

man has to do, because everything depends on his having first-class ways to get his logs to the dumping ground.

When the roads are blazed one gang of men, known as the "main road cutters," are sent in with axes to cut out all trees and brush. The trees must all be taken out by the roots, the branches trimmed off and piled up along the sides, while the trunks, if they be pine, are sawn up and hauled to the nearest skidway, if not good for lumber they are merely thrown to one side. The roads are cut about sixty feet wide. After the cutters follow the graders, who remove all hillocks and fill up or bridge over the holes left where the



Loaders at work building up a load of logs.

trees have been removed. Thus when the ground freezes and the snow begins to fly a tolerably good road is the result. The men who superintend the cutting and grading, commonly known as "buck-beavers," must be practical woodsmen of wide experience, for if there is anything in lumbering which requires great care in the construction it is the main roads.

While the operations mentioned in the preceding chapter have been going on, other gangs of men have been busy cutting and sawing up the pine on each side of the roads. All day you can hear the merry shouts of the men and the busy sound of the saw, coupled