the level of the lagoon on which boats are passing. The removal of the water from these enclosures was done by the laborious process of baling or by water-wheels worked by the feet of the labourers until an American named Brunton in British Cochin imported a number of small portable steam-engines which are hired out to the cultivators for this work of pumping out their fields.

8. The cost of surveying these *kole* lands, which had been charged against Land Revenue, has now been transferred to the debit of survey and credited to Land Revenue, Miscellaneous—Other items, which explains the increase under that head. There is a slight increase under other heads and the current demand is Rs. 7,72,295 against Rs. 7,50,187 of the previous year. Of this demand 99·7 per cent. was collected.

9. Much progress has been made in reducing the arrears which disfigured the accounts in previous years. These items are not really arrears, that is to say, they are not sums ascertained and due which have not been collected. They would more accurately be described as sums in dispute because of claims pending and not yet settled. See paragraph 12 of the report.

CRANGANORE.

10. The territory of the Chief of Cranganore or Kodangalur, 18 square miles in area, is a taluk in the Cochin State and is managed by Cochin officials; but through some idea of deference to the Chief the Cochin Darbar keeps separate accounts for Cranganore. These are shown in paragraph 184 of the report.

POLICE.

11. During the year Mr. Arni Subba Rao, Assistant Superintendent of Police in the Madras service, came to Cochin as Superintendent and at once commenced to bring the State police up to a higher standard of efficiency.

12. Thirty-two prosecutions of police officers were launched by private persons and only one case was convicted. This is a slight improvement on the figures of the two years previous, 40 and 44, all acquitted. This evil of untrue complaints against the police will not disappear until the magistrates commit for false evidence. In one case this year compensation was given for a false complaint. That is an improvement on previous years, but it is not enough.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

13. Of 7,654 persons placed before magistrates, 5,920 were acquitted or discharged, and among these 5,920 persons only 76 received compensation for the false and vexatious complaints made against them. This is a slight improvement on last year, but the magistrates have it in their own power to do much more. A magistrate who does not seek to be popular and who is not afraid of attacks in the columns of newspapers might make his name a terror to reckless or perjured complainants.

JAILS.

14. The Prison Regulation was passed into law during the year. Rules are now being framed under its provisions with a view to render imprisonment more deterrent.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

15. The Chief Court Regulation and the Civil Courts Regulation came into force during the year, and the Raja's Court of appeal ceased to exist. The district munsifs left a very clear file, but the state of the file of the Trichur District Judge was

disgraceful—three suits more than two years old, four suits more than one year old and an average pendency of 145 days in appeals. The officer responsible for this has since left the service.

REGISTRATION.

16. The number of documents registered was one for 24 of the population. Of these documents 99.6 were registered on the day of presentation. The blot this year is that two offices were not inspected. In a State of so small an area this ought not to happen.

FORESTS.

17. The work in the Cochin forests continues with vigour. As in Travancore, felling by permit has ceased and all felling is done by the department. An enormous supply of sleepers for the Madras Railway and the Shoranur-Cochin Railway was delivered. An agreement was made to supply timber for the Cordite Factory on the Nilgiris. More than half a million wooden keys were supplied to the Madras Railway and South Indian Railway. The gross receipts rose to Rs. 5,08,112, but the expenditure also has risen to Rs. 3,55,836, so that the net receipts are Rs. 1,52,276.

18. Mr. Haffield's scheme for a tramway to bring timber from the interior was kindly scrutinized by Mr. Harry Thompson, Chief Engineer on construction, Madras Railway, and work has commenced, the materials for several miles having been landed at Cochin. The idea is to float timber down the valleys until it is stopped by a floating boom at the point of the letter V in the name *Vatecoly Poya* in atlas sheet No. 62. Thence the tramway runs west for eighteen miles, with two shoots down declivities, to the letter C in the name *Poycaud* on that sheet, and from that point the timber will be floated to Puthucad railway station or to the coast. Mr. Haffield's report, printed as No. 33 in the appendix, is an interesting narrative of a very difficult piece of single-handed work.

RAILWAYS.

19. The darbar promptly met the requirements on the revised and enhanced estimate of the Madras Railway Company who are constructing the line from Shoranur to Ernakulam and the line has since been completed, so that a ballast train from Shoranur ran into Ernakulam on March 31st, 1902. But the delay on the part of the English manufacturers in supplying locomotives and carriages prevents the opening of the line for passenger traffic. It may be mentioned here that the darbar placed with a German firm the order for materials for the forest tramway and these were delivered punctually.

POST OFFICE.

20. The number of articles carried by the Anchal or Cochin State Post largely increased but the revenue decreased, a fact which is not explained. This postal service is worked at a loss, the receipts being only half of the expenditure.

SALT AND ABKÁRI.

21. There was a slight increase in the sale of salt and this is attributed to the repression of illicit salt manufacture. The consumption of salt per head was 17.4 lbs., which is less than in Travancore, though equal to the consumption in British India, but the high rate of consumption in Travancore may arise from the fact that salt is used as a manure on the roots of cocoanut trees. There is no manufacture of salt by the Cochin State. All the salt sold is imported from Bombay.

