

# Waste in Our Lumbering Methods



TYPICAL LUMBER JACKS



CLEARING AWAY DEBRIS IN A LUMBER DISTRICT

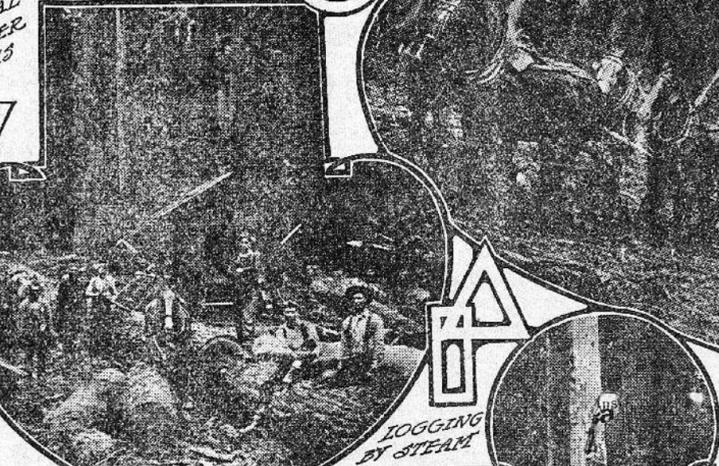
So much has been said and written in recent years about the woeful waste of the logging and lumbering methods pursued in the United States that the average person without a very intimate knowledge feels sure that the case must be exaggerated. And in some degree he is right. Great as have been the sins of the timber harvesters who have garnered the wealth of our forests with a free hand, they have scarcely been guilty in the measure that has been charged in some quarters. And, moreover, there is no doubt but that in most cases the prodigal policy has been the result of ignorance rather than prompted by a wanton spirit as some of the critics would have us believe.

The general public has heard most regarding the wastefulness and extravagance of American methods of lumbering since the development within the past few years of the movement in behalf of the conservation of our natural resources. However, for years before that crusade began, and with redoubled energy since, returned European travelers have been exclaiming upon the contrast between forestry methods in the old world and the new. Now, it has been very impressive to hear how in France and Germany great forests are cultivated with the care of a well-ordered garden, and how even the twigs that fall from the trees are picked up and sold for fuel, but as a matter of fact the boasted German methods of forestry would not be at all suited to the United States.

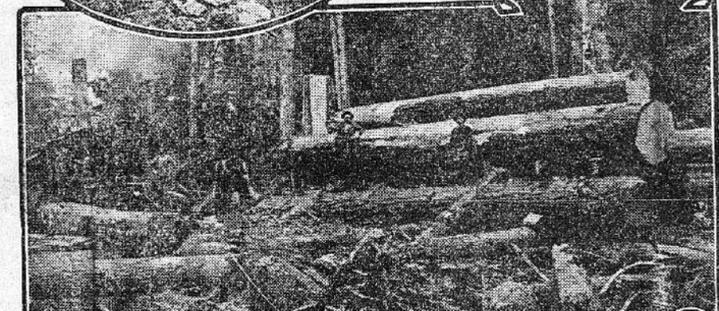
However, for all that, as has been hinted, there are two sides to this question of the wasteful American methods of lumbering, the fact remains that our people have not made the most of the priceless heritage of our forests. Nor has all the fault in this respect been at the door of the professional lumbermen who, given a seemingly almost inexhaustible source of supply, naturally gained a contempt for small sources of waste. In some measure responsible, also, have been the farmers who were the pioneers in the settlement of the various sections of our country. Eager to clear the land they had taken up and to get to the actual work of tilling the soil, these settlers were prone in many instances to think only of the quickest and cheapest ways of getting rid of the timber. In many cases they took no pains to get the most out of the standing timber or to so cut it that a maximum yield would be insured.

It is the professional lumbermen who have, figuratively speaking, slashed right and left without much regard to consequences in getting out their timber. Trees have been felled without the proper regard to the damage done to other forest monarchs in the crash of the heavy trunks to earth, and logs have been "snaked" or dragged out of the forest with few, if any, precautions against damage to the young growth—the source of the lumber supply of tomorrow. Added to these, and worse than all else in effect is the deadly destruction wrought by forest fires. These wholesale annihilations of standing timber have been largely traceable to human carelessness and shortsightedness—carelessness in extinguishing camp fires and other forms of human negligence that precipitate the fires, and shortsightedness in not providing adequate alarm systems and fire-fighting facilities to combat the flames, once they have gained headway.

