

meji, ninety miles from Lagos, is the old headquarters, and here the forestry work of the Southern Provinces is directed. Zaria, situated some 450 miles from Lagos, is the headquarters of the Forestry Department in the Northern Provinces.

A newly appointed officer would be liable to be sent to either of these last-named places; but owing to the larger number of men being stationed in the Southern Provinces, the majority are sent to that centre. Olokemeji is in the middle of a forest reserve, 26 square miles in extent, and is also the headquarters both of the Western Circle and of its Northern Division. In each circle there is a conservator of forests in charge, and he has an assistant to manage each division. In the event of a shortage of staff it may happen that a new man is put in charge of a division, and thus has an opportunity of learning all about the work much more quickly than would otherwise be the case. In the ordinary way he only corresponds with his conservator and the timber interests of his division on purely local matters.

The Tricks of Carriers.

At first sight, on examining the tropical forest, it appears like a very mixed collection of different kinds of trees; on closer inspection, however, similarities and contrasts are apparent, such as ebony, with its thin, black, scaly bark, and that of the somewhat regularly, deeply fissured bullet-wood tree, and its white latex, which the former does not exude.

In walking through a forest it is normally best to make the carriers precede, though their scent is not entirely pleasant if one is close behind. Owing to their tendency to lag, and their desire to sit down at inconvenient times, it is an advantage to have them in front. Frequently one may have to stop and examine a flower or leaf, and it only adds to the carriers' labour if the

whole column has to stop whilst seeds and specimens are being collected. A march of about fifteen miles is sufficient, and takes up the better part of the day if an examination of the forests is being made on the way. In most parts villages are eight to ten miles apart, sometimes nearer, so the carriers can stop and purchase food. In the larger forests, however, a distance of over twenty miles is sometimes covered without sight of a house; in that case, the people of the last village are asked to bring food for the carriers, and the carriers themselves are given a day's food as well, which has to be cooked on reaching camp. In some places the chiefs provide food (yams etc.) which is distributed to the carriers, or in some places 3d a day per head is allowed them for purchasing food. So long as the carrier gets food, and his load is not excessively heavy, he is quite cheerful and walks well.

Nigerian Wages.

Current wages vary from 9d. to 1s. a day, the headman getting from 1s. to 2s. a day. Local felling permits being issued both by the district and forest officers to natives for felling timber for local use, at district stations a call is paid to the District Officer to discuss current forest questions and examine the permit books. At the same time there is an opportunity of seeing what further development of forest work is possible in the district. The local forest guards, foresters, or forest rangers report themselves, usually giving a very good account of the local forest conditions. Since the demand for local timber has been growing, a stop may have to be made to supervise the marking or girdling of suitable trees for bridge building under the auspices of the Public Works Department. On a journey through the mahogany forest, the different camps of the timber firms have to be visited. These firms have hundreds of square miles for the pur-