

# TO THE LUMBER REGIONS, III.

(HABERER.)



A glimpse of the Shanties by Moonlight

THERE

was no confusion and no delay in preparing for work. At 6 a. m. rang out the morning call for the start. The teams, 15 double sleds, with a pair of horses or oxen to each, were already hitched up, the animals having

appeared to be fully half a mile long. The logs are rolled into it, end on, and shoot with ever-increasing force downward to the brink, over which they go with terrific speed, to strike like a cannon ball the frozen earth 150 feet below. When a dozen or so have been collected at the foot of the slide the trumpet call rings out and no more are sent down till these have been removed and piled in roll-ways ready to be hauled to the river. Then the signal is given that the coast is clear and a rumbling sound soon announces the coming of others from above. At the foot of the slide the logs are loaded on "bob-sleds," eight to thirteen at a load, according to their size, and hauled away to the river, on whose frozen surface they are spread out to await the breaking up of the ice. We visited the river, and saw 20,000 to 30,000 pieces, forming a veritable river of logs. We spent the whole of Saturday in the bush, and got a very good idea of lumbering operations. Where very extensive operations are carried on by a company having timber limits, the men are divided into gangs, that may number

been well fed and groomed, and away they went for the different stations in the woods to begin the day's work.

After a hearty breakfast our party set out for a visit to the scene of operations. We had before us a walk of a couple of miles through the deep woods, along the road already taken by the teams. On the way we saw numerous tracks of rabbits and foxes, but none of deer or caribou, nor did we see anything more than footprints. The clear sound of a signal trumpet indicated our near approach to the men, and soon the shouts of axemen and teamsters were heard echoing through the woods. The first evidence of real work that met our gaze was a pair of oxen hauling logs from the "slide" to a roll-way. The axemen, or choppers, were at work away up the mountain side, and thither our steps were bent. It was a stiff climb, over rocks and through the bushes.

Once there the foreman, our guide, explained the mode of operations. The head chopper first goes over the ground and selects the trees to be felled. Generally two axemen work together, one at each side of a tree, and the chips fly like sparks from an anvil. As they near the heart of the tree a shiver passing through its tall form follows each blow, and presently the top begins to sway and bend. The notch cut by the axeman on the side toward which the tree is intended to fall is a little lower than that cut by his mate. The former ceases cutting, the latter drives the keen, wedge-

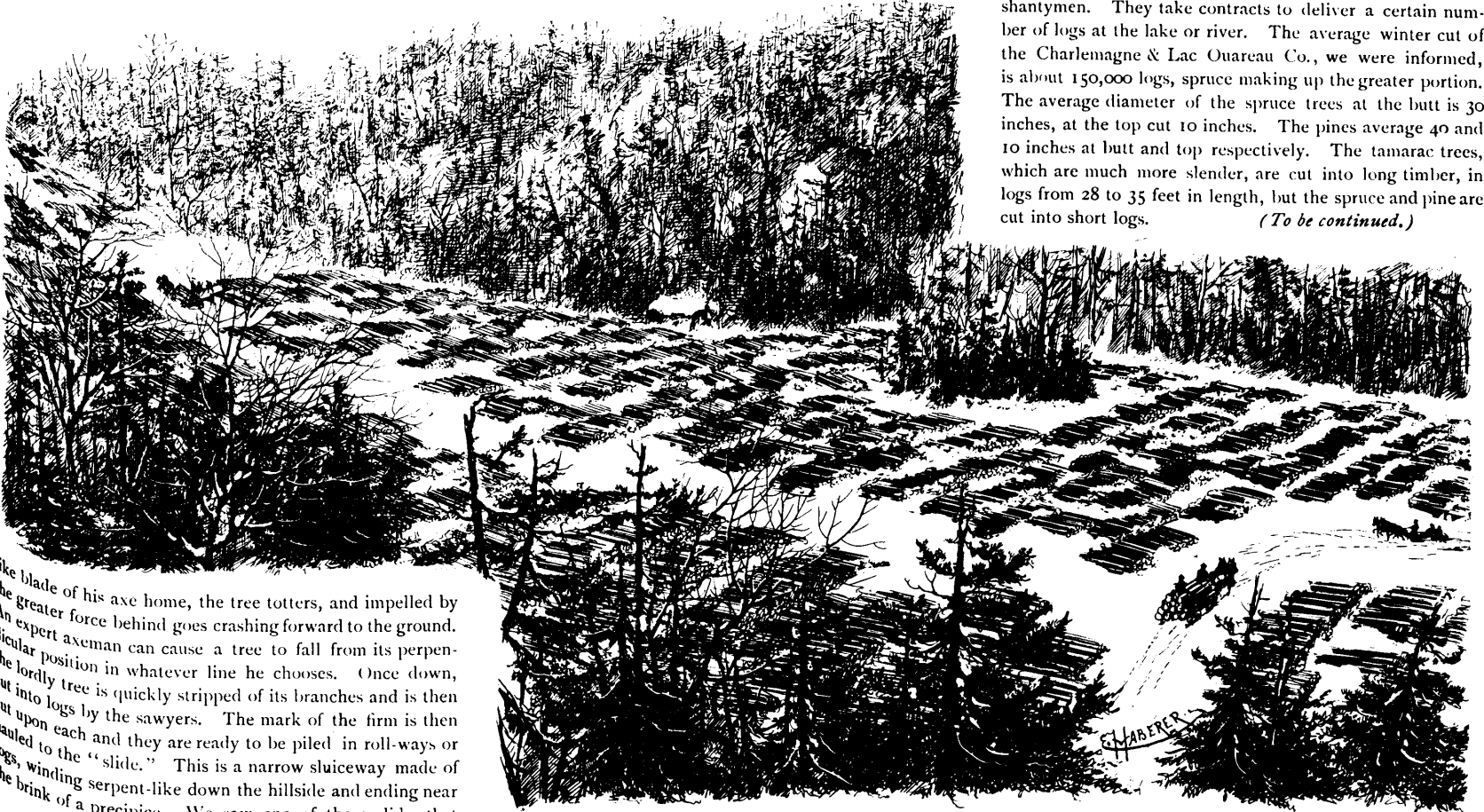


MORNING CALL FOR THE START



CHOPPING A TREE.

anywhere from 20 to 50. There is in such cases a superintendent, who goes from gang to gang and has a general oversight of all the work done. Each gang has its own foreman, who enters in a book each evening an account of the day's work. Of late, the most of the lumbering, however, is done by jobbers, who are independent of the regular shantymen. They take contracts to deliver a certain number of logs at the lake or river. The average winter cut of the Charlemagne & Lac Ouareau Co., we were informed, is about 150,000 logs, spruce making up the greater portion. The average diameter of the spruce trees at the butt is 30 inches, at the top cut 10 inches. The pines average 40 and 10 inches at butt and top respectively. The tamarac trees, which are much more slender, are cut into long timber, in logs from 28 to 35 feet in length, but the spruce and pine are cut into short logs. (To be continued.)



like blade of his axe home, the tree totters, and impelled by the greater force behind goes crashing forward to the ground. An expert axeman can cause a tree to fall from its perpendicular position in whatever line he chooses. Once down, the lordly tree is quickly stripped of its branches and is then cut into logs by the sawyers. The mark of the firm is then cut upon each and they are ready to be piled in roll-ways or hauled to the "slide." This is a narrow sluiceway made of logs, winding serpent-like down the hillside and ending near the brink of a precipice. We saw one of these slides that

RIVER OF LOGS.