



## Method of Operation for Ground Skidders

No fixed rule or plan of operation can be established that will cover all conditions, because so much depends upon the character of the country to be logged.

With the type of skidders described in the preceding pages, it is customary to lay track for main line and run out laterals at a proper distance apart to skid the logs at a minimum cost. In some places it is more economical to lay tracks less frequently and skid a greater distance, while under other conditions tracks should be laid closer together and skid shorter distances to produce the best results. The standard equipment, however, usually provides for a maximum distance of 1,000 feet.

In level country, like the southern yellow pine states, logging spurs frequently are placed about one thousand feet apart and thus skid a maximum dis-

tance of five hundred feet. Splitting every forty is also a common practice. This means a maximum skidding distance of 660 feet. In view of the quickness with which these machines may be moved from one setting to another the cost is sometimes materially lowered by putting spurs at a maximum distance of less than 660 feet.

The relation of skidding distance to frequency of tracks to reduce the ultimate cost to the lowest amount is a matter that works itself out according to the condition of each logging operation.

It is best to fall the trees away from the machine as much as possible so that the logs will lie parallel with the line of haul and be free from the tops.

When cutting timber to be skidded with a machine equipped with mechanical outhaul, it