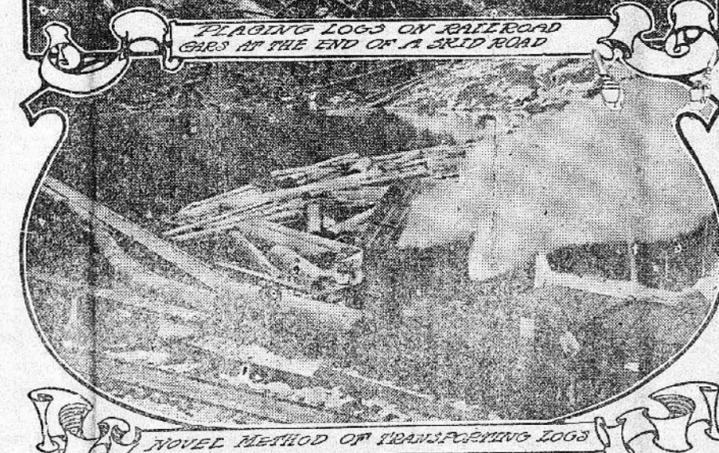
A very spectacular form of lumber waste, and one that never fails to astound Europeans who tour the United States, is the lavish use made of marketable timber in providing facilities for logging operations. In the states of Oregon and Washington, for instance, there may be seen in the lumber regions ponderous bridges, the piers of which are formed from crossed logs placed cross-cross on top of one another. It is no exaggeration to say that such a bridge contains the makings of lumber sufficient to build all the houses and other frame structures in a good-sized village. Another utility of the American logging system



LOGGING BY STEAM



LOADING LOGS ON RAILROAD GARS AT THE END OF A SKID ROAD



NOVEL METHOD OF TRANSPORTING LOGS

that consumes a surprising quantity of material is the "skid road" which forms the artery of commerce between a logging scene and the nearest loading point on the railroad. A "skid road" may be several miles in length and it is composed throughout this entire length of logs or greased skids placed crosswise of the highway to form a smooth, and comparatively level pathway over or along which the logs fresh from the forest are dragged by a heavy steel cable attached to a donkey engine of several hundred horse power. Similarly the familiarity that breeds contempt has prompted many of the loggers to act as spendthrifts in the use of large and sound logs to form a skidded platform, load-stage, etc., at the railroad siding where the logs are placed aboard the cars that are to carry them to the mills. To pursue this same subject further there might be cited the immense amounts of lumber that have been used in the construction of the flumes or artificial canals mounted on trestlework in which logs are floated when other means of transportation are not available, some of

these flumes being 40 miles in length and costing nearly as much as a railroad. Perhaps the greatest hue and cry that has been precipitated by any phase of America's wasteful lumbering methods has gone up as a result of the plan employed in felling the giant trees of the Pacific northwest. It is the first principle of the new conservative policy of lumbering that the severing of the trunk of a tree by sawing or chopping should be done at a point as near to the ground as possible, so that the waste remnant in the form of the stump should be reduced to a minimum. No wonder, then, that people who are of this way of thinking gasp with astonishment when they go to northern California and the famous Puget Sound country and witness the methods of felling trees in vogue in this region, so plentifully endowed with timber wealth.

The lumber "jacks" of this favored region, far from attempting to make their "cut" as near the ground as possible, are not even content to stand on the ground and swing their axes on a level with their waists, as did

the old-time lumbermen of Maine and Michigan. Instead, these Pacific coast fellows construct a "shelf" on the side of the tree to be felled and at such a height that the chopping and sawing is done at a point at least ten or twelve feet above ground. The result is, of course, to leave a huge stump containing enough material to build a small house. The lumbermen justify their action by the tradition that the "swell" at the base of one of these big trees is of inferior material—presumably too poor to bother with. However, most of the expert foresters of the country say that this is not true, at least not in the majority of cases and that this method of mutilating timber in the cutting is a flagrantly wasteful one.

One of the most seriously wasteful methods of lumbering in vogue in the United States—looked at from the standpoint of future generations—is the practice of taking from a forest annually an amount of lumber far in excess of new growth. Obviously this will serve to either speedily wipe out a forest or else to render it of little value for many years to come, whereas it might be made to serve as a regular and permanent source of income. Indeed, this plan of intelligent harvesting of the timber with reference to the supply of future years is what renders so steadily profitable the admirably conducted forests of Germany and Switzerland.

