

No. 201

EDISON FILM

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THE GREAT TRAIN



ROBBERY



TRADE
Thomas A. Edison
MARK



1903
Thomas A. Edison
MADE

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THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY.

This sensational and highly tragic subject will certainly make a decided "hit" whenever shown. In every respect we consider it absolutely the superior of any moving picture film ever made. It has been posed and acted in faithful duplication of the genuine "Hold Ups" made famous by various outlaw bands in the far West, and only recently the East has been shocked by several crimes of the frontier order, which fact will increase the popular interest in this great *Headline Attraction*.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES.

SCENE I.

Interior of railroad telegraph office; two masked robbers enter and compel the operator to set the "signal block" to stop the approaching train, also making him write a fictitious order to the engineer to take water at this station, instead of at "Red Lodge," their regular watering stop. The train comes to a stand-still; conductor comes to the window, and the frightened operator delivers the order while the bandits crouch out of sight, at the same time keeping their revolvers trained on him. No sooner does the conductor leave than they fall upon the operator, bind and gag him, then hastily depart to catch the moving train.

SCENE II.

Railroad water tank. The bandit band are seen hiding behind the tank as a train stops to take water (under false order dictated as shown in Scene I). Just before she pulls out they stealthily board the train between the express car and the tender.

SCENE III.

Interior of express car. Messenger is hastily engaged with his duties. Becoming alarmed at an unusual sound, he goes to the door, and peeping through the key hole, discovers two men trying to break in. He starts back in a bewildered manner, quickly recovers, in great thought of the valuable "iron key" which he is holding, then throws the key through the open window. Perhaps he is never to notice himself behind a pile of trunks, etc., by the capturing the "signal block" key, succeeded in effecting an entrance, then the messenger, the messenger opens the door, and the robbers enter. One of the robbers, finding it locked, he catches the messenger, and the messenger is gagged. The robbers then take the key and escape with it. After the messenger is gagged, the robbers escape with the key.

SCENE IV

This thrilling scene was taken from the mail car showing the tender and interior of locomotive cab, while the train is running forty miles an hour. Meanwhile some of the bandits are robbing the mail car, two others are seen climbing over the tender, one of them holding up the engineer, the other covering the fireman, who seizes a coal shovel and climbs up on the tender where a desperate fight takes place with the outlaw. They struggle fiercely all over the tank, having several narrow escapes from being hurled over the side of the tender. Finally they fall, with the robber on top. He grabs a lump of coal, and strikes the fireman on the head rendering him senseless. He then hurls the body from the swiftly moving train. The bandits then compel the engineer to bring the train to a stop.

SCENE V.

Shows the train coming to a stop; the engineer leaving the locomotive, uncoupling it from train, then pulling ahead about one hundred feet in the face of the robbers' pistols.

SCENE VI.

Exterior of passenger coaches. The bandits compel the passengers to leave coaches with hands aloft, and line up along the tracks; one of the robbers covers them with large pistols in either hand, while the others ransack travellers' pockets. A passenger makes an attempt to escape but is instantly shot down. After securing everything of value, the band terrorize the passengers by firing their revolvers in the air, then make safe their escape on the locomotive.

SCENE VII.

The Desperadoes board the locomotive with their booty, command the engineer to start his machine, and disappear in the distance.

SCENE VIII

The Robbers bring the engine to a stop several miles from the scene of the "Hold Up," and take to the mountains.

SCENE IX

A beautiful scene in a valley. The bandits come down the side of a hill crossing a narrow stream. Mounting their horses, which were tied to nearby trees, they vanish into the wilderness.

SCENE X

Interior of telegraph office. The operator has fainted and caved on the floor. After a desperate struggle he succeeds in standing up. Leaning on the table, he telegraphs for assistance by manipulating the key with his chin, and then faints from exhaustion. His little daughter enters with her dinner pail. Discovering his condition, she cuts the ropes, and throwing a glass of water in his face restores him to consciousness. Arriving in a bewildered manner he suddenly recalls his thrilling experience, and rushes forth to summon a doctor.

