

The Mountain Divide

"Well, I didn't go——"

"Quit before you went, did you?"

"I mean, I was preparing for Van Dyne College. One of my brothers teaches there. I couldn't start there after I lost my father—he was killed in the Wilderness Campaign, Bili. But when I can earn money enough, I am going back to Van Dyne and take an engineering course."

"Got it all figured out, have you?"

"Then I heard they were building the Union Pacific, and I knew something about telegraphing—Jim Foster and I had a line from the house to the barn."

"Had a line from the house to the barn, eh?" chuckled Dancing.

"So I bought a railroad ticket to Des Moines from Pittsburgh and staged it to Omaha, and General Park gave me a job right away and sent me out on the first train to take this office, nights. I didn't even know where Medicine Bend was."

"Don't believe you know yet. Now that's right, I don't believe you know yet. You're a good boy, but you talk too much."