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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

CLEARING LOGGED-OFF LAND AND CHAR-
PITTING UP-TO-DATE.

BY PROF. H. W. SPARKS, SUPERVISOR DEMONSTRATION FARMS, WASHINGTON
STATE COLLEGE, PULLMAN, WASH.

WE believe our Pacific North-west is making a serious mistake in not giving more attention to this first and all-important part of utilizing our logged-off land. The land must be cleared before it is fit for homes, before the home-builder can hope to support himself and family, and the old methods take the best part of a life, before they have begun to live. We have seen men bent and broken long before their time by the needless drudgery of clearing their land by force of body. We believe much of this can be, and must be, avoided. This can be done by bringing together all the material we have, taking a little of the best from each and formulating new methods. This has proven successful in all other lines of industry and will do so in clearing the land.

There has been some progress made, but there is still room for improvement. The char-pit process is proving a great help to many, and will be useful to a great many more as they master the art of such control of the fires as to cause them to burn down, reversing a natural tendency by direction of well-known natural laws; but before going into a discussion of these laws, let us begin with methods of burning over the land as the first step in clearing.

The removal of a large portion of the lumberman's leavings by means of fire may best be accomplished by systematic preparation of the refuse for burning.

The man who undertakes land-clearing should first go on to the ground and definite plan the work. He must first study the conditions of the soil, the amount and nature of the material to be removed, the time available for the work, and the methods best suited to all these, together with his ability and inclination to apply them. For the average conditions and for the man of limited means and time to devote to the work, we suggest the following plan: There will be some underbrush, large, half-rotten, water-soaked logs, a lot of old tree-tops, culled logs, and stumps. Any time a day or even a few hours is available for the work, remove the bark from the stumps and

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