SCENE XI

Interior of a dance hall. This typical western dance house scene shows a large number of men and women in a lively quadrille when a "Lone Hand" appears.

upon the scene, who is quickly spotted, pushed to the center of the hall, and compelled to do a jig, while the bystanders amuse themselves by shooting dangerously close to his feet. Suddenly the door opens and the half dead telegraph operator staggers in. The crowd gather around him, while he relates what has happened. Immediately the dance breaks up in confusion. The men secure their guns and hastily leave in pursuit of the Outlaws.

SCENE XII.

Shows the robbers mounted dashing down a rugged hill at a terrible pace, followed closely by a large posse, both parties firing as they proceed. One of the desperadoes is shot and plunges head first from his horse. Staggering to his feet he fires at his nearest pursuer, only to be shot dead.

SCENE XIII.

The remaining three bandits, thinking they had eluded their pursuers, have dismounted from their horses. After carefully surveying their surroundings, they begin to examine the contents of the mail bags. Grossly engaged in their work, they do not realize the approaching danger until too late. The pursuers, having left their horses, steal noiselessly down upon them until they are completely surrounded. A desperate battle then takes place, and after a brave stand the robbers and several of the posse bite the dust.

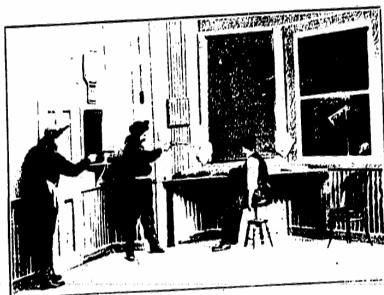
SCENE XIV.

A life size picture of Barnes, leader of the outlaw band, taking aim and firing point blank at each individual in the audience. (This effect is gained by foregrounding in making the picture.) The resulting excitement is great. This section of the scene can be used either to begin the subject or to end it, as the operator may choose.

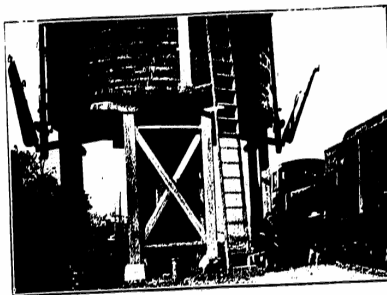
THE END.

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SCENE I - SENDING THE FALSE ORDER UNDER COMPELSION



SCENE II - THE BANDITS BOARD THE TRAIN



SCENE III - THE BANDITS BREAK INTO THE EXPRESS CAR



SCENE III - CONTINUED - RIFLING OF THE SAFE



SCENE IV - THE FIGHT ON THE TENDER



SCENE IV - CONTINUED - THE ESCAPE OF THE BANDITS



SCENE V—BANDITS COMPELLING THE ENGINEER TO
UNCUPLE HIS ENGINE



SCENE VI—THE PASSENGERS HELD UP



SCENE VI—CONTINUED—A PASSENGER'S ATTEMPT TO
ESCAPE



SCENE VI—CONTINUED—THE BANDIT FIRES



SCENE VI—CONTINUED—SHOT DOWN



SCENE VI—CONTINUED—CARING FOR THE DEAD



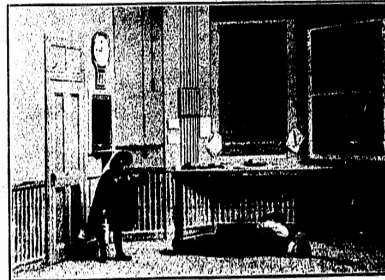
SCENE VII—REMOVING THE BOOTY FROM THE ENGINE CAB.



SCENE IX—THE BANDITS CROSSING A STREAM.



SCENE IX—Continued—GETTING AWAY.



SCENE X—THE OPERATOR'S PLIGHT DISCOVERED.



SCENE X—Continued—THE RESCUE.



SCENE XII—THE FOREST APPROACHES.