

When and How to Begin.

The settler intending to take up and clear bush land in this Province should arrive here between March 1st and June 1st, as after the latter date there is no time to do more than one month's chopping before the burning season begins, and although chopping, or slashing, as it is commonly called, can be done at any time of the year before April 1st, it is not advisable. Arriving here in March leaves the newcomer a month in which to select his land, as the sap in the deciduous trees has not commenced to run, and trees of this class, such as vine maple, willow, hazel and, to some extent, also alder, will sprout much stronger if cut when the sap is down than when it is running freely, or when the tree or bush is in full leaf. Probably the best time for chopping is from the middle of May to the middle of July, as the trees, being in full leaf, burn easily and clean, and the windrows, or brush heaps, have ample time to dry out before the burning season. Fir, cedar and the other coniferous trees can be cut any time and they will not sprout, and as the leaves or needles are green the year round there is always enough small dried foliage to ensure a clean burn.

I cannot too strongly emphasise the vital importance in land clearing of only doing just that kind of work which is most suitable for the particular time of the year; more time, money and labour has been wasted in clearing land from not carefully studying this question than from any other cause. Another very important thing is always to follow the regular rotation of the different operations of land clearing—as a proper rotation of crops is essential to successful farming, so is it equally important in successful land clearing to observe a proper rotation of the different clearing operations. This will be explained in greater detail later on.

Another important factor in clearing land is never to chop and burn more bush in one year than you can afford to pick and * "brand up" the following fall or winter, or at least before you chop any more.

Golden Rules.

These three rules are the foundation upon which cheap clearing is built, and should be carved above the doorway of every settler's cabin in a bush country. To put them briefly:—

- 1st.—Always do that kind of work most suitable to the season of the year.
- 2nd.—Follow a regular rotation in all clearing operations.
- 3rd.—Never chop in one year more than you can brand up before the next chopping season comes round.

One great advantage in following these rules is that it gives variety to the work and it does not get monotonous. Given well chosen land and it is safe to say that by strictly following the above three rules the cost of land clearing can be reduced to one-third of what it will cost by disregarding them. In fact, a man entirely unused to land clearing, who uses his head as well as his arms, will clear land cheaper than the man born with an axe in his hand, who only uses the hand and the axe.

* "Brand up" to gather together into heaps the charred or partly burned sticks, small logs, branches, etc., etc., left after burning.