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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1587 Press Mis.—

263 264

Dated 16 — 7 — 1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th July 1867.

No. 263. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp at Wellington, 12th July 1867, No. 105 :—

1. Mr. F. Groves, planter in Segur valley, a gentleman who is conversant with mechanical engineering, has erected a 12-horse turbine for pulping coffee, grinding bones, and other purposes.

2. He solicits permission to work up by saw machinery small Teak, Vengay, and other trees, some felled in his coffee clearing, and others standing within his grant of about 700 cawnies, held on the old tenure of a five years' cowle.

3. I have visited the spot with Major Morgan and Mr. Groves, and the following arrangement appears to be advantageous both to Government and to Mr. Groves :—

I. Mr. Groves to be permitted to saw up for sale the timber within his grant, paying a seigniorage of 2 Rupees per bandy-load, or about 3 Annas per cubic foot.

II. Mr. Groves also agrees to saw timber for this department at the rate of 40 square-feet per rupee. This may be considered an advantageous arrangement, as his saw mill is only three miles from the Musnicovil depôt, where Sawyers are procured with difficulty, and suffer much from sickness.

4. Mr. Groves has peculiar advantages from possessing water-power, his estate being under the Pykará falls, and is in a position to execute what no one else can undertake.

5. It has long been the desire of Government to introduce saw machinery into their forests, but the Forest Officers from want of water-power, deficient skill, and multifarious duties, have been unable to undertake the responsibility. This appears to be a favourable opportunity of making a commencement. In the event of the arrangement proving satisfactory, this department might hereafter supply timber to be sawn up from the forests in the neighbourhood.

P. S.—The correspondence relating to Mr. Groves' request is forwarded for reference.

No. 264. ORDER THEREON, 16th July 1867, No. 1,581.

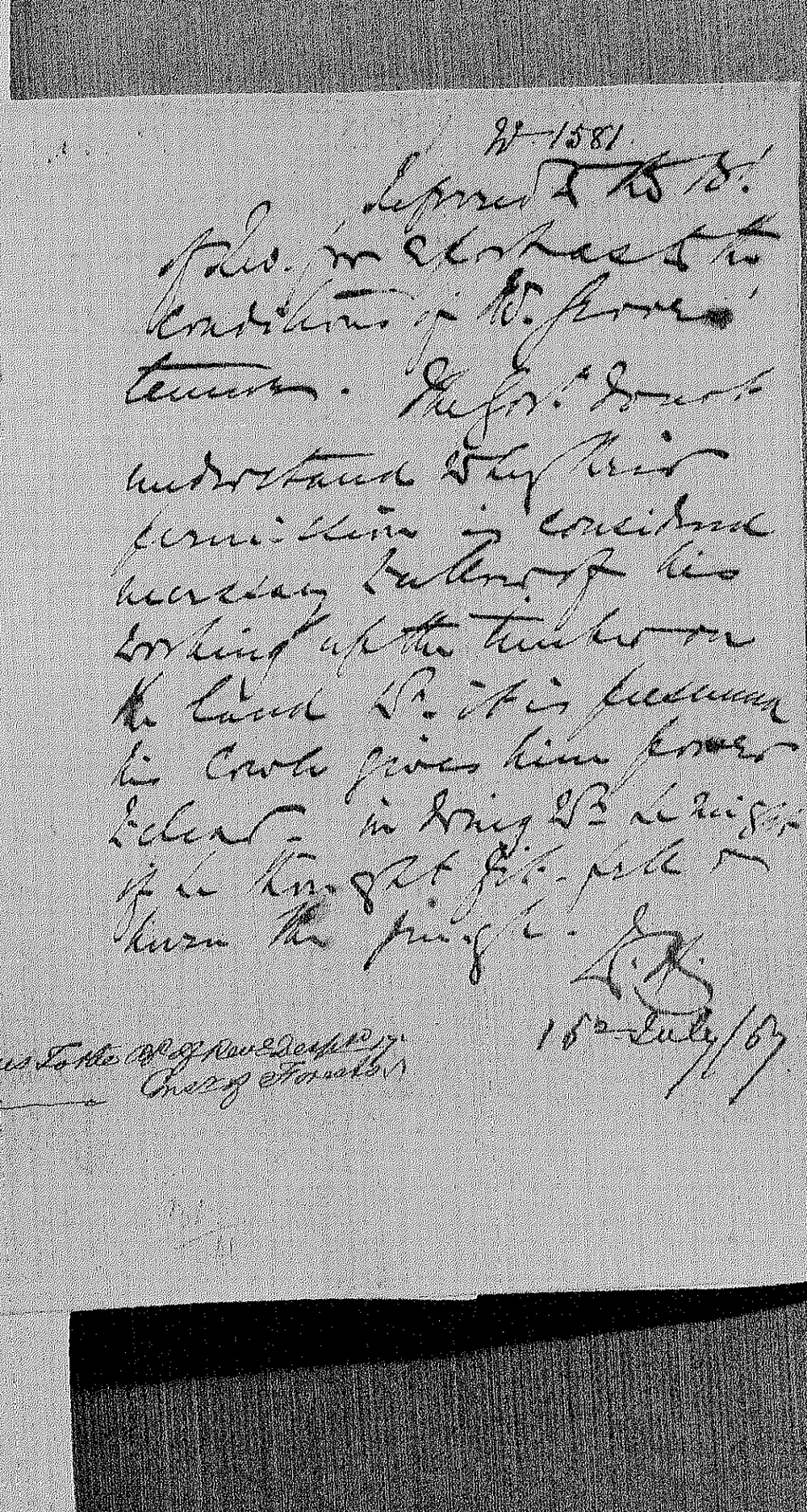
Forests, No. 8.

1. Referred to the Board of Revenue for report as to the conditions of Mr. Groves' tenure.

2. The Government do not understand why their permission is considered necessary to allow of his working up the timber on the land which it is presumed his cowle gives him power to clear, in doing which he might, if he thought fit, fell and burn the jungle.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.