LAND CLEARING CONTESTS

So far as we have been able to learn, the Wisconsin Colonization Company organized and carried out in 1918 the first land clearing contest that was ever held. This land clearing contest idea has now gained recognition all over Northern Wisconsin and is rapidly spreading to other states.

The object of the Wisconsin Colonization Company in organizing the land clearing and farm development contests, was to impress the new farmers, even more clearly than ever before, with the supreme importance of clearing land and otherwise developing their farms so that they will yield them an income in the shortest possible time.

The trouble has been that the new farmers often have not realized the great importance of sacrificing other things for the first one or two years, in order that they may clear their land more quickly, and thus obtain cash returns from their farms without having to work away from home. In most new communities the pioneers are so busy the first few years making a living that they make small progress clearing land, with the result that they work out much of the time, and their farms, instead of being a help to them, tend many times to be an added weight, with the yearly interest and taxes to pay, and very small, if any, income from the farms. Statistics compiled by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture show that on the average less than one acre a year is cleared on each farm in Upper Wisconsin. It is this slow development that discourages the new settler and gives some foundation to the saying that it has taken three generations of settlers to make improved farms from raw “cut-over” lands.

REPRODUCTION OF ADS APPEARING IN THE “COURIER”

Push the Brush Lines Back
Let the Sun Shine In

The second Southern Sawyer County Land Clearing contest is now under way. Farmers all over this section are registering themselves and their farms in this new drive on the brush lines. This campaign is going to prove larger in its scope than the first one due to the fact that many new settlers have come as reinforcements, and in the greater incentive to jettison in the form of increased prices. Agricultural experts all over the United States are watching Southern Sawyer county. Many of them are coming to witness the work we are doing. Make sure your farm is in the front rank fighting its hardest in this wartime emergency.

SEE THE FENCE AT THE BACK OF THE FORTY
How
By Pushing the Brush Lines Back

MAKE THE PILES BIG and
Pile Them High
FOR THIS LAST WEEK OF THE CONTEST

We want to have big fires on every farm in Southern Sawyer County the evening of June First. Plan now to have a number of large piles that will be dry enough to burn well. Let’s see who will have the brightest farm. Save your brush piles for June 1st and then use the evening to

KEEP THE BRUSH PILES BURNING

But the last two years’ experience with the Land Clearing Contests conducted in southern Sawyer County proved that these new farmers could be encouraged and stimulated to clear many times the average number of acres a year. During the 1918 contest, 83 farmers brushed an average of 7.7 acres, and many of them had been on their farms less than six months.

It was to continue and increase this clearing that the contest for 1919 was planned. In order best to carry on this new contest in a little broader way, it was decided to give credit, not only for clearing and breaking, but also for other major improvements, such as fencing, ditching, building root houses, hay sheds, and putting up houses and barns. For this reason the 1919 contest was called a Farm Development Contest.