

so far as man is concerned. In short, the plan of action on one of the Holly plots was to take out of the young stand of trees all which were likely to die within the next five years, or which were likely to fall seriously behind their more vigorous neighbors in growth. Just as a farmer "chops" his cotton or corn in order to thin out the stand and allow the most vigorous plants to come to maturity, so the object of thinning ~~the~~ young forest is to give the most vigorous trees plenty of room in which to grow. In two respects, however, the thinning of a stand of trees differs from the thinning of a stand of corn. In the first place, trees, being ordinarily a "volunteer" crop, have come up broadcast, instead of in carefully spaced rows. The result is that the work of thinning the trees is very much less mechanical, because instead of taking out three out of four plants in a hill, one must cut out one tree here, three trees there, and perhaps half a dozen trees in another place. Forest thinning takes a good deal of careful observation of the condition of the trees and good common sense in deciding which to remove, together with an accurate knowledge of the habits of growth of the various kinds of trees being thinned. Second, if too heavy thinning is done in a stand of trees those ^{are not} which remain/affected by the shade cast by their neighbors, and as a result retain the lower branches for a long time. ~~These~~ Branches are of course what make knots in lumber.