

has to be burnt. The site of this burning pit should be chosen in as central and convenient a place as possible, having in view the logging, not only of what is now cleared, but what is going to be cleared next year. Sometimes

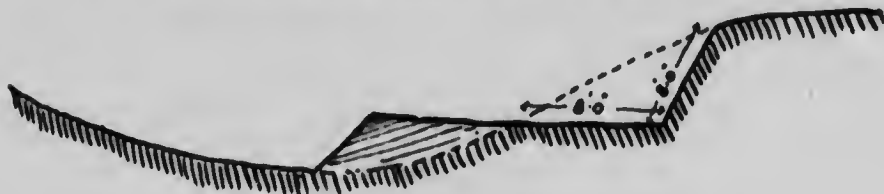


FIG 4 CROSS SECTION OF BURNING PIT.

two neighbours can join at one burning pit if it is dug at a point convenient to both of them. This pit may take a day or two to dig, but it is well spent time, as it saves probably weeks of work afterwards.

The actual logging is best done, where possible, by two or three neighbours joining together and exchanging work; many hands make light work, and many teams make it lighter, but it is surprising, even with only two teams, how quickly the ground is cleared off. Do not start the fire now, but after the pit is once full haul everything up to the edge, or as near to it as possible, and leave it exposed to the sun to dry out for a while, and then when the logging is finished a fire can be started in the pit almost any time of the year, even in the winter if there is enough dry wood to give it a start. Every morning on the way to work, and every evening on the way from work, spend half an hour in poking up the embers of the fire and rolling over the edge of the pit a fresh supply of logs and roots. Put on the small stuff first and then roll on some of the biggest or wettest. With very little attention the fire will never go out till everything is burnt up, and there will be a good pile of ashes left which can be hauled away and spread over any bare spots on the clearing, whereas if there had been a number of log heaps scattered here and there, there would not have been enough ashes anywhere to have fertilised any one burnt spot. The same system of burning can also be applied when you come to take out the stumps, particularly the smaller ones and the second growth firs that have been cut for cordwood. This system of logging is a long stride in advance of the old method of piling in heaps and burning on the ground, as the soil, not being spoilt by over-burning, is only one of the advantages. It is much lighter work, as almost all the handling is done by teams, and it takes far less time both in getting the logs ready for burning and also in the burning itself. It is no exaggeration to say that, even allowing \$4.00 a day for a team and man, the cost of logging by this system is only one-fourth of what it is in the old way. In the first place, the logs need rarely be sawn into anything less than twelve-foot lengths, and very little splitting is necessary; there is no lifting or skidding required at all, and if this lifting or skidding is done by hand, it is the heaviest and hardest work of all the clearing operations, and besides taking from two to four men. Then, again, when you have an ordinary heap of unsplit logs burnt, there is probably half of it left, and it has to be re-piled and branded up, and this cannot be done until the fire is quite out and the ashes cold,