

It is working on skidways that most accidents happen in the woods, as logs are handled pretty roughly there, and the least slip on the part of the men might easily mean serious injury. Then again the chain may slip its hold as it sometimes does, and anything it hits is generally no more use, or the big pile of logs may slip out in front and carry the man on top to destruction. As a rule only first-class men are allowed to use cant hooks.

When the swamps and marshes have been frozen over, and the snow is deep enough, the roads, which have been so carefully constructed, are prepared for the most important feature of the whole



A Skidway in course of erection.

work, namely the "sleigh-haul." It is at this stage that money is either made or lost in the lumber business. Logs must be hauled before the first thaws in the spring, for the roads being built in low places will not last, and logs left in the bush are practically a dead loss as insects and wood-peckers destroy them during the summer months.

To get the roads ready, snow ploughs are sent through them, to clear them out and make a good solid bottom. It is a well known fact, that when snow is disturbed it will freeze very solid. Then follow the water tanks in the wake of the ploughs and ice the roads