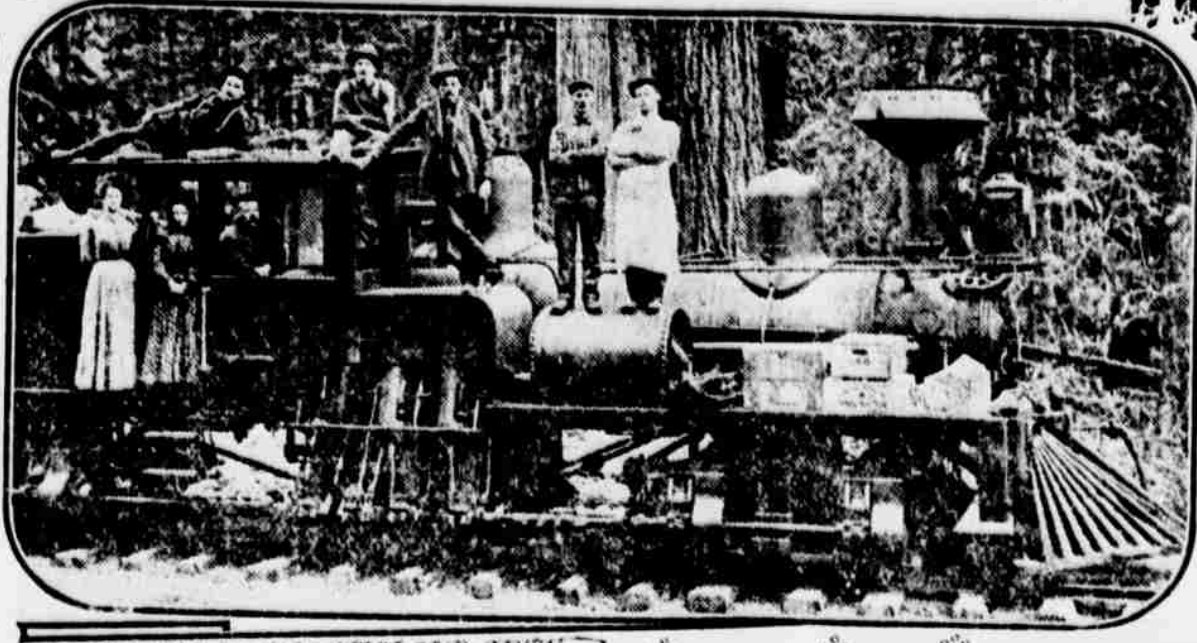


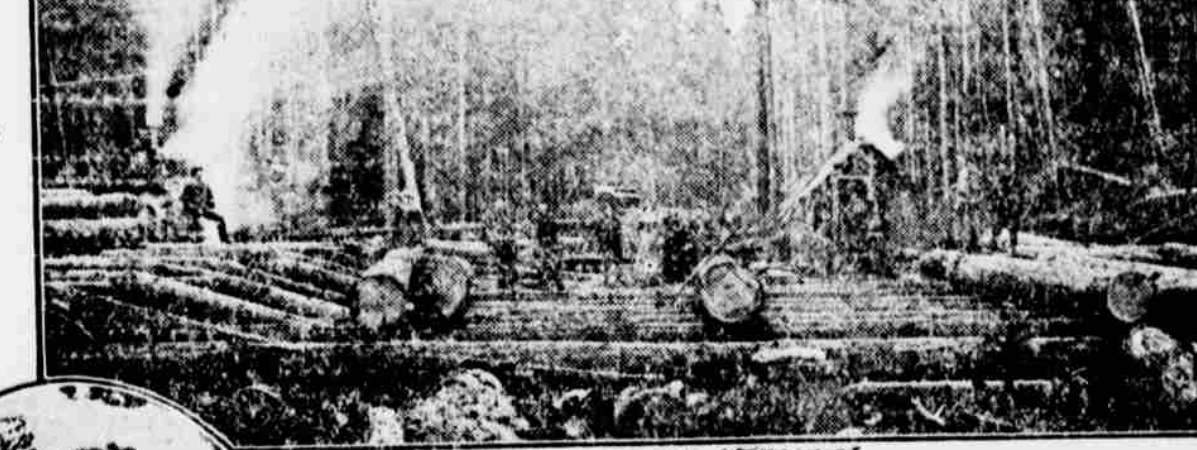
WITH THE LUMBER JACKS IN WINTER



A TYPICAL YOUNG NORTHWESTERN LUMBERJACK
PHOTO BY H. W. HARRIS



A LOGGING LOCOMOTIVE AND CREW



TYPICAL LOGGING TERMINAL



TAKING AN INVENTORY OF TREES READY FOR THE LOGGERS



LUMBERMEN ENJOYING A BRIEF RESPIRE FROM THEIR LABORIOUS WORK

WITH the lumber jacks in many sections of the United States the winter is the busy season of the year, the harvest time, as it were, and they work almost as energetically to "get out" the requisite number of logs during the interim of snow and ice as does the farmer to get in his grain ere the autumn rains set in. Only, to be sure, the lumbermen are not menaced by quite the same uncertainty as to weather conditions as is the farmer in autumn, for in many of the northern lumber camps it is almost unheard of for a season to embody less than five months of sledging, that is, five months of continuous snow and ice.

