

THE ROBBER BARON OF ENRON

**Book and lyrics by Scott Guy
Music by John Philip Sousa**

“The time has come to face the fact that the forces of capital and industry have outgrown the forces of our government.”

**Henry Demarest Lloyd
March 1881**

THE ROBBER BARON OF ENRON

Book and lyrics by Scott Guy
Music by John Philip Sousa

Time

Summer, 1883

Place

at the abrupt end of an unfinished railroad,
in the middle of Texas

Characters

Captain Undershaft, the robber baron
Percy Ledgerdockets, his accountant
Judge Nix, in the Captain's pocket
The Widow Stonewall, a Georgia peach with a mean six-shooter
Mercy Templewhite, a suffragette

Railmen, mainly migrants and immigrants
Daughters of Boston, suffragettes

A note on the casting of the Ensemble

Historically, of course, the Railmen workers would have been Chinese, Russian, African, Irish, Polish, and so forth. Casting of diverse ethnicities in the roles of the Railmen is encouraged, but not required.

Although three Railmen and three Ladies have been assigned individual lines and solos, these parts may be divided and re-distributed among the men and women of the ensemble as the production requires.

The Robber Baron of Enron

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ACT ONE

An unfinished set of railroad tracks abruptly ends far stage right. The rest of the stage is sagebrush and a few shanties. In the distance, a ramshackle farmhouse. A CROWD OF RAILMEN, grimy, throw down their railroad tools. **Strike!**

RAILMEN

STRIKE! STRIKE! A RAILROAD STRIKE!
WE WON'T GIVE IN UNTIL WE WIN
A PAYRAISE!

TOM

SO LAY DOWN YOUR COMP'NY SHOVELS!
AND PICK UP YOUR IMMIGRANT PRIDE.

RAILMEN

THOUGH WE LIVE IN SHANTY HOVELS
WE'LL SURVIVE BECAUSE WE'RE STRONG INSIDE.

DINNER PAIL

IT'S THE END OF THE RUN, MY BROTHERS.

HOSS

WE'VE BEEN SILENT FAR TOO LONG.

RAILMEN

WE WILL LEAD THE WAY FOR OTHERS.
FELLOW IMMIGRANTS, BE STRONG!

TOM

STAY TOGETHER, BE UNITED.
LET THEM KNOW JUST HOW FIRMLY WE STAND.
FOR A QUARTER MORE AN HOUR,
A QUARTER MORE EV'RY HOUR WE DEMAND!

RAILMEN

FOR A QUARTER MORE AN HOUR WE STRIKE!
NOT A CENT LESS. WE'LL PREVENT LESS.
IT'S UNITED THAT WE ALL --

(A railman MESSENGER rushes in.)

MESSENGER

The management offers us a raise of a nickel an hour!

RAILMEN

We'll take it!

FOR A NICKEL MORE AN HOUR!
NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD IN MIND
STILL, A PAYRAISE. AN OKAY RAISE.
AND UNITED THAT WE ALL STAND!

MESSENGER

Gentlemen, and railworkers, I give you the man who has broken the strike, the man who will put us back to work, Captain Undershaft!

(CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT enters, swaggering, his epaulets and high shiny boots out of place with his business suit.)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

(triumphant)

Welcome back to work, boys!

RAILMEN

HAIL THEE, CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT!
OUR HERO, CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT!
HOORAY!

HOSS

Tell us how you did it, Captain Undershaft!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Well...! As you know, boys, in the past, the management of my company, Undershaft, Crookshank, Viceroy and Scrue....

RAILMEN

(boo! hiss!)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

(addressing audience)

Incidentally, ladies and gentlemen, if at any time during this entertainment you wish to boo or hiss, that will be considered patriotic and perfectly acceptable. Shall we try that? In the past, the management of my company, Undershaft, Crookshank, Viceroy and Scrue....

(Audience boos and hisses, we hope.)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

(to audience)

You would have made great unwashed laborers.

(back to the RAILMEN)

But I was never like my business partners! My three evil partners never cared about poor immigrant workers. But I care. I, Captain Undershaft, I bought out Crookshank, Viceroy and Scrue....

RAILMEN (AND AUDIENCE)

(boo hiss)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

(to audience)

Well, you don't have to do it every time, or we'll be here all night.

(to RAILMEN)

I bought 'em out so I can offer you a decent wage. A nickel an hour!

RAILMEN

(RRRAY!)

TOM

Wait, we're we holding out for a nickel an hour more.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

A nickel more, a nickel less, whatever you boys want.

