

prairie route, each holding to a twin. Eight or nine trunks and boxes are also landed. Dickie and Birdie look about them for the car they expect to meet them. There is no vehicle whatever in sight but a big farm wagon, on the high seat of which Buck Calhoun lounges, with the reins loosely in his hand. As the Dayton's look about them, Buck leisurely cuts a big chunk of chewing tobacco from a plug, chucks it into his mouth, takes a slow chew, spits and then, taking his time, descends from the wagon. He is not a picturesque figure, though he looks hardy and capable. ~~xxxxxxx~~ His dress consists of a dirty and much patched pair overalls, with broken galluses over the shoulders, and a disreputable and battered looking old hat on his head. Buck is a chunky, hardy looking man of about 25, with a wide humorous face, capable, tough, dependable and lovable, and full of a quaint humor, which twists across his face upon every excuse. He saunters over cheerfully to the Dayton's, and addresses them as:

"Howdy lady and gent. Guess you're the guys the boss telephoned me to meet. How're yourselves?"

He extends a big, work hardened and soiled hand that Birdie stares at with aversion, and which causes Dickie to wince as he grips his delicate fingers with it.

Buck points to the trunks &c. and asks if they are there. They nod, and he says:

"I'll give you a hand then 'bo".

Dick as he realizes that Buck actually means for him to help put the trunks aboard asks him if he takes him for a coal