

ON OVERLAND LIMITED

I don't mean that I have the whole world by the tail; when a man thinks he has, he often gets kicked into space and finds his grip on the tail an illusion. But for the present, at least, I'm away ahead of the game; if I can stay on the Limited train, I'll have the biggest store in America some day.

I came up from the very bottom, and came up in a wonderfully short time, and without any capital to start on; so it is natural that I should have pronounced ideas on this most elusive of all things, success. Perhaps I expressed these ideas rather freely, once I began to talk, and that was how it happened that we seven men told the stories of our individual careers. The tales were not all told that night. Indeed, so deeply interested did we become in this strange recital that the journey to the Pacific would have been almost forgotten except for certain things that happened.

I am setting down the narratives as faithfully as I can recall them, in the full belief that I am performing a service to mankind that cannot be estimated in value. I shall attempt all through to reproduce, just as they