

Valadon's Special

By CONRAD HAUSSMAN
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"I say," cried Billy, "wait for a fellow! My remittance will be along in a couple of days, and we can all go east together."

Mabel Brockman laughed. "You're twenty-nine, aren't you, Billy?" she asked irrelevantly.

"In February," assented Valadon. "And you have to wait until your papa sends you money? I don't think you even call him 'father,' do you?"

Valadon looked hurt. "You are always at me to go to work," he frowned. "I don't see why I should have to with the governor so disgustingly rich."

"How much money have you?" she asked. Somehow her conversation this morning on the Coronado beach was most uncertain.

"Enough to pay my bills and get up to San Francisco."

"Then you will have to wait until some one sends you the money to get home on. I don't think you are worth waiting for, Billy."

"You might at least be nice this last day," he said shortly. "Let's talk about something else."

Two days later Valadon stood on the wharf at Oakland. Miss Brockman stood by the sleeper in which she and her mother were to make the trip east.

"I may see you sooner than you expect," he said, with a smile.

"Having money telegraphed to you?" she asked.

"No," he answered shortly. "I have an idea that perhaps I can go east in accordance with your approved methods. I'm going to try it anyhow."

"If you do, Billy," said the girl softly as she mounted the steps.

"If I do, what?"

Mabel shook her head over the porter's shoulder as the train pulled out. She loved Valadon in spite of his absolute dependence upon his father. If

were another hostler and twelve un-sugared being hurried east to the big winter sale. The stalls took up most of the room, but there was a tiny space for the two men at opposite ends of the car and room enough to sleep in if one should be very tired.

Men from the ranch had accompanied the train as far as San Francisco and had fed the horses before the train had pulled out. The only thing to be done during the night was to quiet any horse that might become

restless, and at 12 he could go to sleep and turn the watch over to his fellow.

Because Billy had paid over to the foreman \$10 in addition to the pay due him he was given a car in which the travelers were experienced tourists, racers of the western circuit being sent east to be sold as hunters, and it was not a difficult matter to keep them quiet.

When the train stopped he could hear the yearlings in the cars behind stamping about, and he was glad that he had been given a quiet car.

Even as it was he was kept busy, and sleep came quickly to tired eyes in spite of the novelty of his surroundings and the fact that his head was pillowed upon a wisp of hay spread over the grub box, through which the smell of cold ham filtered.

There was plenty of work in the morning, too, feeding and watering six horses and rubbing them down, and he was glad enough when the train slowed down and the welcome shout of "Coffee!" echoed along the line.

There was a full quart of the taffy colored liquid in each can, and with that and bread and ham Billy made a breakfast that would have surprised the attendants at his favorite club.

By the time the next stop came he had his stalls cared for, and the fresh coffee came as a welcome reviver. He had wondered at the announcement that there would be coffee at frequent stops, but the day was not half over before he realized that it was needed.

Five days later a tired and dirty but exceedingly cheerful young man drove up to the door of the Valadon residence on Fifth avenue just as the head of that house was sitting down to his breakfast. It required an argument with a new footman to convince him that the caller was not required to go to the side entrance, but at his voice the elder Valadon came running into the hall.

"Bless my soul," he puffed after Billy had told his tale in brief. "Didn't you get my check?"

Billy thrust a paper into his hand. "It came the day I left," he said, "but it sort of spoiled the idea, and I pretended that I did not get it. Now I want a bath and breakfast, and then I want to see if I cannot go down to the station in time to meet the Brockmans."

The Chicago express was three hours late when it puffed into the huge arched shed and Miss Brockman was in no amiable frame of mind as she descended to the platform. There had been delay, and six days on the train even in a stateroom is not pleasant.

For a moment she stared at a well-groomed young man possessed himself of her hand bag and turned to help her mother down the steps, and it was not until they had headed for the ferry that she found her voice.

"How did you get here so quickly?" she demanded.

"I came the northern way," he explained, "and I had a special."

Miss Brockman turned away to hide her disappointment. "I might have known you would do something like that," said she coldly. "I suppose that you wired for money."

