

I'm gettin' too old to lose money, I find it makes me cross," showing his small, white teeth in a broad smile.

Burrows was using his utmost power in argument to dispel this timidity, when the boat, which had rounded the point and entered a cove, shot into a shady creek. Mr. Grillis changed his position, the better to enjoy his beautiful surroundings, when the attention of the others became attracted by a low exclamation from him.

A little back in the woods stood a young girl, leaning against a tree. She was tall and slight, and her eyes were fixed upon a flower which she was destroying. Beside her, and talking earnestly, was Arthur Brigham.

"It's Phoebe Ray," muttered Joe, "I'm glad I sent Ed by the path."

Burrows, watching the couple, seemed to have grown paler and more sandy.

"Some one should warn the girl," said Hawkes. "He's a blight. Wherever he goes something is left dead in his track."

An oar splashed heavily in the water. Mr. Grillis looked round with some impatience, but was kept from any expression of annoyance by the ghastliness of Burrows' countenance. The couple on shore had evidently heard the noise, for they immediately disappeared among the trees.

The boat floated into a basin and a few strokes sent it alongside a landing, where the party were met by Ed, who conducted them to an old block house, where he presented them first to his father, an aged man, tall,

robust, and with an abundance of beautiful white hair, then to his mother, a stout, kindly-faced woman, considerably the old man's junior.

"It's a little early for the ducks," the father said, "won't ye sit a while? Mother, you draw a jug o' cider for the gentlemen."

"We won't miss much by waiting, the ducks don't come in much before sundown," urged Ed. "You tell the gentlemen a story, father, while they stop. He can do it," with a conscious glance over the party.

The old man rubbed his hands. "If the gentlemen 'd like to hear it, I'll tell 'em about the Marshfield property," he said, with a bow toward Mr. Burrows.

Burrows nodded. He had regained his usual color, but was constantly casting furtive glances out of the open window.

To be continued.

Linkville's big fire is proving a benefit to the town. Real estate sales are more numerous than before the fire. Surveyors representing the Southern Pacific were recently in the town, and they are reported to have said that in eighteen months a railway will be in operation from Klamath City to either Umatilla or to Boise via Linkville. The Klamath City Company will erect a large saw mill on Link river in the spring. Building is progressing rapidly in the burned district and business of all kinds is good. This is another instance of a blessing in disguise.

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OREGON NOTES.

The city council of La Grande has granted an exclusive franchise for ten years to an electric light company. The company binds itself to construct a plant to cost not less than \$12,000 and to have the lights in operation within six months. The council also ordered the issuance of \$20,000 of water bonds and instructed a committee to look up a proper site for the works.

The citizens of Medford have raised \$7,500 and Jacksonville \$12,500 to secure an electric railway between the two towns and an electric light service for both. The whole plant is to be in operation not later than next May, and must be satisfactorily maintained for a period of five years.

The Virginia mine at Robinsonville, Baker county, is reported to be yielding some surprisingly rich ore. A ledge was recently discovered from which gold can be taken with a pick.

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