HOSS

Uhh, we want the nickel more.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Why then, it's all yours, boys!

RAILMEN

(RRRAY!)

(CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT shakes the hand of each and every worker. **For a Nickel More.**)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT
WHEN A MANAGER RESPECTS YOU....

RAILMEN
AND YOU DO, YOU DO, CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT
THEN HE HONORS AND PROTECTS YOU.

RAILMEN
YOU PROTECT US ALL, CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT
FOR JUST A NICKEL MORE,
I'LL YOUR DIGNITY RESTORE.
I WILL NEVERMORE IGNORE
WHAT NICKELS ARE FOR.

RAILMEN
WHAT NICKELS ARE FOR!

Unless....
CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Unless?
RAILMEN

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT
WHAT IF I SHARED MY SUCCESS?
WHAT IF I GAVE YOU COMP'NY SHARES?
IF YOU TOOK AN HOURLY NICKEL LESS,
WE ALL COULD BE SUCH MILLIONAIRES.
WHAT IF YOUR NICKELS THUS WERE SPENT
TO GIVE YOU FORTY NINE PERCENT?
HMMMM?
(imitating a drumroll)
RRRR....

RAILMEN
RRRR...RRRR....
FORTY-NINE PERCENT....

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

JOIN ME! OWN THE COMP'NY STOCK.
JOIN ME! HEAR THE FUTURE KNOCK.
JOIN ME! BE A VOTING BLOCK
FOR YOUR COMP'NY AND ITS GLORY.

RAILMEN

MAYBE OWN SOME COMP'NY STOCK.
MAYBE HEAR THE FUTURE KNOCK.
MAY WE BE A VOTING BLOCK
FOR OUR COMP'NY AND ITS GLORY?

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

WORKERS TRUSTING MANAGEMENT!
THE MORE YOU WORK, THE MORE WE MAKE!
IF WE'RE HAND IN HAND, WE'RE CONFIDENT
WE ALL SHOULD BUY NEAR EQUAL STAKE.
IT ISN'T AVARICIOUSNESS
TO WANT TO TAKE A NICKEL LESS.

TOM

YOU WERE A HERO OF THE CIVIL WAR,
EXECUTING BRILLIANT CAMPAIGNS:
A MASTER OF MILITARY ARTS.
BUT YOU ARE MORE! SO MUCH MORE!
A HERO IN OUR HEARTS.

RAILMEN

IN OUR HEARTS.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

(playing on their emotions like a drum)
TA TA TA TA TA TA....

RAILMEN

TA TA TA TA TA TA....

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

FOR A NICKEL, A NICKEL,
AMERICAN MIRACLE WAITING FOR YOU.
TA TA TA TA TA! IN AMERICA!
A NICKEL INVESTED TA TA TA TA
IN AMERICA TA TA TA TA....

RAILMEN & UNDERSHAFT

TA TA TA TA TA TA....

RAILMEN

JOIN HIM! OWN THE COMP'NY STOCK.
 JOIN HIM! HEAR THE FUTURE KNOCK.
 JOIN HIM! BE A VOTING BLOCK
 FOR YOUR COMP'NY AND ITS GLORY.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

TA TA TA TA TINK!
 IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.
 WE'LL HELP TO BUILD AMERICA,
 FINANCE AND GILD AMERICA,
 WE'LL BUY OUR OWN AMERICAN MIRACLE
 WHERE I CAN HEAR A CLL-LINK!

RAILMEN

WE'LL HELP TO BUILD AMERICA,
 FINANCE AND GILD AMERICA,
 WE'LL BUY OUR OWN AMERICAN MIRACLE
 WHERE I CAN HEAR A CLL-LINK!
 JOIN HIM, ETC.

YES! WE SAY YES! RRRR!
 A NICKEL LESS!

(PERCY enters, on a bicycle. The bicycle is altered to include another set of wheels on its right, and an empty casing for what looks like it might hold an engine of sorts.)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Ah, here's Percy, my faithful faithful accountant! Never a penny out of place. Just in time, Percy, these boys have just settled for a nickel an hour less.

RAILMEN

A nickel an hour less, rah!, a nickel an hour l --

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Yes, yes, we've established that. Now -

(PERCY is having troubles dismounting the bicycle.)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

What is that you're riding, Percy?

PERCY

(dismounting *lazzi*)

This? Why, this is the future of America!

HOSS

I thought we were the future of America.

PERCY

It's an invention I've been working on -- off the clock, sir, on my own time!