Of course the American lumberman is engaged in logging as a source of livelihood and his main defense against every charge of wasteful lumbering is that there is so much timber in proportion to the population that it does not pay, as a business proposition, to take any more than the better part of each tree felled. Unquestionable there is a grain of truth in this, provided a lumberman is thinking only of prosperity in the present generation, but at the same time there is much waste in lumbering that is not only unnecessary but is actually costly to the lumberman himself. However, conservative lumbering is making headway and is supplanting the old wasteful methods in many sections of the country. The new ideas of conservative lumbering are based on three principles. First, the forest is treated as a working capital the purpose of which is to produce successive crops. Second, a systematic working plan is followed in harvesting the forest crop. Third, the work in the woods is carried on in such a manner as to leave the standing trees and the young growth as nearly unharmed by the lumbering as is possible. In the actual operations of tree felling the new policy calls for greater care, so that no tree trunk may be split or broken in falling and likewise these precautions so that the bark of valuable standing trees will not be rubbed or torn by the tree trunks that are being "skidded" out of the forest. Finally a ban has been placed on the wasteful practice of cutting promising young trees for corduroy or skids simply because these happen to be convenient and are straight. Under the old plan the waste does not end when a log gets to the saw mill. There is a further loss of nearly all the slabs and edgings and all the sawdust not used for fuel, so that it is doubtful if more than half of the cubic contents of the standing tree is finally used.

more dead than alive, but instead of sinking rapidly, began to mend and some time afterward walked out of his room as erect as ever and soon regained his health and strength bearing. "Maring's" bullet had penetrated the abscess which threatened his life and made an exit by which it was drained and his life saved.

Noisless Lawn Mowers.—"My noisless lawn mowers," proudly remarked a suburbanite to a visitor, pointing to a cage full of guinea pigs. "When I get a few more I'm going to hire them out to the golf club to keep the green clipped."

"I put a low barrier of wire netting around the lawn that I want cut and then turn in the guinea pigs. They attack the worst weeds first—plantains, dandelions, etc.—because they like them the best. Then they take a little rest and tackle the grass. In a short time the lawn looks as though it had been cut by the closest machine. I'm sure that a golf green clipped in this way would be as fast again as it would be mowed in the ordinary way."

## KING OF PLUNGERS

"Bet-a-Million" Gates Both Loved and Hated.

From a Country Store He Branched Out as Wire King, Then Invaded the Realms of High Finance.

New York.—One of the most picturesque figures in the business and financial life of this country passed away in the death of John W. Gates.

Gates was warmly loved and deeply hated. He won and lost millions, gave and received many hard blows, met the great kings of Wall street at their most familiar game of speculation and beat them, breezily invaded many lines of endeavor and came out of them successful and wrote his name in large characters over financial events of a quarter of a century. He was a gambler by instinct. But he was never a bear. He was too optimistic for that. He believed in up-building rather than in tearing down, and he shared with others the results of his indefatigable chase for wealth. His readiness to take a chance on any reasonable proposition and the large sum of money he was willing to risk upon the soundness of his judgment earned for him the sobriquet of "Bet-you-a-Million" Gates. "All life is a gamble," he once said. "The farmer gambles when he plants his crops. Every man who goes into business embarks on speculation."

It was barbed wire that made Gates. It was introduced into use at a time when the ranchmen of the west and southwest were fencing in their broad acres and Gates, who was then conducting a little hardware store at



John W. Gates.

Turner Junction, now a part of Chicago, saw his opportunity. He went to Texas as a salesman and soon took enough orders to swamp the manufactory for which he was working. Then he asked for a share in the profits and was refused. He became a manufacturer himself, establishing a plant at St. Louis, and soon found himself involved in lawsuits over patents. He moved into another state where the court injunctions issued against him could not reach him, finally won his case and continued for a time a successful career as a maker of barbed wire.

Gates never turned his back upon opportunity and he saw opportunity beckoning to him. He began organizing and consolidating wire companies. He organized the Consolidated Steel and Wire company, which was capitalized at \$90,000,000, and which he sold to the Federal Steel company. Then followed the American Steel and Wire company, capitalized at \$90,000,000, and a little later the United States Steel corporation, with which Gates' companies were merged, was formed. He made millions out of these deals and other millions out of railway and industrial stocks.

During his spectacular plunging in Wall street, which he entered soon after the close of the war with Spain, various attempts were made to break him. Occasionally his wings were somewhat stung, but he was never seriously wounded and he made the financial interests of Wall street reckon with him.

In wheat and corn corners he is said to have made millions. He had nearly a perfect system of getting information of things which might affect Wall street. His own eyes were always open and when he could not look far enough ahead he paid others to do his scouting.

