

# Farmers' wood yields \$40 millions

by OLIVE DICKASON

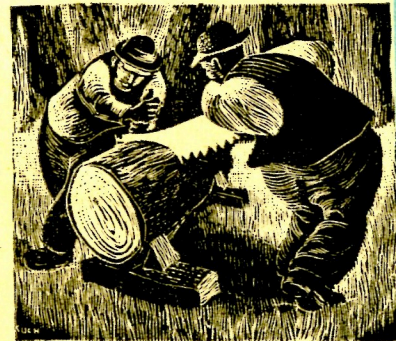
FARM FIREWOOD this winter may mean \$5 a day added cash income for many a Canadian farmer.

The man who toils with axe and saw on his own woodlot faces the prospect of a bigger stack of dollars.

In 1940 wood production on Canadian farms reached a value of \$39,755,000.

This year production looks as though it might return to the old level. And the coal supply problem may add to demand for wood in many a Canadian district.

Our farms are the primary pro-



ducers of all fuel food in Canada. Most of the wood cut on farms is used by the farmers themselves, in place of buying coal or other fuel. But where they are close to consumers with cash it means

more income. The average across Canada in a big year is \$50 a year from wood but plenty of prairie farmers must get along without firewoods from their own or nearby land. So the bush country farmer's slice is much higher

and in busy days of winter he can cut out several cords a day. If he's close to town he can haul it out for ready cash.

While coal prices have been

upped, there's still a ceiling on firewood. There's a black market, too, but federal prices officials have been watching that closely.

War-created manpower shortages make it difficult for many farms to carry on and the woodlot was neglected.

Today, with labor returning, forestry men predict that this year woodlot cuts will top that of any year since before the war. Demand for fuel wood is at a peak and in some places is so acute as to have created a definite shortage.

With almost 10 per cent of the total acreage of the 288,000 farms in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba forested, this can mean a big boost in farm revenue.

Forest products of all types from Manitoba farms in 1940 were valued at \$1,389,330, those of Sas-

katchewan at \$1,816,196 and of Alberta at \$1,611,203.

In all three provinces most of this production was used by the farmers themselves. In Manitoba the farmers used \$923,806 worth of their own timber products, in Saskatchewan, \$1,472,591, and in Alberta, \$1,440,193.

From sales, cash returns for Manitoba farms were \$470,000, for Saskatchewan farms, \$343,000, and for Alberta farms, \$171,000.

Fuel wood formed by far the largest part of these items, with pulp wood and other production running a poor second.

Manitobans cut 530,313 cords of fuel wood in that year, of which 387,151 was for home use and the rest sold. Pulpwood accounted for the cutting of 14,326 cords. Saskatchewan farmers cut 671,611 cords of fuel for themselves and another 134,664 for sale. Pulp wood accounted for only 5,638

cords. The Alberta figures show that 622,888 cords were cut for farm fuel use and that 38,670 cords of fuel wood were sold. There was no listing for pulpwood.

Government forestry men point out a special need to get the farm woodlot unit producing again quickly. Labor shortages have curtailed forestry operations of all kinds for six years, with the result Canadian forests were not restocked or protected. It is realized now they cannot stand up perpetually against the present rate of timber depletion. Full producing farm woodlots can do much to ease the overall burden as well as increase the farm income.

Winter wood cutting is tough slugging. On good days it is hard, healthy work that many outdoor Canadians enjoy to the limit. But when it comes to hauling wood over muddy trails that too often lead from bush areas the farmer earns every dime he gets for stock of fuel.