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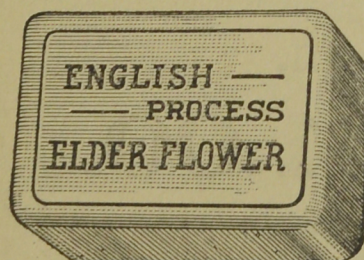
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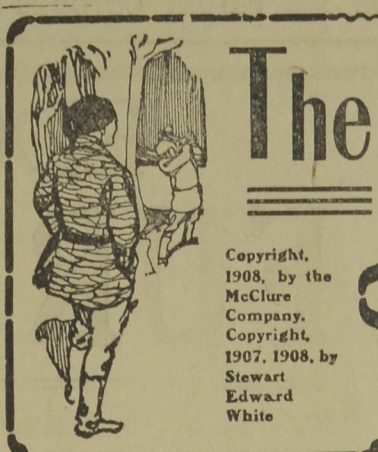
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Americans in London strong up 2  
1 point.



## The Riverman

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By  
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Edward White**

[CONTINUED.]

"Talm?" said the Rough Red.  
"Thim? Not much! Thim's my body-  
guard. They can lick their weight in  
wild cats, and I'd loike well to see th'  
gang of highbankers that infests this  
river thry to pry thim out. We were  
sint here to foight. Me boss and th'  
sucker that's droiven this river has  
a row on!"

"Jimmy," said Orde, "didn't you  
know that I am the gentleman last  
mentioned? I'm driving this river,  
and that's my dam-keeper you've got  
hid away somewhere here, and that's  
my water you're planning to waste!"

"What?" In a tone of vast astonish-  
ment, the Rough Red mentioned his  
probable deserts in the future life.

"Luk here, Jack," said he after a  
moment, "here's a crew of white water  
birlers that ye can't beat nowhere.  
What do ye want us to do? We're  
now gettin' \$4 a day and board from  
that murderin' ould villain Heinzman,  
so we can afford to wurk for ye  
cheap."

Orde hesitated.  
"Oh, please do now, darlint!" whee-  
dled the Rough Red, his little eyes  
agleam with mischief. "Sind us some  
more peavies, and we'll hilp ye on yure  
rollways. And till us afore ye go  
how ye want this dam, and that's th'  
way she'll be. Come, now, dear, and  
ain't ye short handed now?"

Orde slapped his knee and laughed.  
"This is sure one deuce of a joke!"  
he cried. "It sure be!"

"I'll take you boys on," said Orde  
at last, "at the usual wages—dollar  
and a half for the jam, three for the  
rear. I doubt if you'll see much of  
Heinzman's money when this leaks  
out."



## Chapter 24

THUS Orde, by the sheer good  
luck that sometimes favors men  
engaged in large enterprises,  
not only frustrated a plan like-  
ly to bring failure to his interests, but  
filled up his crews. It may be re-  
marked here, as well as later, that the  
"terrors of the Saginaw" stayed with  
the drive to its finish and proved re-  
liable and tractable in every particu-  
lar.

The Rough Red's enormous strength,  
daredevil spirit and nimbleness of body  
made him invaluable at this danger-  
ous work. The crews on the various  
beats now had their hands full to keep  
the logs running. The slightest check  
at any one point meant a jam, for there  
was no way of stopping the unending  
procession.

Jams on the river, contrary to gen-  
eral belief, are of very common occur-  
rence. Throughout the length of the  
drive there were probably three or  
four hangups a day. Each of these  
had to be broken, and in the breaking  
was danger.

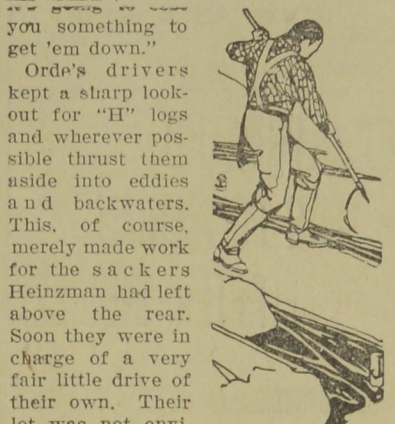
Orde after the rear was well started  
patrolled the length of the drive in his  
light buckboard. At times he remain-  
ed at one camp for several days watch-  
ing the trend of the work. The im-  
provements made during the preceding  
summer gave him the greatest satisfac-  
tion, especially the apron at the falls.

