and should one happen along at noontime, he
might see the hundred men or more seated
around the great, long table on benches of home
manufacture, and the cooks rushing about with
coffee-pots and odorous steaks, or blowing the
big tin horn as a summons for loiterers. Off
the dining-room lies the kitchen, with its steam-
ing range and suspended tinware. Woe betide
the logger who seeks to penetrate its mysteries.
"Fired" but faintly represents the result of his
rash daring. The store-room, with its rodent
occupants, and the sleeping-room of the cooks,
open into the kitchen, and through crevices on
all sides bramble-vines seek entrance, and grow
inwards unmolested. The little shanties of the
hands, with their single rooms, are used simply
as sleeping-places by their owners, and the very
primitive furniture includes a tier of bunks, a
table, and a few three-legged stools. A spacious
mud fireplace gives light and warmth in the
short evenings of fall and winter, though can-
dles are brought into requisition on special occa-
sions, as when a game of cribbage is started, or
poker, with its pairs and full houses, reigns
supreme.

While the building is yet in progress, the
head chopper and the boss of the claim begin
their visits into the timber, and one after another
the most perfect trees are marked with the seal
of destruction. The head swamper follows.
Along the little ridges and into the gulches he
lays out the roads along which the logs will be
snaked by donkey-engine and oxen. While the
sawyers are occupied with felling the trees, the
swampers busy themselves with spade, and saw,
and axe, sawing through great logs, chopping
out roots, filling in holes, and leveling off irregu-
larities. From daylight till dark these sturdy
workers toil along, rigged out in flannel shirt,
overalls, and top-boots, and begrimed beyond
recognition with dust and soot; happy always,
however, and ready for the next joke.

Extreme care is necessary in felling these
large trees, for the shattering of even one in
the falling would involve a considerable loss,
and seriously influence the profits of the busi-
ness. In order to reduce this loss to a minimum,