In the logging regions of the Pacific Northwest, of course, where may be found perhaps the greatest of nature's lumber store-houses, the winter does not make the marked difference in conditions that it does in the forests of some other sections of the country. In western Oregon and Washington there is so little snow, and that of such a transient character, that the lumbermen cannot depend upon it as they do elsewhere to help them with their work. But, on the other hand, the Puget Sound and Columbia River country is free from that severe weather which renders it imperative for lumber jacks elsewhere to constantly have a care lest they suffer from frostbitten hands and feet. Similarly in the south, where cypress is king and where much of the logging is done in swamps, the winter prescribes no change of method or equipment



THE LOGGERS AT WORK

for the twentieth century logging crews. In what we might term the traditional seats of the lumber industry, however, winter puts a very different face on the whole matter of getting out the logs and transporting them to the sawmills that transform them into the marketable form known to the average consumer. In Maine, in northern New York and Canada, in Michigan, in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas the summer is in one sense a vacation season for the lumber jacks. At least it is an interlude of restricted activity and the lumbermen, unlike some other members of the community, welcome the passing of the long, bright days and the advent of the ice King. The explanation of this state of affairs is found, of course, in the fact that snow and ice afford the material for the ideal arteries of communication in the lumber regions. The felled trees may be conveyed to market more quickly and more economically over snow roads and ice trails than by any other method known to the industry. Indeed, there are lumber regions where without these factors—and their sequel, the "big thaw" in the spring—it would be virtually impracticable to get the timber to market at an expense that would justify operations.

The snow and ice, important as is their aid, are not the only influences that are now tending to make the lumbermen concentrate their activities in the fall and winter. Of late years a constantly increasing number of our lumbermen have been brought to see the wisdom of adopting what is known as conservative lumbering—that is, lumbering which treats a forest as a working capital whose purpose is to produce successive crops and which calls for work in the woods that will leave the standing trees and young growth as nearly unharmed as possible. Well, the minute a man becomes a convert to conservative lumbering he is certain to become an advocate of the cold season as the proper time for carrying on all the operations of lumbering. To make this point clear it may be pointed out that the difference between practical work under ordinary methods of lumbering and under conservative lumbering is principally in the selection of the trees to cut, in the felling of these trees, and in the first part of their journey from the stump to the mill. It is an established fact that the amount of harm done to a forest by the cutting depends considerably upon the season of the year when the work in the woods is carried on. Much less damage will result to the young growth

and to the trees left standing if the lumbering is done after the growing season is over instead of being allowed to go on in the spring and summer while the bark is loose and the leaves and twigs are tender. Moreover, if there be a heavy blanket of snow on the ground, a tree, after it has been felled with ax or saw, stands a chance of crashing to earth with less damage than it would sustain at another season of the year. The tree trunk that falls on a bed of snow is not likely to split or to break as

would otherwise be the case when the forest monarch comes down on rocky, uneven ground. After all, however, it is in the various stages of the transportation of the logs that the snow and ice yield the greatest aid. First of all it simplifies the operation of skidding or dragging the log lengths from the depths of the forest. This work was formerly done by horses, mules or oxen, and is yet to some extent, but for the most part the modern donkey engine has supplanted all other forms of energy for skidding. Supposedly the skidding operation is designed only to get the logs out of the forest depths where no log-carrying vehicle could be operated without infinite trouble and damage to the standing timber. However, when the Snow King is in command it sometimes happens that a similar method may be employed for moving the logs to the sawmill or storage yard, perhaps a mile or two distant, where the logs are held to await the spring freshets or are loaded aboard railroad cars that convey them to the mills. For this long-distance log trailing there is employed a more powerful type of engine than the donkey above referred to and a stronger wire cable is supplied. The pathway for the logs is an icy boulevard—kept in condition by "flooding" as circumstances require—and this becomes so smooth from the polishing process afforded by the passage of the logs that it is practicable to transport at each operation not merely a single log but whole "strings" of logs attached end to end by means of stout chains.