Gates' business training began early. Before he was sixteen he contracted to husk a neighbor's corn and made enough money to buy an interest in a threshing machine. He happened to strike a year of bumper crops and he succeeded so well that he was able to buy out his partners. Giving his threshing machine as security, he bought a piece of woodland, converted it into farmland, cleared \$1,000 and still had his threshing machine. And he was not then eighteen years of age.

Some of Gates' spectacular ventures were on the farm, and with many successes to his credit, here he invaded England and is said to have made \$1,275,000 one season. He was a man of tremendous energy, of heavy build, but not the least picturesque in appearance. He was not at all brusque and domineering, but gentle in manner and speech.

## ODD TOTEM POLES IN ALASKA

Made by Indians and the Carving is Often Extremely Grotesque and Fantastic.

Sitka, Alaska.—What are known as totems, or totem poles, are quite common in Alaska territory. Some of these totems are shown in an accompanying illustration.

As a usual thing these totem poles are of Alaska cedar, which is very abundant in the territory. This wood, though of a rather soft and yielding fiber, is fine grained and well adapted to carving. All the totems are made by Alaskan Indians; the carving is done with rather rude, coarse implements, and consequently is of a crude, unartistic nature. None of the carving



Totem Poles Near Sitka.

ing makes any approach to either beauty or the artistic. On the contrary, all of the work is rough and rudely performed.

However, there is an element of the odd and grotesque in all of these carvings, crude though they are. In point of art the work may be compared to the rude paintings of the plains Indians on their skins composing their rude tents or tepees, buffalo robes, etc.

Generally the figures carved on these totems are those representing human beings, particularly the faces, features, etc., all of which are extremely grotesque—and even drollly fantastic in shape and crude expression. Of course the forms of various wild animals, fish and marine creatures, etc., are carved on these pieces of wood. In point of size these totem figures vary from mere toy dimensions, up to very large size. Some of the figures are feet and even yards in length. When large these queer appearing figures are carved out of the solid tree or log and form part of it.

The totems are invariably exposed, like those shown in the illustration, in the streets, along roadways, trails, the seashore and in many other places.

## AMERICAN WOMAN IN LONDON

Wife of Diplomat and Writer Prominent in Social Life of Metropolis.

London.—Among the American women who were conspicuous in the London social life of the recent coronation period was Hallie Erminie Rives, the beautiful wife of Post Wheeler. Mrs. Wheeler was a Kentucky girl and is a cousin of Amelia, Princess Troubetzkoy, a well-known novelist. She is the author of at least half a dozen novels which proved popular and remunerative. Perhaps her best known book is Satan Sander-

son. In 1906 she married Post Wheeler, at that time secretary of the Amer-



Hallie Erminie Rives-Wheeler.

ican embassy at Tokyo, but now secretary of the embassy at St. Petersburg. Mr. Wheeler is an author of ability and has written considerable of interest and value on the "Tenth Indians in the Arctic regions, with whom he spent an extended period of time. For many years Mr. Wheeler was one of the editors of the New York Times and still contributes the well-known paragraph which appears under the heading "Revelations of a Bachelor."

Couldn't Hold Out.—St. Louis, Mo.—By lying in a bath of hot water 24 hours and being kneaded, Edward G. Bernard stretched himself two inches to get into the fire department. He shrank again and now he's suspended.

## Bullet Wound Saves Life

Remarkable Result of Old-Time Combat on So-Called "Field of Honor."

Alexander Gralhe fought two duels at The Oaks, with consequences which were remarkable, though he came off second best in both, relates the New Orleans Picayune. The first of these duels was with M. Augustin, who afterward became district judge and general of the Louisiana Legion. August-

in ran his sword into Gralhe's lungs and the latter hovered for a long time between life and death, and when at last he did come out of his room he was bowed like an octogenarian. Complications had ensued and surgery was not what it is now. The doctors declared that it was only a matter of a short time until he would die. However, that did not prevent him from getting into a quarrel with Colonel Mandeville de Marigny and

challenging him to a duel. It was fought at The Oaks. The weapons were pistols at 15 paces, each to have two shots, advance five paces and fire at will. At the first shot Gralhe fell forward pierced by Marigny's bullet, which struck the exact place where Augustin's sword had entered. Marigny, pistol in hand, advanced to the utmost limit, when Gralhe, although suffering intense pain, said, "Shoot again; you have another shot." Marigny raised his pistol and fired into the air, saying: "I never strike a fallen foe." Gralhe was carried home

more dead than alive, but instead of sinking rapidly, began to mend and some time afterward walked out of his room as erect as ever and soon regained his health and strength bearing. "Maring's" bullet had penetrated the abscess which threatened his life and made an exit by which it was drained and his life saved.