

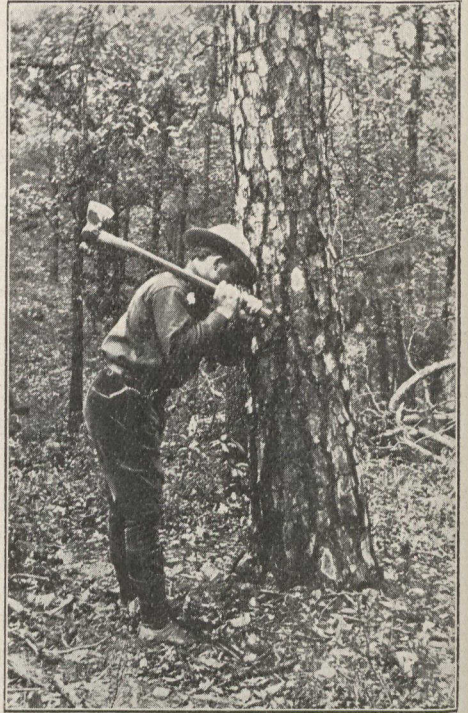
portant position. All the work on his district is under his immediate supervision and he reports directly to the forest supervisor in charge. Frequently from one to several assistants are assigned to him. Sometimes his territory is subdivided for the purposes of fire patrol, timber-sale work or the better handling of grazing. Temporary quarters are provided for his assistants where needed. Additional ranger stations are established over the forest for the purpose of raising horsefeed and forage for the forest officers' horses in thinly settled regions.

The kind and amount of work a ranger does depends upon his particular location. On many forests grazing is the principal business at present, and the men are kept busy preventing trespass, allotting the range, counting cattle and sheep, poisoning prairie dogs and destroying predatory animals. Special hunters and trappers are employed to rid the range of wolves, bobcats, coyotes, bear, mountain lions and other animals that prey upon stock.

It takes a man of special temperament to make a success of hunting and trapping. The work is hard, lonely and dangerous. One must be a naturalist, thoroughly versed in the wiles and instincts of every animal he seeks. The little tricks of removing the man-scent from traps and deadfalls, the proper arrangement of tempting baits, the care to make everything appear natural, the ready reading of signs and trails, the location of dens and runways, and so forth, mark the expert.

The veriest novice may bury a trap in a runway, but it requires the art of a professional so to arrange a few stones and twigs on either side that the animal unconsciously changes his gait to avoid them and plants a paw squarely in the trap.

On most forests selling timber is the principal business. All timber within National Forests which can be cut safely and for which there is actual need is for sale. The ranger



Marking Trees for Cutting on U.S. National Forest.

usually does the work of cruising the land, estimating the timber and making a map of the area, and submits a complete report to his supervisor covering all details of a sale. Sometimes special reconnaissance parties of expert woodsmen, usually rangers, are sent from one Forest to another to map large areas or perhaps an entire Forest, and prepare plans for future timber sale business.

Timber that is sold must be officially marked before being cut. The ranger goes through the woods with a long-handled marking ax bearing on its poll the raised letters 'U.S.' He carefully scans the trees, noting their condition and kind, and pictures to himself all the while how the stand will appear after certain trees are removed. Having decided upon those to be cut, he goes from one to another and with a well-directed glancing stroke of his ax