

reference, we presume, to the actual yield or outturn of the 'compartments' operated upon. With regard to the forests within lands in the enjoyment of private chiefs and other owners, steps are being taken to take over such areas from them and to bring them under a systematic method of treatment and control of the Department.

YIELD AND WORKING.

Timber brings in the largest revenue to the Department the total receipts under this head alone being very near 5 to 6 lacs of Rs. on an average for the last five years. The income derived from Minor Forest Produce has been till now very small in proportion to the capacity of the forests. But as more information is being gained of these products year by year the proceeds declare an annual increase. The forests, if thoroughly studied, would unlock a profitable opening in this direction. Not only is the knowledge gained of these products limited, but that limited knowledge is not, we fear, being worked out to the best advantage. Barring timber, one of the items that contributes to swell the coffers of the Forest Treasury is from the capture of wild elephants.

ELEPHANT CAPTURING.

Yearly numbers of these animals are captured in pits and the method adopted is comparatively an easy one. The tracks frequented by these wild denizens of the forests are ascertained, and pits 12 ft. in diameter at the top and 9 ft. diameter at the bottom, with a depth of 12 ft. are dug along such tracks in groups of three thus, O^{O} . A layer of grass, leaves, etc., is deposited at the bottom of the pit to break the fall of the captive and the top is covered with cross twigs, leaves, grass and sand to conceal the existence of the pit. When a "fall" has been reported the forest officer with decoy elephants and coolies repair to the spot to release the "captive." In a short time a noosed cord is passed round the neck of the animal and three attached cords that branch off from this, are taken up by 'decoy' elephants—one in front and the other two on either side of the captive. Another cord is noosed round one of the hind legs and taken up either by a fourth decoy, if there be one, or, in its absence, by a number of coolies. As soon as everything is ready, twigs and branches are thrown into the pit to assist the animal to 'clear' the pit and then the captive is marched off to the "Kraal" (wooden cage), where under the tuition of expert mahouts the animal is trained in 3 or 4 months time. Mr. Bourdillon in his Report on the Travancore forests says, "Lieut. Arthur in his Memoir of Travancore, written in 1810, mentions that at that time the Government used to