

allow people to cut pits for these animals on payment of a tax per pit. The elephants thus taken, apparently became the property of the person who dug the pit." This arrangement accounts for the very large number of pits which are reported to be seen in different parts of the forests and even in remote and out of the way places. This original method of capturing elephants in pits was condemned because it resulted in a number of casualties, the causes therefor being latterly found out to be the want of sufficient bedding at the bottom of pits to break the 'fall,' and the non-appointment of a sufficient number of pit watchers to give timely intimation of captures. The experiment of capturing elephants by the "Keddah" system on the line of the plan of Mr. Sanderson's Keddah in Mysore, was tried for some years from 1052 M.E. (1876-7), but it had to be given up as it did not prove successful—the causes being (1) the difficulty of training the old animals caught along with the others, (2) the herds of elephants in Travancore being small in numbers, and (3) because as years passed by the wild elephants knew of the location of the Keddah. Even in the sister State of Mysore, where extensive captures are made yearly, the Keddah system was found to be a failure financially.

#### Re-AFFORESTATION.

In concluding a series of articles on the "Insufficiency of the World's timber supply," in the issues of the *Indian Forester* for the year 1901, Mr. F. Gleadow predicts that a timber famine would "begin ere fifty years are past" and suggests remedies for counteracting the effects of such a catastrophe and suggests re-forestation as one of the ways to mitigate it.

The first attempt at re-afforestation in Travancore was made in 1866 or 1867, when a small area of about a hundred acres was planted with Teak, and ever since then additions are yearly made to these plantations and we find that at the end of the last official year there were no less than 2763 acres under regular plantations the majority of them being planted with Teak and a small percentage with *Thambagom* (*Hopea parviflora*) Rubber (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) and Casuarina (*Casuarina equisetifolia*). The system of planting adopted for Teak is as follows. Plots of forest land in the vicinity of roads or rivers are selected, the timber thereon is felled and the land cleared, lined and holed and plants raised from nurseries, previously prepared, are put out at a distance of 6 ft. x 6 ft. Over and above these plantations, which are under the direct management of the Department, large tracts of land are also given out to private men for temporary cultivation of cereals for a year or two, provided they hand

\* See page 163 Report on Forests of Travancore.