22. The present lease of the abkári monopoly expires on August 15th 1902, when an opportunity will arise to exercise more control and supervision, than has hitherto been exercised over the prices and the situation and number of the shops. The annual monopoly of the vend of opium and drugs was sold at almost the figure of the previous year.

MEDICAL.

23. The vital statistics show a birth-rate of 6 and a death-rate of 8 per mille. The public health was good and the number of out-patients at dispensaries fell, there being less fever and dysentery although there was an increase in small-pox and cholera. With regard to cholera I am disposed to suspect that some reported local outbreaks of cholera could be traced to the sale to the public of damaged stocks of rice. In this moist and warm climate fungus rapidly grows and there is no authority whose duty it is to inspect, condemn and destroy such grain as unfit for food.

24. The hospitals in the Cochin State, under the supervision of Dr. Coombes, are in admirable order. Paragraph 165 shows that Mrs. Williams and Miss D'Araujo continue to do good work. It is satisfactory that the number of cases attended by trained midwives is on the increase.

INSTRUCTION.

25. There is a slight increase in every direction, in the number of schools, the number of scholars and the total expenditure. The new census figures of population cause a decrease in the percentages of attendance. The percentage of boys at school fell from 49 to 46 and the percentage of Christian boys from 72 to 66. That interesting community, the Jews, number 1,137 and it is calculated that they have 170 children of a school-going age, but they have 217 children at school, which makes a percentage of 127. The results of the university examinations were fair, the Raja's college at Ernakulam passing 11 in 17 for F.A. and the Trichur high school passing 12 in 20 for matriculation. When the present period of financial pressure is past, the darbar will doubtless increase the amount given to aided schools which are doing useful work in the State.

FINANCIAL.

26. The payment of Rs. 1,11,000, due from the British Government under the Interport Trade Convention, was made after August 15th, 1900, so that two payments were made in the year under report. If the first payment be set back to the previous year the revenue of that year stands at Rs. 24,07,258 and the revenue of the year under report stands at Rs. 26,50,304, giving an increase of Rs. 2,43,046. This increase is chiefly under forests and salt, but there are increases under other heads, which are balanced by the loss of interest on the Government paper sold to pay for the construction of the railway. The expenditure under ordinary heads was Rs. 25,14,026 which would give a surplus of Rs. 1,36,278.

27. The year under report was a year of very exceptional expenditure on the construction of the Shoranur-Ernakulam railway. Government paper of the face value of Rs. 16,66,000 was sold for Rs. 15,88,410. Because of this loss on forced sales of investments the darbar had recourse to temporary loans to provide funds until better prices could be obtained for Government paper. One such loan of one lakh was outstanding at the commencement of the year and Rs. 2,75,000 was borrowed during the year. These loans for Rs. 3,75,000 were paid off in the year. With the sanction of the Madras Government the darbar obtained from the public a loan of ten lakhs. The year closed with a balance in hand of Rs. 3,08,816 in cash and Rupees 8,75,800 in Government paper.

REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 1077.

28. This Government paper was sold for Rs. 8,36,723. The darbar had hoped that ten lakhs expenditure in this year would see the railway finished, but the actual expenditure exceeded the estimate and it has been necessary to allot thirteen and a half lakhs. The receipts under forests were three and a half lakhs better than the estimate and there were increases in land revenue and salt, but these favourable receipts were balanced by increases in the working expenditure of these departments, especially by the expenditure on the forest tramway. The darbar therefore borrowed one lakh from temple funds which are under the control of the darbar, and it is intended to borrow a further sum of two lakhs before the close of the year. With these temporary loans of three lakhs coming in, it is estimated that the year will close with a cash balance in the treasury of Rs. 42,014.

BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1078.

29. The receipts are estimated with caution. It is likely that the receipts under forest will exceed the estimate. An allotment of two lakhs is made for the construction of the forest tramway and the same sum is allotted for the expenses of the tour of His Highness to Delhi. It is proposed to borrow a further amount of three lakhs and by this expedient a closing cash balance of Rs. 38,282 is shown.

CONCLUSION.

30. The boldness with which the Cochin darbar has not hesitated to borrow in order to complete the Shoranur-Ernakulam railway and has at the same time undertaken the construction of a forest tramway, startles the old-fashioned officials on this coast, who were accustomed each year to see a surplus added to the hoard of the State. It must have been difficult for His Highness the Raja thus to act against the solid mass of conservative opinion which surrounds him, and I think that His Highness was enabled to do this only by the support given by Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, of the Madras Statutory Civil Service, who was Diwan from 1896 to 1901.

31. Another point which it is pleasant to notice in Cochin is that the darbar understands that it is true economy to pay a high salary in order to obtain capable and zealous service. Useful work is done in the Survey; the Salt and Abkari departments are approaching better order; the police improves; the forest revenue increases; a tramway is marked out through the most impenetrable country—all because the men entrusted with these tasks are contented with their position and work willingly. This it is that puts life and interest into the routine of Cochin administration.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 372, Political, dated 29th July 1902.

