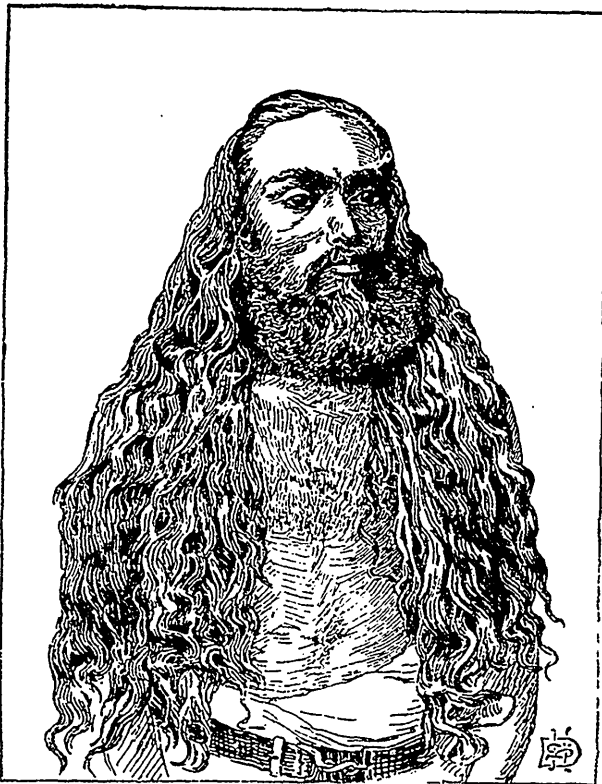


obtaining some £350,000 worth annually of the finest plumbago in the world.

Almost all the plantation labour is carried on by Tamils, from Southern India, the Cingalese refusing to do coolie work, devoting themselves entirely to trading, small farming, carting produce (a large industry), and to handicrafts. To these Tamils Ceylon is a heaven upon earth. In their own country their average earnings per family of five reaches about £6 in the year, or less than



CINGALESE WORKMAN.

one penny per head per day, a condition of things that appears almost incredible to English minds, and in which recurrent famines, terrible in their results, are certain. The Tamils employed in Ceylon can earn from sixpence to ninepence per day. I doubt if, considering the climate and cost of living, there are any labouring classes in the world better off.

The trade of Ceylon, as everywhere else in the East, is overwhelmingly in the hands of the English. Of 6,733 vessels