

The Riverman

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By Stewart Edward White

(Continued.)

"But surely, man, we have a right to run our logs through. It's an open river."

"And hev ye been runnin' your logs through?" cried the old man excitedly. "Hev ye? First off ye begin to tear down my dam, and then when the river begins a-roarin' and a-ragin' through then you tamper with my improvements furthermore, a-lowerin' the gate and otherwise a-modifyin' my structure."

Orde stepped forward. Immediately Reed wheeled, his thumb on the hammer.

"All right, old spirit of '76," replied Orde. "Don't shoot; I'll come down."

He walked back to the waiting row. "Surely," spoke up Newmark, "what ever the status of the damage suits, you have the legal right to run your logs."

Orde rolled a quizzical eye in his direction.

"Per-fectly correct, son," he drawled, "but we're engaged in the happy occupation of getting out logs. By the time the law was all adjusted and a head of steam up the water'd be down. In this game you get out logs first and think about law afterward."

"How about legal damages?" insisted Newmark.

"Legal damages!" scoffed Orde. "Legal damages! Why, we count legal damages as part of our regular expenses, like potatoes."

Orde walked to the edge of the dam and stood looking down current. Then he turned to the grimly silent riverman.

"Boys," he commanded briefly, "get your peevish and come along."

He led the way past the mill to the shallows below.

"Bring down two logs fairly big and hold them by that old snag," he ordered. "Hold them end on—no, pointing upstream. Fix 'em about ten foot apart. That's it! George, drive a couple of stakes each side of them to hold 'em. Correct! Now, run down a couple dozen more and pile them across those two, side on to the stream, of course. Roll 'em up. That's the ticket!"

Orde next braced more logs against a convenient bowlder, and an old still near shore became the third pier in a line below the mill.

"Now, boys," commanded Orde, "shove off some shore logs and let them come down."

The stray logs floating down with the current the rivermen caught and jammed about the improvised piers.

So in ten seconds after the shore logs began drifting the jam formed, low and broad. The weight of the topmost logs sunk those beneath to the bed of the stream. This to a certain extent dammed back the water. Below the improvised dam the water fell almost to nothing, and above it, swirling in eddies, grumbling fiercely, bubbling, surging, searching busily for an opening, the river turned back on itself.

"Nothing can stand that pressure," breathed Newmark, fascinated.

"The bigger the pressure the tighter she locks," replied Orde, fighting his pipe.

In order to take full advantage of the water power developed by his dam old man Reed had built his mill nearly at a level with the stream. Now the river, backing up, rapidly overpowered this fact. As the jam tightened by its own weight the water fairly jumped from the lowest floor of the mill to the one above.

In less than five minutes the old man descended on the group.

"What's the matter here?" he demanded.

"Matter?" inquired Orde easily. "Oh, nothing much—just a little jam."

"But it's flooding my mill!"

"I'm not interested."

"I've a lot of grain up stairs. It'll be ruined. You miserable blackguard!"

Reed frantically disappeared, returning bearing an antiquated pike pole, and single handed attacked the jam.

Astonishment and delight held the rivermen breathless for a moment. Then a roar of laughter drowned even noise of the waters.

Only Orde seemed to see the other side. With a few quick leaps he had gained the old man's side.

"You can't break this jam," he said kindly. "Come ashore. You'll kill yourself!"

"Break it!" pleaded Reed. "You're ruining me. I've got all my money in that mill."

"Well," said Orde, "we've got a lot of money in our logs too. Come, I'm taking Reed gently by the arm, "there's no reason you and I shouldn't get along together all right. Maybe we're both a little hard headed. Let's talk it over."

He led the old man ashore. At the end of ten minutes Orde cried cheerfully:

"War's over, boys! Break that jam!"

The crew swarmed across the log barrier to a point above the center pier. This they attacked with their peevish, rolling the top logs off into the current below. In less than no time they had torn quite a hole in the top layer. The river rushed through the opening. Immediately the logs in the wings were tumbled in from either side. At first the men had to do all the work, but soon the river itself turned to their assistance.

