

them over to the Department, at the expiry of the term, fully planted with Teak or other species as may have been agreed upon. Broadcast sowing of seeds of valuable species is also in vogue; besides this, selected patches of forests containing timber of the royal or reserved species are carefully fireprotected, and by means of creeper-cutting and other cultural treatment, the growth of the 'stand' is promoted. It is gratifying to note that owing to the exceptional climate of the country and its favourable temperature, the endeavours of the forest authorities to aid natural, and create artificial, reproduction, are invariably well repaid from a forester's point of view.

#### THE HILL TRIBES.

No account of the Forests of Travancore would be sufficiently interesting, without, at least, a short description of the different tribes of hillmen that inhabit them. They number about eight to ten thousand, and though divided into 12 or 14 tribes, who do not countenance intermarriage between each other, they are supposed to have originally sprung from 2 or 3 sources, as evidenced from the similarity of color and the comparative agreement of features of certain sects. The "*Kanies*" of South Travancore; the "*Palliyars*," the "*Malayadayar*," the "*Hill Pandarans*," the "*Kochivalans*" and "*Ulladans*" of central Travancore; the "*Arayans*," the "*Vishavans*," the "*Uralies*," the "*Palliyars*," the "*Mannans*," and "*Muthuvans*" of North Travancore are the chief tribes. Of these the "*Kanies*" and "*Arayans*" are the strongest in numbers, their total number being 2000 and 4000 respectively. The "*Uralies*," the "*Mannans*" and "*Muthuvans*" come next with a strength varying from 700 to 800 each. The other tribes are comparatively few in number, their strength being below 200, in the case of the "*Palliyars*" of the North, and below 100 in the case of all others. Most of the tribes are dark skinned, with short noses, thick lips and African features, and speak "*Malayalam*"—the mother tongue of the country as a rule—but a few of the tribes speak a language more affiliated to Tamil than Malayalam. These latter are supposed to have immigrated from the adjoining Tamil countries of Southern India. The "*Muthuvans*" are tall and have aquiline noses, and the best features of all the tribes. As a rule the hillmen are, from the abundance of food they take and the life of independence and health they lead, well built, strong and muscular. The majority of them live by means of cultivation, that appealing most to them being "*shifting cultivation*," which has spelt ruin to many a noble forest tract. They grow grains, yams and vegetables and very often have a good supply of these for their support. They eat fish and flesh as well. They smoke tobacco