The administration report of Cochin for the Malabar year 1076 (1900-1901) is a record of steady progress in the administration of the State.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council has only a few remarks to offer on the various heads of administration.

LAND REVENUE.—With the advance of survey operations the darbar should make early and efficient arrangements for the maintenance of survey marks and the correction of field survey books.

FORESTS.—The remarks of the Government* on the Travancore administration report regarding the system of exclusive departmental felling of forest trees apply equally to Cochin. The darbar deserves great credit for vigorously pushing on the tramway scheme for opening out the hitherto trackless forests. Great care should, however, be taken to see that the forest development does not unduly interfere with the interests of the cultivators.

RAILWAY.—Since the writing of the report, the Cochin railway has been opened for goods traffic and it is expected that passenger traffic will be established at no distant date. The Governor in Council congratulates His Highness the Raja on the completion of the line, an event which will mark a new era in the development of the country and the prosperity of its people.

MEDICAL.—The Resident's remarks on the causes of cholera outbreaks deserve consideration. The registration of births and deaths is evidently most defective and calls for the attention of the darbar. Such rates as 6, 7, or 8 *per mille* which have been shown year after year are on the face of them impossible.

EDUCATION.—The Government desire that in future reports information should be afforded regarding the character of the instruction given in the unaided primary schools.

3. With regard to the finances of the State, the following tabular statement shows concisely the accounts, the revised estimate and the budget estimate for the Malabar years 1076, 1077 and 1078, respectively :—

	Actuals, 1076.	Revised estimate, 1077.	Budget estimate, 1078.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Opening balance (cash) ..	2,18,401	3,08,816	42,014
Receipts under service heads	27,61,304	25,90,227	23,75,477
Other receipts	66,85,436	34,47,700	21,10,000
Total ..	96,65,141	63,46,743	45,27,491
Expenditure under service heads	25,14,026	26,54,729	26,89,259
Other expenditure	68,42,299	36,50,000	18,00,000
Total ..	93,56,325	63,04,729	44,89,259
Closing balance (cash) ..	3,08,816	42,014	38,232

The Resident in his review takes into consideration only the revenue and expenditure under service heads, and sets aside debt heads, sale-proceeds of Government securities, capital and loans. If the payment of Rs. 1,11,000 due from the

RS.	RS.
* 27,61,304	94,46,740
1,11,000	93,56,325
<hr/>	<hr/>
26,50,304	§ 90,415
<hr/>	<hr/>
26,50,304	3,08,816
<hr/>	<hr/>
‡ 25,14,026	2,18,401
<hr/>	<hr/>
+ 1,36,278	90,415
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British Government for the year 1075 is set back to that year, the ordinary revenue for the year 1076 M.E. is reduced to 26.50 * lakhs. The surplus † quoted by the Resident is obtained by deducting from that sum expenditure ‡ under the service heads. If the revenue and expenditure from other than service heads is also taken into account the surplus on the actual transactions of the year will amount § to about Rs. 90,000 which represents the

increase || in the balance with which the year (1076 M.E.) closed as compared with that with which the year opened. This increase in revenue was due mainly to the demand for sleepers and other timber, which was created by the operations of the Cochin State railway and the Calicut-Azhikal extension, and to the large sale of salt. There was a fall under the head "interest" on account of the sale of Government securities to pay for the construction of the railway.

Turning to the revised estimate for 1077 M.E. (16th August 1901 to 15th August 1902), it is observed that the chief features of the year are the estimated expenditure of Rs. 13,50,000 on the Shoranur-Ernakulam railway and of Rupees 1,80,000 on the forest tramway. To find funds the darbar intends to borrow 3 lakhs. The financial position of the Cochin State at the close of the year 1077 would then stand as follows:—

	RS.
Capital invested in Government of India promissory-notes
Capital invested in the railway	60,75,596
Deposits in the bank
Cash in the darbar treasuries	42,014
	<hr/>
	61,17,610
Loans outstanding	13,00,000
	<hr/>
Net total	48,17,610
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With regard to the budget estimate for 1078 M.E. (16th August 1902 to 15th August 1903), it is anticipated that the year will close with a small cash balance. As all the Government securities in the possession of the Cochin State will have been sold out, no receipts are provided under the head "sale-proceeds of Government securities". On the expenditure side no further charges are expected on account of the railway, but provision has been made for the prosecution of the construction of the forest tramway (Rs. 2,00,000), and for the tour expenses of His Highness the Raja to Delhi (Rs. 2,00,000). A cash balance of Rs. 38,232 (not Rs. 38,282 as stated in the Resident's review, page 5, paragraph 29) will then be left.

4. Although, at the close of the Malabar year 1077, the Cochin State will have in hand neither Government securities nor deposits in the bank and will be burdened with a debt of 13 lakhs, the darbar will possess in the Cochin State railway a substantial asset which will increase the prosperity of the country as well as swell the revenues of the State.

5. It would be convenient if the memorandum printed immediately after the financial statements in the appendix were combined with the statements themselves, the explanatory remarks being entered on facing pages against the items to which they refer.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.