NEAR THE HEART OF THE WEST

By Isabel Williams

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Your dresses and letter bring 'em along now." We said we would, and she followed a barefoot, bright-eyed boy whom he called to show us the way, and it was just like we were in Alice in Wonderland where the Red Queen plays a game across little brooks that marked the ground off in checker board divisions, for we had to make a running board jump across a wide brook first, and then, about every twenty feet leap across another little brook because there's a little irrigation rivulet running close to every row of trees. Soon we heard the prettiest sound, boys whistling, girls and birds singing and old people chattering gaily and we came upon the pickers all having a good time as they worked. It was the prettiest sight you could see, countless trees loaded with the reddest big cherries, and, a hundred people young and old, gathering the fruit under the cloudless blue sky, some of them standing on the ground, but more in the trees or on ladders, and it was hard to tell the boys from the girls because they all wore some sort of pants.

Such nice little boys in the cherry orchard! Just the kind Whittier wrote of so many years ago, saying, "Blessings on thee little man, barefoot boy with cheek of tan, with thy turned up pantaloons and thy merry whistled tunes." Alert, polite, shrewd, half a dozen boys came running to fetch us ladders, to show us how to fasten the big pail with its hook to the looped wire on the home-made ladder; and to show us how to pull down the most lusciously loaded bough with a crook—and even to show us how to shin up a tree in case we were desirous of earning ten cents in the topmost bough.

"What kind of cherries are in this orchard?" I asked the boy who was placing my ladder.

"Bings, Royal Annes and Black Republicans," came prompt reply.

"Aren't there any democrats here too?" I asked jocosely.

"No ma'am! No indeed. Why, there'd be such a fight all the cherries would be spoiled if you put Democrats and Republicans in the same orchard," came his quick clever reply.

Well, in twenty minutes I had my first gallon picked. In three hours I had made 75 cents, picking six gallons from the ground, three from the ladder which paid a penny more per gallon. It was fascinating work, out there under the rich blue sky, with the big, burning red cherries shining out amongst the glossy green leaves, and the cunning little rivulets rippling beside the trees, and through the lanes down the big orchard glimpses of Mt. Emily so comfortably big and cool in her purple shadows. Three hours' steady picking found us pretty tired, so we stopped and found a pleasant nook under some shady trees away from the orchard a bit, and there we ate the lunch we had brought with us, then stretched out in the long green grass beside the irrigation stream and slept soundly until merry shouts of urchins running by roused us to consciousness—and we found most of the pickers were all hurrying over to the river to go swimming in a pool with firm, sandy bottom well known to all. As we were hot and dusty from the work, we followed. For half an hour we sat on the bank watching the others bathe, and wistfully wishing we had brought overalls and swimming togs instead of coming to work in light summer dresses. Pretty soon a couple of the girls came up, all dripping wet and cool and clean and kindly from the water and said, "If you don't mind wearing wet things, we'd be glad to lend you our suits. You can change behind those bushes."

With eager gratitude we accepted their friendly offer and spent a delightful thirty minutes washing and cooling ourselves and sporting in the blue water, then dried in the sun, and refreshed in every fibre returned to our cherry picking. At five we quit, having earned each a dollar and sixty-eight cents, next day, growing accustomed to the work, we earned two dollars apiece, and afterwards averaged that each day. Some earned considerably more. We were told of one quick boy who picked thirty gallons, three days running, making $2.70, as he picked in the trees of course, but they added, lugubriously, "after the fourth day he was awful sick and had the doctor." Some said he fell ill because he picked too many cherries while another version was he ate too many. We couldn't prove it but we had our suspicions the latter was true—for we knew how many we ate ourselves and how our tummies began to squirm.

When the cherries are gone, other fruit comes ripening and we expect to pick everything in its season. Incidentally, picking cherries, obtains some economic insight into the philosophy of prices, for when the fruit grower pays pickers nine cents a gallon, and you can buy same cherries in the stores for twenty-eight cents a gallon, and you know the farmer and the retailer must get their profits, and freight has to be paid on most of them, too, cherries seem pretty cheap.

Eastern "Mad-Stones."

In eastern countries rabies is treated by the "tabasheer," or some other form of what are indifferently called "snake stones," or "madstones," and which are believed to be a specific for all forms of poisonous bites or wounds. "Tabasheer" is a porous, stony accretion found in the stalks of bamboo. It was used in Persia so long ago as the tenth century, and is carefully described by the French traveler Tavernier, who visited India in the seventeenth century.

Job printing, The Observer, Main 37

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Greater Hooverized Grocery

"Where the Thrifty Throng"

HAPHAZARD SPENDING, OR TRUE ECONOMY—WHICH? Haphazard spending is responsible for more financial difficulties than deficient earnings. Many people are careful and calculating when it comes to spending large sums of money, but careless and indifferent over small amounts—and that it where the trouble lies. TRUE ECONOMY—the economy that counts, embraces the little thing of every-day consumption and expense, for these are economy that counts, embraces the little things of living. As far as your groceries are concerned, the safest, surest and most satisfactory way to practice the ECONOMY that counts is to buy at the GREATER HOOVERIZED," La Grande's Original Cash Grocery—The store that put the prices DOWN in Eastern Oregon—The Big, Busy, double daylight store. Give us a trial order—Remember, all goods guaranteed, or your money cheerfully refunded.

