

done with two men and a team and the stumps were dead. Of course, to take out green stumps it would have cost a good deal more.

The various operations of clearing have been described in such detail that, at first sight, it will appear to be a very much bigger and more expensive undertaking than it is in reality. Leaving out the cost of taking out the big stumps, which is not essential and is usually considered a "frilling," it is astonishing how small the cost actually is. The bulk of the work is done by the farmer himself, in spare time between seeding and harvest, or in winter. He also, in many cases, makes a profit on the cordwood, or, at least, good wages; besides which, the farm becomes remunerative as pasture land after the first year.

In estimating costs no account is taken of the underdraining, as on the average timber land there is so little of it required. Where there is any considerable amount the cost, as a rule, is far more than offset by there being much less stumping to do.

This land-clearing, though not costly, is a rather slow business at first, but the farmer has the satisfaction of seeing his farm gradually grow from the forest to the field; he feels that he himself has made all these rough places smooth, and although taking out the big stumps is usually the work left to the last, there is no part of the clearing operations so thoroughly satisfactory. This is the finishing touch; the stump once out is out for ever.

No doubt there will be many old hands at land-clearing who will think of the number of ways they could do it better, and others again who would say that it would be impossible to follow out exactly the instructions given. The system outlined is by no means perfect, and is only intended as a general guide to the beginner, and no doubt in practice many variations may be necessary; but the amateur of to-day is the expert of to-morrow, and experience will, without question, suggest many improvements. The cost, however, if the work is done systematically, is nowhere near what is generally supposed.

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