

that rot readily, it would be wise to simply cut away the wood and leave stumps and roots to decay for several years before attempting to cultivate. If the wooded growth is small, the mattock will usually prove the most satisfactory and expeditious means of removing the brush. Thus not only the location but the size and kind of timber enter into the problem of determining the wisest means for its destruction.

Nature of ground to be considered.—The nature of the soil is the next thing to be considered. For instance, if soft or marshy, the use of heavy machinery would be impracticable, and if stones are thickly embedded in it great difficulty would be experienced in keeping mattocks sharp. Whether the land is desired for immediate cultivation and a good yield is expected the first year or not, are also matters for consideration. It is evident that the wisest method to be pursued depends upon local conditions.

Clearing by Pasturing.

When circumstances permit, pasturing is undoubtedly the most economical way of clearing land. In fact, if the growth is large and the clearing is to be a profitable investment, pasturing is probably the best method that can be pursued.

The purpose of this method is to change the field from woodland to pasture and from pasture to cultivated ground. The stock will keep down new growth while stumps and roots decay.

Timber should be cut low.—In pursuing this course the timber should be cut low, leaving the stumps in the most favorable condition for rooting.

The bush and trash should be burned. The stock ought to be allowed the run of only so large a tract as they can keep pretty well subdued. The quantity of sprouts and young bushes an animal will nip off will depend upon whether or not it has access to other vegetable matter.

It is desirable in late summer to go over the pasture lot and with an old ax remove the sprouts and bushes which the stock have failed to subdue. If this method is carefully followed for a few years, surprising results will follow. When the stumps of one tract are dead and decaying, another lot should be added to the pasture.

Sheep and goats are preferable, but any kind of stock is suitable for this kind of pasturing. Horses and cattle, and even hogs, will answer well for this purpose.

The Angora goat as a land clearer.—Recently the Angora goat has attracted considerable attention as a land clearer. While other animals upon new land will usually confine their browsing to buds and tender shoots, and then largely for want of something better, the Angora prefers brush to grass. It will not only eat leaves and tender sprouts, but it will bark bushes and saplings whose tops it can not reach. This girdling is very destructive to vegetable life. In the far west, especially in the States of Washington and Oregon, this goat is frequently used as a means for clearing brush-land. Where there are large tracts to clear, goat grazing is probably the cheapest and most satisfactory method to pursue.

Those desiring further information

about the Angora goat are referred to Farmers' Bulletin No. 137, U. S. D. Department of Agriculture, or Bulletin No. 27, Bureau of Animal Industry of that Department.

It is wiser, however, in most instances, to use what stock and means we have at hand, as the value of land in most regions is not sufficient to justify unusual expense in its improvement.

Clearing by Cutting Away Timber.

It is recorded of the ostrich that when frightened it will burrow its head in the sand and imagine that it is hidden from the outside world because its own view is shut off. So it is with men who cut away and burn the brush and imagine that they have cleared the land because it looked clean. This is usually a mistake. Such land is untillable, and from each stump a number of sprouts will start and soon innumerable new bushes will be making headway. In a few years the land so recently apparently cleared will be more unsightly and expensive to clear than it was originally. Of course if it is practicable to remove immediately all starting sprouts the stumps must soon die. All vegetation requires leaves as well as roots to survive.

Timber should be cut in late summer.—If, however, the cutting is relied upon it is wise to do it in late summer. In clearing hardwood it will not do to cut off and wait for stumps to decay; they should be immediately removed or some method pursued that will at least keep down the sprouts and prevent objectionable plant growth.

Usually in clearing land, as in every-

thing else, that policy is best which leaves a finished work.

Clearing pine land.—However, in clearing most pine land the cutting method is the most expedient. The pine genus, excepting two or three species, is happily peculiar. Contrary to the rule in forestry, when the pine is cut off just above ground it does not throw up shoots. Consequently it soon dies, and if the stump be small it rapidly decays.

Many pine lands throughout the West may be cut off and safely left idle for several years with assurance that roots and stumps will rot. The white pine is the chief exception to this rule. Pine soil is not so impregnated with objectionable growth in an embryo state, waiting for an opportunity to develop into bushes, as is hard-wood land.

This nonsprouting characteristic of the stump of most species of pine, together with the relative freedom of pine soils from foul growth the first years, renders southern pine land comparatively easy and inexpensive to clear, especially if the timber is not large. New pine land is much more amenable to cultivation than lands from which other kinds of timber have been removed by cutting. This is owing to the semi-taproot system of the pine and the brittle nature of its roots.

Yellow poplar.—The yellow poplar or tupil tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is another tree species which, for purposes of clearing, should be classed with the pine. The rapidity with which the stumps and roots of this tree rot, renders the cutting method of clearing land an eminently wise one in disposing of this member of the for-

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