

"LOOKING PINE" IN WISCONSIN.

—
 "Away, away from men and towns
 To the silent wilderness."

Among lumbermen and in lumbering districts there may be found a class of men about whose duties the public knows very little. These men are known as "land lookers," whose duty is to go into the wilderness and there make a close estimate of the amount of pine on each sub-division of a section, and then determine whether it will pay to "enter" or rather purchase, the land thus estimated. These men are either employed by some mill owner or else go into the wilderness on their own account, and when desirable land is found sell their "minutes," (as their statement of the quality of land and amount of pine is called), to some land speculator who will enter the land giving them a third or one-half interest in the purchase.

Land lookers generally go in parties of two or three, going into the "woods"—as our readers must allow us to call the trackless wilderness where they operate—with teams as far as available, and then the men pack their outfit and travel on foot, guided only by the compass, to the desired location where they are to operate, or estimate, as they call their avocation.

A land looker's outfit consists of one good heavy blanket, a small axe, small compass—sometimes a shelter tent—and provisions, which consist principally of flour, salt pork and tea, making a pack of seventy-five or one hundred pounds which the men, by a packing-strap, fasten across their shoulders. Although the

fatiguing and lonesome march is taken up through the woods without a line or path to guide the land-looker; the first case where one has been lost or wandered far from his destination has yet to be found and reported. When the party have arrived near their destination they "take up" some section line and follow it to a section corner, when by a moments' inspection they can tell exactly where they are, by the marking on the corner-post, or in case that has rotted away, by the mark on the bearing-trees. Perhaps our reader will ask what is a bearing-tree? It is a tree marked by the United States surveyor to assist in perfecting the identity of section corners. There are generally four of these trees at each corner each faced, or blazed, on a line with the corner and then marked with characters and figures showing the range, township, and section, while their size, description, and location of the compass, together with the distance from the section corner is recorded in the records which are denominated "field notes," a copy of which every land looker can purchase by townships at the United States land office or at the school land office at Madison. In addition to these corner bearing-trees there are two quarter-post bearing-trees to locate the quarter-post, which are faced toward the post, one on each side, and marked so as to fix the location of the post in case it should rot out or get moved. In addition to these posts and bearing-trees the section lines are marked by blazing trees every few rods standing near

the line, these trees are marked on each side and the blaze denotes the direction of the line as they are marked according to the compass, either east and west, or north and south, and are of equal height on each side of the tree.

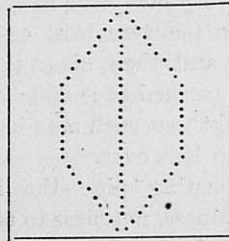
Arriving at the desired corner, the party make a supply depot, and leave all extra supplies, taking only enough to last them four or five days, one pound of flour, one of salt pork, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of tea is considered a day's supply for each man. Of course this supply and the quality are varied to suit circumstances and location. Our description applies to the professional land lookers, those who go into the vast timbered sections of northern Wisconsin and spend weeks and months at a time, looking up lands. These men lead a laborious lonesome life, separated from their home and civilization for a long time and compelled to work rain or shine, during the heats of summer or the cold snows of winter, when on their snow-shoes they travel the vast forests guided only by the little packed compass. Yet sickness is almost unknown to them, and for the true qualities of manhood they compare with any man or class of men.

When their supply depot is established the actual work of looking commences. They start out on some desired line and when night comes they select a desirable camping ground, near some stream, build a fire, stir up their flour, put it in the ashes to bake, cook their pork, boil their tea and supper is ready, and an appetite is never wanted to do it

justice. A few leaves are scraped together, or a few green boughs cut and piled up, the blanket spread and the couch of the tired land looker is ready for him. At an early hour he is astir, and

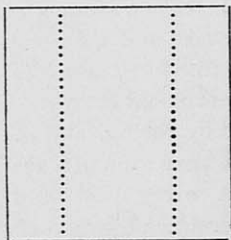
"Who would not rather take his seat
Beneath these clumps of trees,
The early dawn of day to greet,
And catch the healthy breeze,
Than on the silken couch of sloth
Luxurious to lie?"

When the land looker finds a piece of pine he seeks a section corner or a quarter post and then sub-divides the piece into forty acre lots according to government survey. The land is divided by pacing, and the professional will pace around a section and point out every post and corner with accuracy, varying only a few feet. Five hundred paces make eighty rods, and one hundred and twenty-five, twenty rods. There are several ways of looking over a "forty" and making an estimate of the timber. One is called circling and is done by three men, one paces off forty rods or to the centre of the forty on one side and then starts on a line for the opposite side, while the other men; one on each side circle towards the opposite, keeping about twenty rods apart in the centre. The following diagram will illustrate this manner of circling:

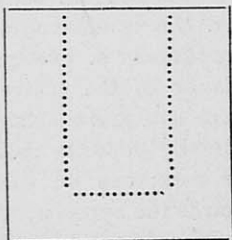


This method as will be seen allows the men to look at nearly every foot

of the ground unless it should be very heavily timbered. Another method is for each man (and is most generally adopted where there are two men) to pace off twenty rods from each side of the forty and then make a line for the opposite side, thus giving each man twenty rods on each side to look over. The following will illustrate the principle:



There is another form, which is generally adopted where there is only one man, and the following diagram will illustrate it:



This method allows one man to look it over carefully. Where the timber is very heavy the forty is divided into ten acre lots, or rather quarters, and then about the same course is pursued as is done with a forty except that each man has only ten rods to look over.

In estimating pine the height, size, soundness, nearness to streams, character of ground, and expense of running the logs to market, are taken into consideration and enables

the land looker to form a very accurate estimate as to its value. A forty that has five hundred thousand of pine is considered heavily timbered and valuable, if well located. As a rule a forty ought to have about one hundred and fifty thousand feet to make it desirable, although where well located and pine of a good quality it will pay to enter where there is only fifty thousand feet to a forty, provided it is near other heavy timbered pine.

A good land looker will, as a rule, run a line about five or six miles in one day, and commands from three to five dollars day and expenses paid, time counting from the time he leaves home until he returns.

A STRONG LUMBERING COMPANY.

We learn that our townsmen, Mayor Ludington and Hon. Daniel Wells, Jr., have incorporated their extensive lumber interest at Menomonee, Mich., and Chicago, Ill., under the name of "The Ludington, Wells and Van Schaick Company, of Michigan," with a paid up capital of \$600,000. This does not include a tract of pine land of 70,000 acres, estimated to contain 600,000,000 feet of standing pine timber, located on the Menomonee river.

Mayor Ludington is president of the company, Hon. Daniel Wells, Jr., vice president, and A. G. Van Schaick secretary and treasurer. The principal office of the company is at Chicago, as heretofore, with Mr. Van Schaick as manager. The business at Menomonee remains in charge of Robert Stephenson, superintendent of the company, also a stockholder.