

LUMBERING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

LOGGING operations, as conducted on the Pacific slope, are quite different from the business in the pineries of the east. The large scale upon which the work here is prosecuted alone constitutes a striking feature of difference. The large size of the timber, the peculiarity of the seasons, and the general character of the country, make logging here new even to lumbermen from the east. As the pineries of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota wane, the attention of the capitalists interested in the lumber industry there is turned to newer fields of operation, which they find west of the Rockies, and many are securing timber, and even making arrangements for manufacturing, in the new northwest. Though the country is new, and much of the choicest timber land is not easily accessible, the lumber output of the northwest is enormous, and constantly increasing. Washington Territory seems to attract most attention just now, but Oregon has large quantities of good timber, which will stand the draughts of manufacturers for many years.

There are many interesting features connected with the logging business, that comparatively few people are familiar with. Those who come from portions of the east where lumbering is carried on are more or less acquainted with the plan of operations which prevails there. Lumbering has closely followed the "Star of Empire" and taken its way westward across the continent, but the methods employed in the business as carried on west of the Rockies dwarf into insignificance the hewers of timber on the eastern shore when the lumber and ship building of the Pine Tree state, and the pitch, tar, turpentine and lumber of the Carolinas, constituted the wealth of school book catechism on the subject. In due time, lumbermen invaded the forests of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and even Georgia furnished a very creditable field for their enterprise. Now the region known as the Pacific northwest is the field lumbermen are heading for, and the industry here has assumed enormous proportions. An idea of the plan of operations in the woods can best be presented by a description of the work at the camp of the Willamette Steam Mills, Lumbering and Manufacturing Company, on Abernathy creek, in Washington Territory, which a detail from THE WEST SHORE staff recently visited. The several views of lumbering scenes at that point in this number of THE WEST SHORE will aid the reader in understanding the work.

Abernathy creek is a small stream emptying into the Columbia river from the north, some sixty miles below Portland. Camps Nos. 2½ and 4 of the Willamette Steam Mills, Lumbering and Manufacturing

Company are located on this stream, the former four and one-half and the latter five and one-half miles from its mouth. The location of camp No. 2½ is at a waterfall, as shown in the picture. These camps are the typical loggers' quarters. The men's shanties, stables, shops, etc., are built for utility, rather than artistic effect, though the latter is not entirely wanting, a fact which the builders should not, perhaps, be held accountable for. A narrow gauge railroad runs from the landing on the Columbia river to this set of camps, and is used for transporting provisions and logs and in dislodging logs from the jams which frequently occur in running the timber down the creek. A locomotive with several hundred feet of large rope does excellent service in breaking jams.

The choppers and sawyers fell the timber and cut it into logs of the desired length, generally ranging from twenty to thirty-two feet. The trees are large, and to avoid cutting through the swell near the roots, notches several inches deep are chopped in the side of the tree, and the end of a spring board, having an iron shoe, is put in the notch in such a way that it is bound fast by the weight of a man who stands upon it to chop or saw. If the first notch is not high enough to enable the workman to reach above the swell comfortably, the second one is made. By this method the stumps left standing are from eight to twelve feet tall. Each man has his own spring board. When the preliminaries have been arranged, the usual notching in preparatory to sawing the tree down is done, and the tree is felled in the ordinary style. It is often necessary to use saws twelve feet in length in cutting this timber, and none less than seven feet long are taken into the woods for the regular sawing. Care is taken to fell the tree where there is least liability of its breaking, and when the stately shaft lies prostrate, the men measure and mark it for cutting into log lengths, these being regulated so as to avoid too much waste in case of a break or an unsound spot in any portion of the tree. When the tree is thus cut into saw logs, the swamper gets a road to it, pull off the bark, which is from three to six inches in thickness, and hitch the chain or rope by which the ox team hauls the logs to the landing, or to the skidway. When the logs are away up on a side hill, a long rope is used to reach them; when easier of access, the heavy chain connecting directly with the team is used.

The ox team, as it appears in these dense lumber woods, is not the lonesome single pair of quadrupeds which vexes the soul of the eastern logger. A single team here consists of six pairs of lusty animals moving in concert, and as the saying is, they will "pull anything that's loose." One teamster, with the aid of a good pair of leaders, manages the team with