The Greater Hooverized Grocery

THE BRIGHTEST SPOT IN LA GRANDE.

SAM HARRIS, Prop.

The Store Where the Thrifty Throng. A Union Store

TWO MAIN LINE PHONES :: :: :: :: :: :: MAIN 32

The Store Where the Thrifty Throng A Union Store

Nation Faces Critical Coal Shortage

Says the U. S. Government Buy Your Coal NOW

Coal production has fallen off to an alarming extent. This is due to a combination of causes. No increase in output is possible without quick action by coal consumers.

Coal cannot be produced and held in huge quantities at the mines awaiting the convenience of buyers. It must be moved as fast as produced and kept moving until it finally reaches the consumer.

During the past two years we have been confronted with a coal shortage.

In 1917 it embarrassed our conduct of the war, shut down factories, left cities in darkness, shortened the working hours of public utilities and caused great suffering in many homes.

In 1918, in response to government appeal, consumers bought their coal during the summer months, and as a result of their action and the patriotic and superhuman effort on the part of operators and miners, the greatest production in the history of the country was achieved—namely, 585,000,000 tons. Thus a shortage was averted.

In 1919—the present year—we face this situation:

Requirements for the year (Govt. estimate) (55 million tons less than 1918)	530,000,000 tons
Stocks on hand January 1	30,000,000
Coal production required for 1919	500,000,000
Coal produced Jan. 1 to June 14, 1919	195,000,000
Quantity to be produced in remaining 28 weeks	305,000,000
Average weekly production first 24 weeks	8,125,000
Average tonnage which must be produced weekly during coming 28 weeks	10,900,000

To meet the requirements of the country, production of the mines must be increased 2,775,000 tons each week!

How can this be done?

By buying your coal now. This is the only way to increase production.

If production is not stimulated now, somebody will have no coal this winter.

Will it be you?

Do not think we are alarmists. The figures quoted above are accurate. They are the official figures of the Geological Survey of the U. S. Government.

Your Government Warns You—

Dr. H. A. Garfield, United States Fuel Administrator, has issued a statement to the public as follows:

"Buy now—in August or the Autumn will be too late. A big coal shortage is coming. Thousands of miners are going back to Europe. Coal production has fallen off considerably and a shortage of many million tons look probable. My advice to consumers is to buy now while they can get a selection and delivery. I feel bound to say that, as I see the situation, we are likely to experience a coal famine in the fall."

These are all facts. Consider them.

Quick action being so apparent, we cannot urge too strongly that you buy your coal NOW so as to be sure of having it next winter.

Sawyer-Holmes Mercantile Co.

PHONE MAIN 17

It's Quality Meat and We Sell it for LESS

NO CHARGE FOR DELIVERY,

PHONE MAIN 32.

THE STILWELL MEAT CO.

THE CONSUMER'S FRIEND.

JUST A FEW OF OUR EVERY-DAY PRICES

House Dresses	$1.98, $3.38
Bungalow Aprons	$1.49 $1.69 $1.89 $1.98
Black Silk Ruffle Petticoats	$2.98
Black Sateen Petticoats	$2.23
Georgette Crepe Waists	$4.69 $5.98 $6.00
Dainty White Voile Waists	$1.89 $2.23 $2.43

All shades in Fleischer's Sweater Yarns 38c ball

Large stock Hose, Sox, Underwear.

Andrew's Variety Store

The Place You Get Everything You Want Every Day, at the Price You Like to Pay.

FORD

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

The Ford Motor Company will sell the genuine Ford Parts to any and every reliable Garage, making it an Authorized Ford Service Garage. Ford Dealers throughout the United States have been instructed by the Ford Motor Company to supply anything and everything in Ford Parts to responsible Garages and to furnish such Garages with signs designating them as "Authorized Ford Service Garages."

Tells About Genuine Ford Parts

While this opens the door to a very profitable business for the Garage men of America it also brings a reliable service close to the owners of Ford cars in all parts of the country. It assures them that the genuine Ford Parts, made by the Ford Motor Company, will be used in replacements when their Ford cars require tuning up; it means Ford quality in service, and that, of course, means economy in operation and extends the life of the car.

We believe the Garage man will quickly appreciate the profitable advantages this presents to him, and will speedily lay in a large stock of genuine Ford Parts, and go after the Ford service business with a vim and hustle.

The local dealer will gladly take the orders for any responsible Garage in La Grande and make prompt delivery of genuine Ford Parts, and supply the Ford Service signs just as soon as possible.

Hilton's Garage