

## THE PASS

though limited in quantity. A misstep would have tragic consequences, but there existed no real excuse for a mountain pony's misstepping. At the log he hesitated a little; but as I walked boldly out on it, he concluded it must be all right, and so followed gingerly. After a time we reached the rounded knoll, where trouble ended. I tied him to a bush and went back for another animal. By ten o'clock everybody, including Billy, had crossed in safety. We resumed the saddle, and turned sharp to the left for what now amounted to a thousand-foot descent.

It was steep, and loose. Sometimes it seemed that the horses were going to stand on their heads. Often they slid for twenty feet, unable to do anything but keep their balance, a merry, bouncing little avalanche preceding them, their hoofs sinking deeper and deeper in the shale,