

## LETTER RECEIVED FROM LUMBERJACK IN FRANCE

Boston, Mass., June 19.—A letter received here from Fred E. Davis, an Ashburnham woodworker, and a member of the 10th Engineer Forestry Corps, tells of the work the men are doing. There would seem to be little doubt but that our lumberjacks are making good with characteristic American hustle. "Every man in the unit," he states, "is a lumberjack, as the lumbermen call themselves. My company, B, is stationed in the southwestern part of France, about sixty miles from one of the largest seaport cities. Our other companies are scattered all over France, operating in the forests.

"Company B arrived in this region October 26th and immediately got busy. We first built our camp, which would compare favorably with any of the French villages in this district. Next we constructed a corral which holds about 200 horses and mules. Then we built a corduroy road into the woods for hauling logs. We are something like four miles from the railroad and have built a narrow gauge track from our mill to the main line for handling the lumber faster.

"The engine is a small affair, worse than the old teapot which used to rumble on the Ashburnham branch. While doing the above our mills were arriving a piece at a time. Finally our small mill, which is a 10,000 Lane outfit, was complete, and on the last day of the year the first log was sawed. The large mill has not as yet been completely set up, but expect it will be running by the first of the month.

"We are operating in large stands of pine which were set out by the French. They will equal in size that which grows in Maine and about the same texture. We are cutting the logs into dock, bridge, railroad and trench timber, for which there is very urgent demand. On the small Lane mill we have, beside the large saw, an edger and slab saw, so that all the lumber is ready for the carpenters as soon as it leaves the mill yard. We ship as fast as the lumber is sawed and have but very little stacked in the yard.

"Besides the railroad we have a number of motor trucks; also a tractor for hauling supplies and lumber. Horses and mules are used for the logging.

"At present there are two crews on the mill, one on days and the other on nights. Rivalry exists between the two crews, one trying to saw more lumber than the other. The crew on which I work as checker outsaws the other from a few feet to a couple of thousand. Nearly all work with a spirit that would surprise you. This rivalry has spread throughout the regiment. Company A sent a telegram stating they had sawed 28,000 feet in 21 hours. Well, you should have seen us go to it and at the end of eighteen hours we had 38,000 feet to our credit. Needless to say a telegram was sent to Company A immediately and we have heard no more from them in regard to their output. Guess they will keep quiet in the future.

"There are several French saw mills in this region. It astonishes them to see us get out thousands where they only get out a few hundred. They don't seem to understand the hustling strange Americans.

"England and France may appeal to some, but the United States will be good enough for me if I ever return.

"Taps have sounded and I must shake up the straw in my quartered oak bed before turning in."