"There was a check at the hotel when I got to San Francisco," he explained wickedly. "I had it in my pocket when I said goodby to you in Oakland. I thought you would like a surprise."

"It was not a surprise. It was the expected," she corrected. "I had hoped my sermon had sunk in."

He made no explanations until they were in the carriage which had waited at Twenty-third street. Then Billy leaned forward.

"I should have explained," he began, "that the special was for the Ora ranch horses for the sale at the garden. I was a hostler, and I brought the check back with me."

She leaned forward and kissed him, to the surprise of her mother.

"Billy," she cried impulsively, "you may take that check and buy me a solitaire with it!"



Mrs. Nixey—Why don't you go to work?

Ennued Edgar—Er—I never could guess riddles, ma'am. Wo't de answer?—Lestlie's Weekly.

NOTICE OF RECEIVING BIDS BY CITY.

Notice is hereby given, that up to the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., on Saturday the 19th day of May, 1906, the Committee on streets and public ways of the common council of the City of Astoria, will receive sealed bids for improving Duane street from the west line of 10th street to the west line of 6th street, as ordered improved by ordinance No. 3245 approved on the 11th day of May, 1906. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

JENS H. HANSEN,
J. J. ROBINSON,
P. L. STANGLAND,
Committee on Streets and Public Ways.
5-14-4t.

NOTICE FOR RECEIVING BIDS BY CITY.

Notice is hereby given that up to the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. on Saturday the 19th day of May, 1906, the Committee on streets and public ways of the Common Council of the City of Astoria will receive sealed bids for improving Irving avenue from the east line of 18th street to the west line of Adair's Astoria, as ordered by ordinance No. 3244, approved on the 11th day of May, 1906. The right reserved to reject any and all bids.

JENS H. HANSEN,
J. J. ROBINSON,
P. L. STRANGLAND,
Committee on Streets and Public Ways.
5-14-4t.

NOTICE OF RECEIVING BIDS BY CITY.

Notice is hereby given. That up to the hour of 2 o'clock P. M., on Saturday, the 19th day of May, 1906, the Committee on Streets and Public Ways of the Common Council of the City of Astoria, will receive sealed bids for the construction of a drain on Melbourne avenue from the alley way running through block 17, Taylor's Astoria to a point 70 feet south of the south line of Taylor avenue, as ordered improved by ordinance No. 3246, approved on the 11th day of May, 1906. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

JENS H. HANSEN,
J. J. ROBINSON,
P. L. STANGLAND,
Committee on Streets and Public Ways.
5-14-4t.

NOTICE OF RECEIVING BIDS BY CITY.

Notice is hereby given. That up to the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., on Saturday, the 19th day of May, 1906, the Committee on Streets and Public Ways of the Common Council of the City of Astoria, will receive sealed bids for improving Fourth street from the north line of Astor street to the south rail of the Astoria and Columbia River railroad track on Water street, as ordered improved by ordinance No. 3247, approved on the 11th day of May, 1906. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

JENS H. HANSEN,
J. J. ROBINSON,
P. L. STANGLAND,
Committee on Streets and Public Ways.
5-14-4t.

