

blazes the tree near the ground and stamps the spot 'U.S.' A second blaze higher up is added to assist the cutters in locating their timber, especially when the ground is deeply covered with snow.

While the timber is being cut, the ranger scales the logs and sees that the purchaser complies fully with the terms of the contract, among which are that all stumps be cut low, that all merchantable timber be utilized, that needless waste and damage be avoided and that the tree tops be so disposed of by lopping close to the ground, or scattering, or piling and burning as to reduce the danger from subsequent fire.

No mineral, homestead or other entry within a National Forest goes to patent until the ranger or other government officer has investigated thoroughly and submits a report showing that the law has been substantially complied with. Timber depredations and grazing trespass are also investigated and reported. Such duties require thorough knowledge of the Government land laws and test a man's ability to obtain competent evidence. Only the law violator or evader has aught to fear from the ranger, who is at all times willing to advise and assist the bona fide prospector, miner and home-builder.

On many National Forests considerable tree planting is being done. On the Kansas and Nebraska Forests the men's time is devoted almost exclusively to nursery and planting work. On the Ocala and Choctawhatchee in Florida, turpentine orcharding is the principal source of revenue and demands most attention. On the Wichita National Forest and Game Refuge in Oklahoma, caring for the big herd of bison is the important work. The bison's greatest enemy is the Texas fever transmitted by the bite of Texas fever ticks. To guard against ticks the pastures are burned over annually, and no cattle or other

stock are allowed within the inclosures. At frequent intervals the game warden examines each animal through a field glass and the presence of a single tick of any kind means a shower bath of crude oil for the entire herd.

Guarding the Forests from fire is the first and foremost duty of every forest officer, for without adequate fire protection future tree growth is extremely uncertain. Guards and fire-patrolmen are employed during the danger season, fire lines or paths are constructed, watch towers built, telephone lines strung up, trails opened to places that are difficult of access, tool stations established, and various other precautions taken to locate and quickly suppress fires. Should the wireless telephone prove a success it will play an important part in ready communication over the National Forests. Fire fighting is the hardest and most disagreeable work a ranger has to do, and good



Scaling Timber in U.S. National Forest.