At some lumber camps it is the practice to employ giant sleds to carry the logs on the first stage of their journey from the forest to the sawmill. Of course snow is requisite to the satisfactory operation of these sleds, but when a "path" has been worn for the sled runners along the icy roads the vehicles traverse the line thus furrowed with a facility suggestive of that with which a locomotive glides along the steel rails. There is, of course, a minimum of resistance to the progress of a sled along such a glazed surface and in many instances log loads of almost incredible weight are thus transported over the glistening surface. A "new wrinkle" that characterizes winter practice in some of the up-to-date logging districts consists of what might be denominated an ice automobile for log carrying. Powerful traction engines have been used for some time past on the Pacific Coast to draw trains of log-laden trucks out of the forest, but this new form of commercial motor vehicle goes even these

marvels one better. In principle, the ice automobile is not very different from the ordinary commercial motors which are now employed for delivery work in every city. However, the self-propelled adjunct of winter logging is provided with sharp teeth which it sinks into the snow or ice as it progresses, thus insuring steady progress with no slipping or sliding on the smooth surfaces. But because the winter finds the lumber jacks very busy in a temperature that ranges as low as 20 to 40 degrees below zero it must not be supposed that they do not find time and opportunity for plenty of fun in the isolated camps where they spend the season. A logging camp may be anywhere from five to twenty-five miles from the nearest store and postoffice, but the "jacks" are kept liberally supplied with fresh butter, fresh meat, smoking and chewing tobacco, etc. A graphophone or phonograph is an almost inevitable adjunct of the isolated logging camp and the lumbermen manage in one way and another to get records of the latest song "hits" from time to time.

The average logging camp has two main structures—the bunk house where the loggers sleep in bunks arranged in tiers, and the cook shanty where the food is cooked and served. To call this eating hall a shanty is, however, something of a misnomer, since the word is likely to suggest a modest hut, whereas the cook shanty of an up-to-date logging camp must be large enough to accommodate a crude dining table perhaps 40 feet in length. The cooking in a logging camp is usually done by a man and wife (almost invariably German), who hire out as professional cooks and who have the help of two masculine assistants. They work over a range that is 10 feet long and on top of which stands a coffee urn that holds as much as a barrel; a meat boiler that holds 100 pounds of pork or beef, and a can in which there can be boiled at one time more than a bushel of potatoes. Below are the ovens where are baked some 10 to 15 square feet of biscuits every day. In some camps heavy stoneware is provided for use on the table, but at a majority of logging establishments each of the 50 to 150 men is simply allowed a spoon, plate, and cup of tin and a knife and fork of steel.

PRAISE WORTH WHILE.
"A society woman paid you a handsome compliment the other day, Mr. Druggist."
"Ah, indeed! May I ask who the lady was?"
"Certainly. It was Mrs. Whoopdyke. She said you sold the best dog soap in town."

EXTREMELY POLITE.
"You ought to call on Dr. Pullen, he's the best dentist in town."
"One of those so-called 'painless' dentists, eh?"
"No; but he always says, 'I beg your pardon,' before pulling a tooth."

REVENGE.
Official (to barber condemned to death)—In an hour's time now, my poor man, you must prepare for your doom. Have you any last dying wish?
Condemned Barber (savagely)—Yes, I'd like to shave the crown prosecutor!—London Opinion

THE TALK TOUCHED

ORGANIZED BURGLARS BUSY AT BROKEN BOW.

NEWS FROM OVER THE STATE

What is Going on Here and There That is of Interest to the Readers Throughout Nebraska and Vicinity.

Beatrice—The Burlington railroad is the richer by \$30 because of a sermon preached Sunday night at the tabernacle by Evangelist Lowry. The subject of the sermon was "Covered Sin," and the speaker declared it the duty of all Christians to settle for all past debts, naming the common custom of beating the railroads out of fares whenever possible. A citizen of Beatrice sent the Burlington the sum of \$30, saying he had one time beaten the road out of that amount in car fare.

Burglars at Broken Bow.
Broken Bow—A regularly organized gang of burglars has again started operations in Broken Bow. Twice within the last few days two large stores have been broken into and, although little money was taken, the work in both instances looked very much alike. Money alone seems to have been the object, the burglars making for the cash drawer and not disturbing any articles on sale.

Want York to Set Example.
York—Efforts are being made by York pastors to prevent the York team from playing games in other towns of the State league on Sunday. They believe that "York ought to set a standard and good example to the state and the baseball world in refusing to desecrate the Sabbath and to demonstrate that a successful team can be maintained with Sunday games eliminated."

Wants to Know Who Did It.
Bridgeport—A. Gier, a traveling man left his grip in the waiting room of the Burlington passenger depot here while he went up town to see his customers, and when he returned after a brief absence the grip had several slashes cut clear across its sides. He offers a reward of \$50 for any information regarding the culprits.