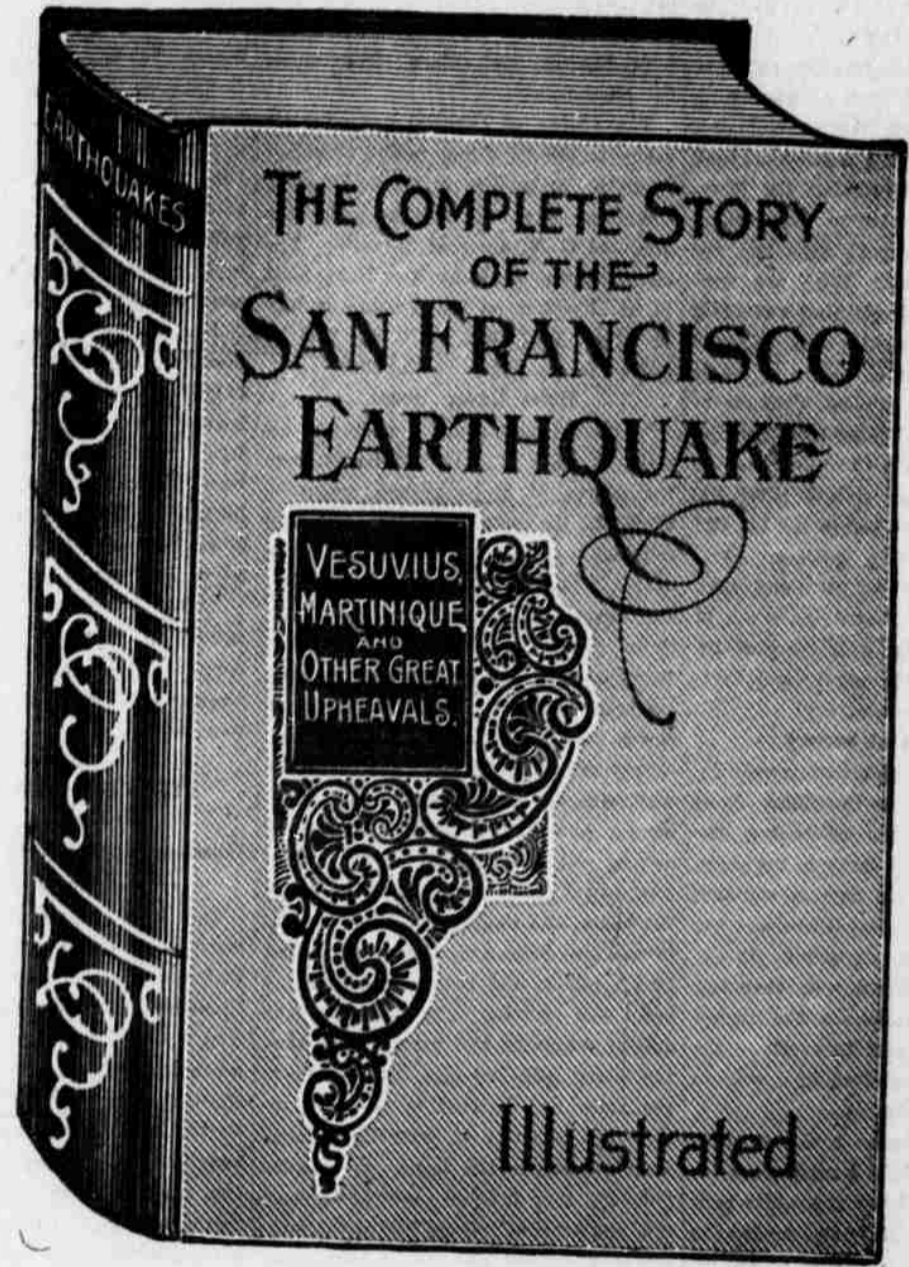
NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT.

Notice is hereby given that, the assessment made for the improvement of Birch street, from the east line of Fifty-second street, to the center line of Fifty-third street, as per assessment roll number 121, was made by an order of the common council due and payable on the 25th day of May, A. D. 1906, by ordinance number 3241, confirming said assessment roll. That the following are the names of the persons against whom the assessment is made and the amount owing by each to-wit:

Allen, Jos. C.	\$ 27.95
Carlson, Victor	35.48
Hansen, Hans	15.05
Haaven, Ole A.	27.95
Hammond Lumber Co.	165.39
Jacobson, Axel	35.47
Jeffry, Mary R.	76.50
Kelly, Mary M.	88.15
Moberg, Carl O.	27.95
Nelson, Gus L.	15.05
Nelson, Oscar	15.05
Nordman, Chas.	18.17
Rodas, Victor	27.95
Silfers, Wm.	9.78
Schimpff, W. E.	27.95
Tatton, Lavinia	15.05
City of Astoria (excess)	9.81

OLOF ANDERSON,
Auditor and Police Judge.
Dated Astoria, Oregon, May 14, 1906.
5-14-10t.

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