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were almost impassable. The men immediately set to work to break the track through, but no sooner had it been cleared out ready for the heavy loads than another storm set in almost as bad as the first. This one kept up, off and on, for nearly a week, and this time when it stopped snowing the snow was so deep on the level that it was impossible for horses to get through it excepting where there had been a track before.

"You can imagine my state of mind by this time. I had figured that it would be just possible to fill that contract if nothing went wrong, and every man and every team worked practically every day. Of course that was impossible, as I know, but, you see, I figured on rushing things some! The way circumstances were shaping it would require all my ingenuity and all the work the men were capable of to get the last log to the river by the time it broke up in spring. If the last log were not there there wouldn't be a cent in it for me for the whole winter's work, although I would be responsible for the men's wages. Even if I were not paid for the logs that were delivered I would still have to pay the men out of my own pocket.

"At this critical time something went wrong with the horses. Whether it was the enforced idleness with heavy feeding after the previous hard work, or what was the trouble, I don't know. Eight of them dropped off within a week, and several more took very sick. There was no way to get new teams in from outside, for we were forty or fifty miles from any settlement where a few might be picked up, and even then they would not have been in condition for our work, besides it would have wasted too much precious time to go after them through the deep snow.

"To cap the climax some of the men turned ugly and talked of quitting, as they knew the nature of my contract, and were afraid of working a whole winter and no pay at the end. If it hadn't been for some of the other men who stood by me and persuaded them over, it would have been all day with me. One big brawny Irishman in particular, Larry Phelan by name, stood up for the boss, and would not hear of any man quitting. The men had been discussing the situation one night around the fire in the bunk-house, and a half-dozen of them had announced their intention of quitting at once. Larry had been leaning against the door-post, and at this speech he grasped a hand-spike near him and, squaring his broad shoulders, exclaimed, "Ye miserable traitors! ye scrawny mongrel pups! the first wan of yez that thry's to go through this dure will be after havin' a broken head, or me name's not Larry Phelan!"

"Well, we worked away until it came the first of March with about half our logs at the river, and only three or four weeks to get the rest out. It was all up to me. This is the way I figured it out. Doing our very utmost the way we had been working we could have only two-thirds of the remaining logs at the river by the time it broke up. What was to be done? The teams could not stand it to work night and day. Finally I put them on shifts. It took five hours for a man and team to get the logs on, go down with a load, dump them off and get back to camp. After every trip I made him unhitch and unharness, feed his team and rest three hours, keeping this up day and night. It was a tremendous strain; but—we made it.

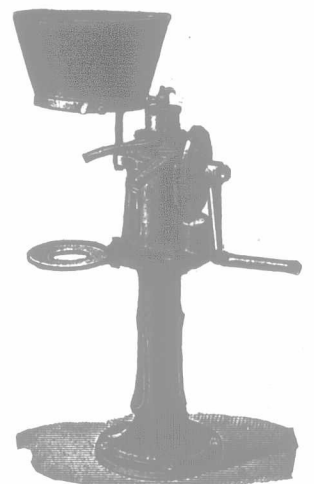
"The last day or two before we finished was very warm. The sun was really hot, and the snow seemed to be melting like lard on a hot stove. The men were working with feverish anxiety, for in some places the snow was getting very thin. At the last they even had to double the teams over some of the bare spots, but we got the last load there in time, about nine o'clock of the same night the river broke up. The whole gang was there to help unload, and when the last stick was out on the pile three mighty cheers burst on the air. 'It's mighty interesting to carry through a thing like that,' he wound up. 'But even when difficulties were at their worst I never dreamed of failure. That doesn't enter into the list of possibilities with a lumberman.'



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