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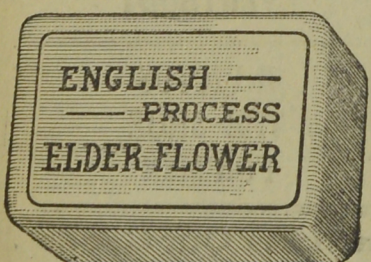
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The Riverman

By
**Stewart
Edward White**

When a rough, sturdy, man-
mastering lumber driver, boss of
the lawless "river jacks," starts
out to win the heart and hand of
an aristocratic young woman of
eastern wealth and fashion, in-
teresting things are apt to hap-
pen. They do happen, as read-
ers of this story will agree. Jack
Orde is the type of man who has
gone into the American wilder-
nesses and reclaimed them from
themselves, from lawbreaking
and debauchery. The brilliant au-
thor's descriptions of the battles
between man and nature and
between man and man in the lum-
ber fastnesses of the great north-
west set one's blood a-tingle.
They show that man is superman
when courage swells his heart.
And the wooing and winning of
Carroll Bishop by Jack Orde
supply captivating romance that
cannot fail to charm.



"Why, it would drown us!"

down heavily to keep their charges in
place. Other men laid heavy planks
side by side perpendicular to and on
the upstream side of the horses. The
weight of the water clamped them in
place. Big rocks and gravel shoveled
on in quantity prevented the lower
ends from rising. The wide slant of
the legs directed the pressure so far
downward that the horses were pre-
vented from floating away, and slowly
the bulk of the water, thus raised a
good three feet above its former level,
turned aside into the new channel and
poured out to inundate the black ash
swamp beyond.

A good volume still poured down to
the fall, but it was so far reduced that
work became possible.

"Now, boys!" cried Orde. "Lively
while we've got the chance!"

The twenty-six foot logs were placed
side by side, slanting from a point two
feet below the rim of the fall to the
ledge below. They were bolted to-
gether top and bottom through the
four holes bored for that purpose. The
task finished, they piled the flash
boards from the improvised dam,
piled them neatly beyond reach of
high water, rescued the sawhorses and
piled them also for a possible future
use and blocked the temporary chan-
nel. The river, restored to its imme-
morial channel by these men who had
so nonchalantly turned it aside, roared
on. Orde and his crew tramped back
to the falls and gazed on their handi-
work with satisfaction. Instead of
plunging over an edge into a turmoil
of foam and eddies, now the water
flowed smoothly, almost without a
break, over an incline of thirty de-
grees.

"Logs 'll slip over that slick as a
gun barrel," said Tom North.
Quite cheerfully they took up their
long, painstaking journey back down
the river.

The trail led the crew through many
minor labors, all of which consumed
time. At Reed's mill Orde entered into
diplomatic negotiations with old man
Reed, whom he found singularly
amenable. The skirmish in the spring
seemed to have taken all the fight out
of him, or perhaps, more simply, Orde's
attitude toward him at that time had
won him over to the young man's side.
Orde's crew built a new sluiceway
and gate far enough down to assure a
good head in the pond above.

In September the crew had worked
down as far as Redding, leaving be-
hind them a river harnessed for their
uses. Remained still the forty miles
between Redding and the lake. Orde
here paid off his men. A few days'
work with a pile driver would fence
the principal shoals from the channel.

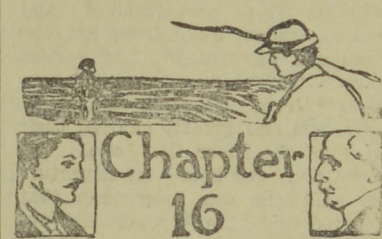
He stayed overnight with his par-
ents and took the train for Monrovia
to meet Newmark.

"Hello, Joel!" greeted Orde, his teeth
flashing in contrast to the tan of his
face. "I'm done. Anything new since
you wrote last?"

Newmark had acquired his articles
of incorporation and sold his stock.
Perhaps his task had in it as much of
difficulty as Orde's taming of the river.
Certainly he carried it to as successful
a conclusion. The bulk of the stock
he sold to log owners. Some blocks
even went to Chicago. His own little
fortune of twenty thousand he paid in

for the shares that represented his part
of the majority retained by himself
and Orde. The latter gave a note at
10 per cent for his proportion of the
stock. Newmark then borrowed fif-
teen thousand more, giving as security
a mortgage on the company's newly
acquired property—the tugs, booms,
buildings and real estate. Thus was
the financing determined. It left the
company with obligations of \$15,000 a
year in interest, expenses which would
run heavily into the thousands and an
obligation to make good outside stock
worth at par exactly \$49,000. In addi-
tion Orde had charged against his ac-
count a burden of \$2,000 a year inter-
est on his personal debt. To offset
these liabilities, outside the river im-
provements and equipments, which
would hold little or no value in case of
failure, the firm held contracts to de-
liver about 100,000,000 feet of logs.
After some discussion the partners de-
cided to allow themselves \$2,500 apiece
by way of salary.

"The only point that is at all risky
to me," said Newmark, "is that we
have only one season contracts. If for
any reason we hang up the drive or
fail to deliver promptly we're going
to get left the year following, and then
it's b-u-s-t-bust."



ORDE'S bank account, in spite of
his laughing assertion to New-
mark, contained some \$1,100.
After a brief but comprehensive
tour of inspection over all the works
then forward he drew a hundred of
this and announced to Newmark that
business would take him away for
about two weeks.

At Redding, whither he went to
pack his little sole leather trunk, he
told Grandma Orde the same thing.
She came and stood by the man lean-
ing over the trunk.

"Speak to her, Jack," said she quietly.
"She cares for you."

Orde looked up in astonishment, but
he did not pretend to deny the implied
accusation as to his destination.

"Why, mother," he cried, "she's only
seen me three or four times! It's ab-
surd—yet."

"I know," nodded Grandma Orde
wisely; "I know. But you mark my
words—she cares for you."

She placed her hand for an instant
on his shoulder and went away. The
Ordes were not a demonstrative people.

To be Continued

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