

Since the above was written we have had another year's experience, which has added something to our knowledge of removing stumps by the char-pit method. We find from our correspondence and personal interviews with individuals that a large number who have not thoroughly understood the method have tried and have had poor or indifferent success. For some reason there are many who have got the idea that they must cut a lot of wood similar to cordwood, and make a regular charcoal-pit; one writer going so far as to condemn our method because it resembled a smoking volcano, he advocating the smaller fires, similar to that practised by Mr. Yonut, of Sopena, as related in Bulletin 101 of the Washington State College.

We believe now that when conditions are favourable there is no need of chopping any wood. We find that the old half-rotten wood around the stump, together with some of the bark, is all the fuel that we need to fire the stump, and we believe, as a general rule, that stumps can be fired with less material by digging a small hole between the forks of two roots and getting the fire a little under the stump. Our experience has led us to the practice of using less and less fuel, using the least possible amount necessary to fire the stump, as with a smaller amount of fuel there was less danger of the covering caving in, and losing our fire by heat escaping through the opening.

As an instance of this misunderstanding, we will quote the following from a little booklet published in south-western Washington. Our purpose in quoting this is not only to show the misunderstanding of the method as advocated by us, but also to make more clear to the reader the real factors to accomplish this burning, which is practically the same as that used by us, except that we believe that we accomplish the work under the same conditions as that where this method was employed with much less labour. We quote from a letter written by Mr. M. E. Murdock, of Willipah, Washington:—

"In answer to your inquiry concerning my experience in burning stumps, I have this to say which may be of interest to you; and the public who may be interested in the clearing of land.

"My experience started in the summer of 1911 on what is called the Hazeltine Place, on Ward Creek, Pacific County. Here I tried what is known as the Sparks method of char-pitting, and although I found it successful, I also found that it involved a great amount of work in the preparation of wood and in the care necessary in keeping the fire covered after it had burned for some time. This difficulty will be readily understood by those who have done such work.

"Afterwards, I went to Coyle, on Hood Canal, and there Mr. Geo. Eaton, formerly of North River, who had just bought some land at that place, was just commencing to clear his land. He had a number of stumps which he wished to get out of his clearing. I was teaching the school there, and as I had Saturday to myself I started with him to try some new things in burning stumps, and we were so successful that we want everybody to know about it.

"We worked in the following way: We considered, in the first place, that the draught in a cook-stove always tends to turn out the fire-brick first, and we judged rightly that if we could utilize that principle in burning a stump it might save a large amount of the labour and wood used in char-pitting. We got several pieces of iron pipe about 5 feet long and about 2 or 3 inches in diameter; also a bar having a wide chisel-edge. In attacking a large stump, we chose a place where two large roots came to an acute angle, and at such a place we dug down until we were some little distance below the base of the stump. With our sharp bar we cut all bark and most of the rotten sap-