I WISH to say in the beginning that conditions are so varied in the northern part of the State and men's circumstances are so different, that probably no two farmers in all this region should proceed in exactly the same way to achieve the greatest success. Nevertheless, the men who undertake to carve a farm and a home out of a tract of cut-over land in Northern Wisconsin have many problems to work out that are peculiar to this section of the State, and it is more particularly with these questions that I wish to deal in this paper.

There is much inferior land, badly situated, in Northern Wisconsin and the new settler cannot be too careful in making his selection that it is not some of this class of land that he is buying. He should ascertain beyond a question of doubt that the land he is purchasing is of good quality, reasonably free from stone, covered with a vigorous growth of small, hardwood trees, if it is cut-over land, and as near to market as it can be had.

HOW TO CLEAR A FARM.

Having bought the land, about the first fact of which the owner will be made aware is that his land is no farm, but simply the raw material from which a farm can be made. He will also soon learn that making a farm out of a forest requires good ability, hard, steady work, and economical living. It is important that these facts be understood, in order that no one be deceived as to the character of the work he undertakes when he starts in to clear up a farm. Many a new settler has failed because he found the work harder and

Clearing Land. Note the Piles of Cordwood
live and to apply to his permanent improvements.

In cutting material for the market the right way for the farmer to do is to cut the timber clean as he goes along. If more land is cut over in this way than can be cleared ready for tilling, it can be sowed to pasture grasses and made useful in this way.

After all of the salable material has been removed from the land, it will be found that not much more work is required to get the land cleared ready for seeding, and this should be done at once whenever it is possible to do so.

**BEST SEEDING FOR THIS LAND.**

Timothy and alsike clover seeded with oats and peas for a nurse crop, make the best seeding for land of this character. The reason for this is that this combination, if handled right, produces a first-class quality of hay, and besides the alsike clover will last longer among the stumps than any of the other clovers.

If the stock is kept, as it should be to consume the hay, and the manure from this stock is carefully saved and applied to the meadow lands, these meadows can be made to produce two tons of hay or more per acre each year, until the stumps have decayed sufficiently to admit of their being cheaply removed. It will be found that this will take about seven years.

In the meantime, the grass on these meadows will, of course, have to be cut in the old-fashioned way with a scythe. This may seem like a hardship to some, but we all know there is a great deal in getting used to anything. Hay can be made in this way for less than two dollars per ton, so there is no great sacrifice after all in the few years it will have to be cut in this manner. Besides this, I would not advise any man to ever undertake the clearing up of a new farm if he is afraid of swinging a scythe, for the reason that a new settler has of necessity
Making a Farm in the Woods

this and several other kinds of work to do that are rather more tiresome than driving a modern mower over smooth meadow land.

Cleared Land Makes Good Pastures.
There is usually a good opportunity for the farmer in this section to make at a small cost an excellent pasture of tame feed for his stock, outside of his cultivated fields. Wherever the timber has been thinned out sufficiently to let the sunlight onto the ground and to admit of a free circulation of air, timothy grass will grow luxuriantly. Grass seed can be sowed broadcast in such places and in others that have been burned over, and if scattered at the rate of about four quarts of seed to the acre late in the fall, or before the snow goes off in the spring, it will yield a fine pasture from the start. In two or three years, most of the timothy will be crowded out by blue grass and white clover, but the pasture will not suffer because of this fact. Besides furnishing pasture, this method of seeding land helps materially in clearing for cultivation when the farmer gets ready to extend his clearing over the places that have been seeded. Around these places it will be found that the brush has been entirely destroyed by the stock, the stumps rot sooner, and altogether the clearing will be more easily done than where no grass grows.

As already stated, the land should be in clover and timothy the first six or seven years after clearing. When the stumps are out, a rotation should begin, consisting of corn the first year, followed by grain the second year, with which the land should again be seeded and allowed to remain for two years. This makes a four-year rotation.

Northern Wisconsin a Dairy and Sheep Section.

Now if a silo is built to take care of the corn crop, I believe there is no place in the world where, taking it one year with another, more cow or sheep feed per acre can be raised than in this section. This fact, I think, should make it plain that Northern Wisconsin is pre-eminently a dairy and sheep section. The new settler who plans his future operations guided by this idea is on the high road to success, be-

Oats on Recently Cleared Land
cause he is working in harmony with his surroundings.

**IMPORTANCE OF SAVING A WOOD LOT.**

One other idea and I must close this paper. I believe every settler in clearing up his farm should plan to have a good-sized wood lot. If twenty acres of woods is left on every eighty acres farm and this woods is fenced so the stock cannot get at it, twenty years hence will find this the most profitable part of the farm. The lumberman’s axe is fast depleting this country of its original timber supply, while practically nothing is being done to create a new source from which timber can be obtained. This makes it certain that timber must constantly raise in value as the years go by, and certain, too, that the farmer who engages intelligently in timber culture in connection with his other lines of farming is laying a sure foundation for a safe and steady income in future years.

The foregoing observations are suggested by twenty years of experience as a farmer in the region of which I write. I have not attempted to cover the whole field, but rather to throw out a few helpful suggestions to some of the beginners of this section who are lacking in this experience, and I hope I have succeeded in this.