No trouble was experienced until  
Heinzman's rollways were reached. Here  
Orde had boomed a free channel to  
prevent Heinzman from filling up the  
entire river bed with his rollways.  
When the jam of the drive had de-  
scended the river as far as this Heinz-  
man had not yet begun to break out.  
Hardly had Orde's first crew passed,  
however, when Heinzman's men began  
to break down the logs into the drive.  
Long before the rear caught up Heinz-  
man's drive was in the water, ming-  
led with the sixty or eighty million  
feet Orde had in charge.

The situation was plain. All Heinz-  
man now had to do was to retain a  
small crew, which should follow after  
the rear in order to sack what logs the  
latter should leave stranded. As it  
was impossible in so great a mass of  
timbers and in the haste of a pressing  
labor to distinguish or discriminate  
against any single brand, Heinzman  
was in a fair way to get his logs sent  
downstream with practically no ex-  
pense.

"Vell, my boy," remarked the Ger-  
man quite frankly to Orde as they met  
on the road one day, "looks like I got  
you dis time, eh?"

Orde laughed.  
"If you mean your logs are going  
down with ours, why, I guess you  
have. But you paste this in your hat—  
you're goin' to keep awful busy, and



Thrust them aside  
into eddies.

One day when  
Orde's buckboard drew into camp he  
sent Bourke away to repair damages  
while he called the cookee to help un-  
pack several heavy boxes of hardware.  
They proved to contain about thirty  
small hatchets, well sharpened and  
each with a leather guard. When the  
rear crew had come in that night Orde  
distributed the hatchets.

"Boys," said he, "while you're on  
the work I want you all to keep a  
watch out for these 'H' logs, and  
whenever you strike one I want you  
to blaze it plainly so there won't be  
any mistake about it."

"What for?" asked a Saginaw man.

A riverman nudged him.

"Just do what you're told to on this  
river and you'll see fun sure."

Three days later the rear crew ran  
into the head of the pond above Reo's  
dam. To every one's surprise, Orde  
called a halt on the work and announ-  
ced a holiday.

Now, holidays are unknown on drive.  
Barely is time allowed for eating and  
sleeping. Nevertheless all that day  
the men lay about in complete idlen-  
ess. The pond filled with logs. From  
above the current, aided by a fair  
wind, was driving down still other  
logs—the forerunners of the little drive  
astern. At sight of these some of the  
men grumbled. "We're losin' what we  
made," said they. "We left them logs  
and sorted 'em out once already."

Orde sent a couple of axmen to blaze  
the newcomers. A little before sun-  
down he ordered the sluice gates of the  
dam opened.

"Night work," said the men to one  
another.

Sure enough, after supper Orde sud-  
denly appeared among them.

"Get organized, boys," said he brisk-  
ly. "We've got to get this pond all  
sluiced before morning."

The men took their places.  
"Sluice through everything but the  
'H' logs," Orde commanded. "Work  
them off to the left and leave them."

The sluicing, under the impetus of a  
big crew, went rapidly. "There's near  
a million an hour going through there,"  
speculated Orde, watching the burdened  
waters of the chute. And in this  
work the men distinguished easily the  
new white blaze marks on Heinzman's  
logs, so they were able to shunt them  
one side into the smoother water, as  
Orde had commanded.

To be Continued

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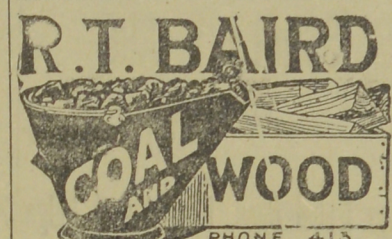
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