

AMERICAN
FORESTRY SERIES

COST CONTROL
IN THE
LOGGING INDUSTRY

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PREFACE

Control of cost in the logging industry must be effected, in the first instance, through selection of the equipment and method best suited to conditions. However, conditions in any logging operation are never constant but vary through wide limits as logging proceeds. The more efficient types of modern equipment are expensive, and, whereas it may be possible to select the equipment and method best suited to the average chance, it is not possible to have on hand all the various types of equipment that might be best suited to individual chances or to place such equipment on the chance best suited to it, were it available. After equipment is acquired, the responsibility of the operator is that not merely of efficient supervision of its operation but of keeping it in use under conditions that permit maximum operating efficiency. If existing conditions do not permit this, then, insofar as may be possible, he must change those conditions.

It goes without saying that experience, and plenty of it, is invaluable in meeting these constant problems of adjustment. Nevertheless, it is a fact that experience cannot always point the way in new situations if it lacks the means of adapting the data that are available to new situations as they arise. Moreover, the rapid advance of mechanization in the field of logging often compels the use of equipment for which no more than theoretical performance data are available. Analysis of the factors controlling cost then becomes the logical approach to the problems of correct placement and efficient operation of the equipment.

The author's interest in this approach began in 1910, when he was making a cost study of the first modern logging and milling operation to be established in the Philippine Islands. This interest expanded when, in 1920, he took over the management