

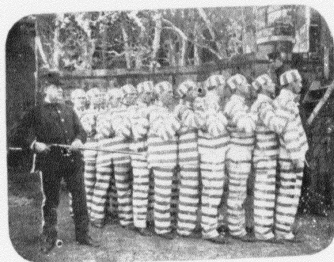
Supplement No. 101,

May, 1908

A startling new melodrama

# "THE SHADOW OF THE LAW"

Abounding in intensely exciting scenes



This excellent feature film

**WILL BE RELEASED MAY 21st**

Code Word: Shadolaw

**THE SELIG POLYSCOPE CO.**

45-47-49 E- Randolph Street

CHICAGO, - - U. S. A.

## THE SHADOW OF THE LAW

*The Accusation.*—A circus is showing in New York City. Among the ring performers there is a skillful bareback rider; a man named Frank La Rue. La Rue boards on a side street near the circus grounds and is seen to come out of the house at an early hour of the morning, when many people are on their way to the city. A murder has just been committed in front of his stopping place. He hastens to assist the woman, whom he supposes has fallen, and is horrified to find she has been murdered.

The perpetrator of the crime has fled from the scene, to await just the opportunity that now presents itself; that of transferring the guilt to another. He quickly finds an officer, points to La Rue, who is now releasing his hold upon the woman whom he thought to assist. He and the officer rush to the scene. Others are, by now, attracted. La Rue is arrested. Circumstances lead to his conviction, and he, an innocent man, is sentenced to life imprisonment in Sing Sing.

*He Escapes.*—While laboring in the prison yard La Rue recognizes an old friend, a former acrobat with whom he had performed. A plan of escape is quickly arranged and enacted. An exciting scene among the alert convicts and prison guards follows. No one else escapes, however.

*Five Years Later.*—La Rue is now performing with another circus, under the assumed name of Derring. While playing in a small

town in Nebraska, he is recognized by the county sheriff, who has descriptions and offers of reward for him. The sheriff attempts to arrest him, but the innocent man, with a vivid memory of his former imprisonment still casting a shadow of dread upon his existence, frenziedly dares to escape again. He succeeds; but straightway the sheriff and a deputy mount upon horses and pursue him.

*Rustic Sympathy.*—A prosperous farmer and his daughter, in town to see the circus, witness the exciting scene, the attempted arrest, the escape, and great commotion which followed. The next morning newspapers give a bold account of the affair, and details of the charge against La Rue; headed:

### EXCITING SCENE AT THE CIRCUS.

*Last Night Our Sheriff Recognized in Derring, the Bareback Rider, a Man Who Is Wanted in New York State for Murder.*

Reward placards, which cover the town and county, make a strong impression on the girl's mind, for the clever feats of the rider had appealed to her simple nature with more than a flickering admiration. His skill upon the horse had held her spellbound, and his final daring, in defiance of the officers, aroused her to the highest admiration for his bravery. Her only thought was, that, surely this man, who possessed so much of grace and bravery combined, could not also possess the brutal instinct of cowardly murder.

We see her and her father returning to their country home. The father has made use of his

visit to town by purchasing a new suit which he leaves on the bench on the porch. He has left the horse and buggy standing in the lot as he will have occasion to ride later.

*The Shadow Darkens.*—The sheriff and his deputy arrive at the farm house and accept the farmer's hospitable offer to refresh themselves. The horses are put up, and, after the officers and farmer enter the house, the hunted man appears at the door; unknowingly to any one but the girl. She almost screams with astonishment, but her unceasing admiration for him, and willingness to assist him, controls her presence of mind, and, instead, she quickly tells him his pursuers are within the house. Hopelessly the refugee draws his revolver, willing to die by his own hand rather than return to prison to suffer the death of his freedom. She eagerly restrains him, in a manner that conveys her heart-felt interest in his welfare. He perceives the unaffected sincerity of this fair country lass and submits to her earnest bidding. Though she knows she subjects herself to the law and to dishonor, by sheltering this man, she assists him to hide in the corn-crib and herself sits upon the porch steps; just as her father and the officers come out to feed the horses.

*The Shadow Darkens Deeper.*—Her father enters the barn, returns with a two-peck measure and starts for the corn-crib. The terrified daughter, alert to the necessity of prompt diplomacy, offers to get the corn, and, indicating the well, tells her father to get water for the horses. He assents, and, had the men suspected her purpose, they could easily have been convinced from the relieved uneasiness of her vigilance.



*Shadows of Hope.*—The horses are fed and the men immediately return to the house, for "a long time between refreshments" does not appeal to either of them. The girl is quick to open the door of the corn-crib. La Rue tells her, her goodness is to an unworthy and useless cause. He reveals that he is still in his ring costume—tights and spangles—making escape quite impossible. She thinks of her father's new suit which is still on the porch and hurriedly gets same. The refugee discards his mackintosh and substitutes the street clothes. Escape is their only solution and they venture it; take the horse and buggy in a mad dash to the nearby railway station. The clatter of horse hoofs on the pike alarms the officers. They detect their host's daughter fleeing with La Rue. To deter this escape, they have no time to loose. They run for their horses, mount, set spurs to the steeds, and follow the couple at a break-neck speed.

*The Shadow Deepens Again.*—The runaways are overtaken and captured; for, in fear of the girl being shot, La Rue does not antagonize his pursuers but jumps from the buggy and throws up his hands. The girl, as well, feels the stress of the law, for both she and the man of her coverture are arrested.

Next we see them brought before the county judge, before whom La Rue is to go through the formality of being sent back to New York. He beseeches an acquittal for the girl, for her share in his effort to escape.

*Darker Grows the Shadow.*—La Rue repeatedly asserts his innocence, but to deaf ears. Then a telegram arrives from the governor of New York State, worded: "A dying convict has

confessed to the crime for which La Rue alias Derring is charged. Release him."

*The Shadow Lifts.*—With a true western love for justice, the couple are made the hero and heroine of the hour. The judge proposes three cheers for the bravest, smartest girl in Platte county which the assembled officers and citizens give with an honest will. The scene closes with La Rue telling the crowd how the little woman saved his life by preventing him from killing himself, and how she assisted him in his last effort to escape.

*Hope Without a Shadow.*—And we know that happiness has now opened its path for our hero, and surely the trials that were necessary to bring about this meeting between he and his protector, who so graciously befriended him in *The Shadow of the Law*, will not soon be forgotten.

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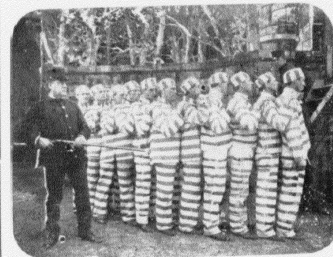
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