Charter Day at University.
Lincoln—The annual charter day indoor athletic meet was held Thursday afternoon in the university gymnasium as a part of the day's celebration of the granting of the university charter by the state legislature in 1869.

NEWS FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Chancellor Avery of the state university has gone to Culbertson, where he will confer with the residents in regard to the establishment of a state agricultural experiment station.

The will of the late Chancellor Emeritus Huntington of Wesleyan university has been filed for probate. One thousand dollars is left as a permanent endowment fund for the university, \$1,000 for the fund for the care of superannuated ministers (\$1,000) to his son Thomas, \$5,000 to his son Horace, \$8,000 to his daughter Frances, and the balance of the property to his widow.

Five hundred and forty crop reporters over the state, who keep in constant touch with the state labor commissioner, and who act as aides to Commissioner Guye in the collection of figures and crop returns, have been notified by the official to lend their assistance in arousing interest among their neighbors for the testing of seed corn. He also asked them to do all they could in boosting the seed corn specialists in their various communities.

The board of public lands and buildings has formally awarded a contract for erecting a building at the state hospital for indigent consumptives at Kearney. The board made several changes in the original plans. The new building will cost when completed in the neighborhood of \$10,200.

Speakers for the seed corn specialists which will tour the state during the week of February 26 have been announced by Prof. C. W. Pugsley of the Nebraska experiment station, who has charge of manning and equipping the trains.

Secretary of State Watt will follow the California plan with regard to the submission of the five constitutional amendments at the coming primary and general elections and will number them. The proposed amendments will go upon the ballot in the following order: No. 1, the initiative and referendum; No. 2, the term and salary of legislators; No. 3, the board of control amendment; No. 4, the biennial elections amendment; No. 5, home rule for cities.

An expenditure not exceeding \$20,000 to erect one section of the proposed new machinery hall on the state fair grounds has been authorized by the state board of agriculture. Plans for this edifice will soon be obtained and the work will start in the spring or early summer. The size of the first section is to be 112 by 468 feet if the appropriation will pay for one of those dimensions. The whole building, when completed, is expected to be more than 700 feet long and 400 feet wide. It will be located on the east side of the fair grounds.

FLAX GROWING IS PROFITABLE

WESTERN CANADA FARMERS BECOMING RICH IN ITS PRODUCTION.

So much has been written regarding the great amount of money made out of growing wheat in the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Western Canada, that many other products of the farms are overlooked. These provinces will always grow large areas of wheat—both spring and winter—and the yields will continue to be large, and the general average greater than in any other portion of the continent. Twenty, thirty, forty, and as high as fifty bushels per acre of wheat to the acre—yields unusual in other parts of the continent—have attracted world-wide attention, but what of oats, which yield forty, fifty and as high as one hundred and ten bushels per acre and carry off the world's prize, which, by the way, was also done by wheat raised in Saskatchewan during last November at the New York Land Show. And then, there is the barley, with its big yields, and its excellent samples. Another money-maker, and a big one is flax. The growing of flax is extensively carried on in Western Canada. The writer has before him a circular issued by a prominent farmer at Saskatoon. The circular deals with the treatment of seed flax, the seeding and harvesting, and attributes yields of less than 20 bushels per acre, to later seeding, imperfect and illy-prepared seed. He sowed twenty-five pounds of seed per acre and had a yield of twenty-nine bushels per acre. This will probably dispose of at \$2.50 per acre. Speaking of proper preparation of seed and cultivation of soil and opportune sowing, in the circular spoken of there is cited the case of a Mr. White, living fourteen miles south of Rosetown, "who had fifteen acres of summer fallow a year ago last summer, upon which he produced thirty-three bushels to the acre, when many in the district harvested for want of crop. Now, there can be no proper reason advanced why such a crop should not have been produced on all the lands of the same quality in the adjacent district, provided they had been worked and cared for in the same manner. This year (1911) the same man had one hundred acres of summer fallow, had something over 3,800 bushels of wheat. He also had 1,800 bushels of oats and 300 bushels of flax."

There are the cattle, the horses, the roots and the vegetable products of Western Canada farms, all of which individually and collectively deserve special mention, and they are treated of in the literature sent out on application by the Government agents.

The Man and the Place.
Andrew Carnegie was giving advice on a recent Sunday to one of the younger members of the Rockefeller Bible class.
"I am an advocate of early marriages," he said. "The right man in the right place, at the right time, is a very good saying, and to my mind, the right man in the right place at the right time is unquestionably a husband reading to his wife on a winter's night beside the radiator."

Only a fool ever attempts to convince a man that he isn't as clever as he thinks he is.

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