The going of the jam drained the water from the lower floors of the mill. The upper stories and the grain were still safe.

By evening the sluice gate had been roughly provided with pole guides down which to slide to the bed of the river. The following morning saw the work going on as methodically as ever.

By the end of the second day the pond was clear, and as Charlie's walgan was drifting toward the chute the first of Johnson's drive floated into the head of the pond.

Chapter 5

CHARLIE'S walgan, in case you do not happen to know what such a thing may be, was a scow about twenty feet long by ten wide. It was very solidly constructed of hewn timbers, square at both ends, was inconceivably clumsy and weighed an unbelievable number of pounds. When loaded, it carried all the bed rolls, tents, provisions, cooking utensils, tools and a chest of tobacco, clothes and other minor supplies. It was managed by Charlie and his two cookees by means of pike poles and a long sweep at either end.

The packing began before the men had finished breakfast. Shortly after daylight the walgan, pushed strongly from shore by the pike poles, was drifting toward the chute. The heavy scow threatened to turn side on, and the sweeps at either end churned the water frantically in an endeavor to straighten her out.

As Newmark looked at the smooth rim of the water sucking into the chute he began to wonder why he had come. The noble ship was pointed right at him and caught the faster water head on.

"All right!" Charlie shouted. "Zeke and his mate took in the oars. The walgan shot forward below the gate.

Whack, bump, bang, and the scow stopped so suddenly that its four men plunged forward in a miscellaneous heap. The water, backed up behind the stern, began to overflow into the boat. Newmark saw that the scow had run her bow on an obstruction and had been brought to a standstill square beneath the sluice gate. The water was beginning to flow the entire length of the boat. Various lighter articles shot past him and disappeared over the side.

Newmark had an inspiration. The more important matters, such as the men's clothes bags, the rolls of bedding and the heavier supplies of provisions, had not yet cut loose from their moorings. He seized one of the long oars, thrust the blade under the edge of a thwart astern, laid the shaft of the oar across the cargo and by resting his weight on the handle attempted to bring it down to bind the contents of the walgan to their places. The cookees came to his assistance. Together they succeeded in bending the long bickory sweep far enough to catch its handle end under another forward thwart. The second oar was quickly locked alongside the first, and not a moment too soon. A rush of water forced them all to cling for their lives.

Two or three rivermen appeared at the edge of the chute. A moment later old man Reed ran up, carrying a rope. This, after some difficulty, was made fast to the bow of the walgan. A short rope from the top of the dam allowed the boat to be lifted free of the obstruction; a cable astern prevented the current from throwing her broadside to the rush of waters; another cable from the bow led her in the way she should go. Ten minutes later she was pulled ashore out of the eddy below, very much waterlogged and manned by a drenched and disgruntled crew.

"About two ton of water in them bed rolls and turkeys," grumbled Charlie.

In a couple of hours' run the walgan had overtaken and left far behind the rear of the drive.

"Well," said Charlie at last, "we better make camp. We'll be down in the jam pretty soon."

"Well," said Orde to Newmark later, around the campfire, "how does river driving strike you?"

"It is extremely interesting," replied Newmark.

"Like to join the walgan crew permanently?"

"No, thanks," returned Newmark dryly.

"Well, stay with us as long as you're having a good time," invited Orde heartily.

"Thank you," Newmark acknowledged this, "I believe I will."

"That old mossback Reed was right on deck with his rope," remarked Johnny Simms. "That was pretty decent of him."

"Old skunk!" growled North. "He lost us two days with his nonsense."

"Oh, he's a poor old devil," replied Orde easily. "That's the way the Lord made him. He can't help how he's made."

