

Do not chop anything after August 1st at the latest, but a week or two before burning take a light scythe and mow the ferns which will probably have sprung up between the brush piles. These dry out in a few days and help the fires to run. The clearing will now be in apple pie order for a good burn.

When to Burn.

In writing these notes on land clearing I am assuming that the settler is devoting most of his time to his clearing and am giving him the best times to do each kind of work, but the only time which is absolutely essential to keep to is the burning, which must be done about the latter half of August, if at all possible. If the settler wants to work out he can do his chopping any time between March 1st and August 1st, and unless he intends to work on his place all winter he will probably find that he will chop in two or two and one-half months as much as he can conveniently finish up the following winter. The average man on the average bush land should chop and pile ten to fifteen acres in that time, which will give him a first-class start the following year in either poultry or small fruits, or even dairying in a small way, though it would hardly be advisable to try to stump and plough more than four or five acres for two or even three years after. By that time, if he continues this course, he will have made a very big hole in the bush of his twenty or forty-acre farm.

Advantages of Heavy Timber.

It should be borne in mind that up to a certain point heavy timber is, apart from the stumping, often the cheapest to clear, as anything over twelve inches in diameter would not be chopped, and as a rule the lighter the bush the thicker it is, and it is the thickness more than the size that increases the cost—this, however, is often compensated for by the soil being better. Where there is heavier timber it means more cord-wood, which costs practically nothing to clear, as wages are made while cutting it. This would, of course, apply to land within such a distance from the market as would pay to haul, say two or three miles, although every year as the price of cord-wood rises, as it unquestionably will, the distance for profitable hauling gets longer. Where the distance is too far to haul cord-wood the extra cost of clearing is partly compensated for by the cheaper price of land.

If land is bought too far from a cord-wood market to make cord-wood profitable, it is better to buy rather more land, say forty to eighty acres, and clear only twenty acres as a beginning. This twenty acres will cost more to clear than the land so far discussed, but in a few years the timber will probably become so valuable as to more than compensate. In fact, there is not the slightest doubt but that the history of Ontario will repeat itself here, and before long the timber on many farms will be more valuable than the land would be were the timber taken off.

If the burning is done about the middle of August there is usually from four to six weeks of dry, hot weather before the rain comes; it is a good plan to take a mattock and go over the burnt ground, roughly splitting up any large decayed fir logs lying in the clearing. These logs are sometimes too rotten to make cord-wood, and being water soaked will not burn until dried out. The first fire, as a rule, only burns off the moss and the projecting