M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1564	Press Mis.	
111-112. Dated	5 – 6 –	№ 1868.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 111. Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Kodikanel, 26th May 1868 :—

1. I have the honor to request you will bring to the notice of Government the want of some fixed rules for the supply of firewood to the residents at Kodikanel, on the Pulney hills, from the Government sholas; at present the residents are left to the caprice of the Duffadar in charge of forests at Periacolam, and there is an intolerable delay in getting applications for firewood disposed of. I would not have troubled Government direct with this application, but that it is more than a month, I think, since I wrote to the Conservator of Forests on the subject, and no notice seems to have been taken of my reference.

2. Trees for firewood have been sold here either by auction or at one Rupee per bandy-load. *Early in February last* I applied to the Forest Duffadar for permission to cut a tree, which was a mere shell, the heart being decayed away; it had a few green boughs on the top, and on that ground only the Duffadar refused it to me, saying that he must get an order from the head-quarters before it could be cut, as the top was green. The Duffadar estimated the tree to contain eight bandy-loads, and I was to pay one Rupee per bandy-load on permission to cut being obtained. On the 8th or 9th of April last the Duffadar came up here, and after having sold some fallen timber, and having told one of the residents, who attended the sale, that the sale was closed, he, the Duffadar, sold to a Native a standing tree with a green top for 4½ Rupees, for which any resident here would have willingly given 8 Rupees at a fair sale.

3. I informed Captain Beddome that my application was unattended to, and that the Duffadar had sold a tree to a Native which was in precisely the same state as the one he had refused to me; but my application to Captain Beddome does not seem to have had any result. If the Duffadar had no right to sell me the tree I asked for, because it had a green top, which was his only reason for not selling it, and not because of its being of any particular species, he had no right to sell the tree he sold on the 8th or 9th April, for it had a green top, and his auction of it was a sham.

4. Yesterday, the 25th May, the Duffadar came up here and told me that six or eight days ago, which would be the 17th or 19th May, he had got an order from Mr. Turnbull to say that I might have the tree I applied for, if I paid *three Rupees* a bandy-load for it, because it was a Navul tree. In the first place, I don't believe Mr. Turnbull was in the district at the time mentioned to give any such order; and secondly, that such a demand and rise in price has been made, because it became known that I had made a complaint.

5. Hitherto, scores of sound Navul trees have been sold here, and are still being sold for firewood, and only one Rupee a bandy-load has been paid.

6. The tree I asked for would not yield a beam, a rafter, or a plank; is unsound, and is only fit for firewood, and there are many others like it in the shola; to ask 3 Rupees a load for it, or its like, is simply to doom it to profitless decay, because nobody, unless under dire necessity, would buy firewood at that rate, uncut up.

7. I do not think there is any rule in force in the district, sanctioned by the Collector and the Forest Department, charging 3 Rupees seigniorage per bandy-

load on Navul trees; but if there is, such Navul trees are not the trees called Navul by the Natives on these hills, and the charge would be for sound serviceable wood for building purposes, and not for decayed wood only fit for firewood. I respectfully beg Government will have some rules drawn up and published, so that residents may have the means of knowing what they are, for the sale of fire-wood to the inhabitants of Kodikanel.

No. 112. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1868, No. 1,564.

Miscellaneous.

1. Forwarded to the Acting Conservator of Forests for early report.

2. Major Beddome will make immediate arrangements to meet the requirements of the residents on the Pulnies in regard to firewood, and will notify them to the parties interested, keeping in view the proper conservancy of the sholas.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
„ V. H. Levinge, Esq.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 1564.
Forwarded to the Asst. Conservator of Forests for early report.
Major Beddome will make immediate arrangements to meet the requirements of the residents on the Pulnies in regard to firewood & will notify them to the parties interested. Keeping in view the proper conservancy of the sholas.
5th June 68
13 Feb 69 Asst. Conservator of Forests Dindigul
Copy to V. Levinge Esq. Asst