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Several people who purchased pianos from us in response to our advertisement last week informed us that certain disgruntled small competitors... We want to say that this sale is part of the one which is being held simultaneously at all the Wissner Stores in this district. To corroborate this statement we will refer every one to yesterday's issue of the New York World American and Press; also to-day's issue of the New York Times and Herald. These papers contain a duplicate of the announcement which follows herewith and it will be seen that the prices for the discontinued styles of new pianos are absolutely uniform at all stores. It was also said that Wissner Sales were common occurrences. This is not so. Our only other sale this year was last May when we removed to our present location. We frequently advertise used pianos; but at regular prices and the word "sale" is carefully avoided. We do not employ outside canvassers to annoy people at their homes but boldly and fearlessly publish broadcast the policy of our house. The price of every piano is tagged in large plain figures and it is a rock bottom one. There is no price haggling. If this manner of business appeals to you; READ EVERY WORD OF THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT.

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\$490. WAS \$600.
This is a brand new Player Piano of a well-known make. Being a discontinued style, we have decided to include it in this offering.



\$250. WAS \$350.
This was one of the most popular styles made by the manufacturer of this Piano. It is a well-known high-grade make. Shopworn.



\$500. WAS \$650.
This is a brand new Piano which came into our possession. It is the best there is.

\$300 Upright piano	\$100
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350 Sterling	145
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Every Piano offered is an honest bargain. They are not polished on the outside and worn within. Some of them have been literally rebuilt at the Wissner Factory. Wherever necessary, each Piano has been equipped with a new action, new hammers, new strings, new sounding board, new tuning pins, new wrest plank, new pedals, etc. Most every one has been re-varnished so that they look to-day the same as when they left the factory. This makes the purchase of one of these instruments absolutely SAFE AND SOUND.

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IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO PAY CASH. Any Piano listed below can be purchased at the price named by making a small deposit and your agreement to pay a small amount each month. NO INTEREST IS CHARGED. NO MORTGAGE IS SIGNED. THE TRANSACTION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. WE DELIVER THE PIANO TO YOUR HOME FREE OF CHARGE, TOGETHER WITH A STOOL AND COVER, AND TUNE IT FREE THE FIRST YEAR.

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\$175
\$5 PER MONTH

NEW PIANOS.

In order to have a Piano for everyone we will include all discontinued styles of well known makers which are on our floors at the present time. Many of these instruments are fresh from the factory, having been the latest to be made up from 1909 designs. Positively no sales made to dealers.

\$275 Styles, Now \$190	\$500 Sohmer	\$195
325 Styles, Now 225	275 Reinhard	190
350 Styles, Now 250	350 Hallet & Davis	195
375 Styles, Now 285	300 Mission	200
	300 Reinhard	215
	325 Reinhard	225
	350 Leckerling	230

\$10 down add \$5 a month WILL SEND A PIANO HOME. Come at once and have your pick of the best of the lot. Don't wait until you have a limited choice.

This is the best value ever offered to those who want a brand new, guaranteed Piano that bears a well-known name and which can be purchased on the payment plan for less than \$200. Thousands of satisfied purchasers can attest to the worth and dollar for dollar value of these well-known instruments of merit. They are discontinued styles but they are not old Pianos. We do not know of one dealer in the United States who sells this Piano for less than \$300.

\$190
\$6 PER MONTH

HOUSEHOLD NOTES

Ink stains on handkerchiefs, etc., may be soaked but in milk, but the sooner they are dealt with the more easily will they be removed.
Two level tablespoonsful of butter and two level tablespoonsful of flour to a cup of liquid is the proper measure for thickening a sauce.
Every kitchen should be provided with a small brush to be used for scrubbing potatoes, carrots, parsnips and other ground vegetables.
The best way to peel onions is to hold them under water during the operation. Then cut up a raw potato to remove the odor from the hands.
If when cooking bacon one is careful not to let the fat burn it may be kept for frying and for fish will answer as well as the bacon itself.
To use up coal dust pile it carefully on a piece of paper and lay it on the fire. In this way it can be burned without smothering the fire.
A pinch of soda added to the boiling water in which cabbage or cauliflower is cooking improves the flavor and prevents much of the offensive odor.

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