RAILMEN & UNDERSHAFT

But what is it?

PERCY

Well, I don't yet know what to call it. It's an external steam-driven thing, a hydrosynthesizing quadracycle, or it will be one day. Just imagine it! A four-wheeled vehicle which can go forward on its own steam, without peddling! Mark my words, gentlemen, one day, maybe a hundred years from now, mankind will be racing around on paved roads at speeds in excess of twenty miles an hour.

(The RAILMEN roar with laughter.)

TOM

Twenty miles an hour!

DINNER PAIL

It'll never happen.

PERCY

Yes, it will, my friends.

(PERCY struts about his quadracycle. **The Spirit of Inventiveness.**)

PERCY

THE SPIRIT OF INVENTIVENESS
FOR ELEVATING HUMANKIND:
IF WE CAN DREAM, THEN WE CAN BUILD.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A YANKEE MIND!

THE SPIRIT OF INVENTIVENESS
 WILL PRY THE WHEEL OF PROGRESS LOOSE,
 TRANSFORM THE WORLD AND CHANGE OUR LIVES.
 THERE'S NOTHING THAT WE CAN'T PRODUCE!

INVENTORS, WE ACCEPT OUR FATE:
 IDEAS WE ACCELERATE,
 INGENUITY, ACUITY
 INTO A PERPETUITY
 WITH EVERY OTHER UITY,
 A DU(I)TY TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY GREAT!

O HYDRO-SYNTHESIZED STEAM-COMBUSTING,
 FORWARD-THRUSTING, TRANSPORTATIONAL
 QUADRACYCLE THING.

A what?

A HYDRO-SYNTHESIZED STEAM-COMBUSTING,
 FORWARD-THRUSTING, TRANSPORTATIONAL
 QUADRACYCLE THING.

IT'S NOT YET PERFECT, STILL HAS FLAWS,
 BUT I WILL NOT GIVE UP BECAUSE
 INGENUITY, ACUITY
 INTO A PERPETUITY
 WITH EVERY OTHER UITY
 TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY GREATER THAN IT WAS!

THE SPIRIT OF INVENTIVENESS
 FOR ELEVATING HUMANKIND:
 IF WE CAN DREAM, THEN WE CAN BUILD.
 THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A YANKEE MIND!

O HYDRO-SYNTHESIZED STEAM-COMBUSTING,
 FORWARD-THRUSTING, TRANSPORTATIONAL
 QUADRACYCLE THING.

UNDERSHAFT AND RAILMEN

HYDRO-SYNTHESIZED STEAM-COMBUSTING,
 FORWARD-THRUSTING, TRANSPORTATIONAL
 QUADRACYCLE THING.
 INGENUITY, ACUITY
 INTO A PERPETUITY
 WITH EVERY OTHER UITY,
 A DU(I)TY, ETC.

PERCY & UNDERSHAFT

THE SPIRIT OF INVENTIVENESS
FOR ELEVATING HUMANKIND:
IF WE CAN DREAM, THEN WE CAN BUILD.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A YANKEE MIND!

ALL

THAT'S THE YANKEE MIND!

(The RAILMEN examine PERCY's bicycle. CAPTAIN
UNDERSHAFT takes PERCY aside, sotto.)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

I need you, Percy, to use that great spirit of invention to figure out how the 49% of the company I just handed over to these boys is never going to turn a profit, whereas my 51% turns, oh, say, twice the profit it deserves.

(Does the audience boo/hiss here? From henceforth, the actor playing the Captain must gauge whether to elicit or ignore audience response to his behavior, and create *ad libitum* retorts as appropriate.)

PERCY

But that is not possible, sir. In order for two approximately equal halves of the company to show unequal bottom lines of profit, why, there would have to be two different sets of accounts.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Two sets of accounts? Two sets of accounts?! That would be illegal! And we can't have that! But, Percy, just for academics' sake, would you show me what that might look like? I'm not saying I'd ever make use of them - ever! - but...just so I know what never to do, would you show me two sets of accounts?

PERCY

To make sure you never get in trouble, sure, certainly, sir, I'll show you those two sets of books. For you, Captain Undershaft, anything! You're an American hero!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Good lad, fabulous lad, wonderful lad!

(CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT exits. There's a train whistle, off right, which attracts the RAILMEN's attention.)

TOM

The train has arrived!

DINNER PAIL

The train, the train!

(The men gather in excited anticipation. **The Train from Boston.**)

RAILMEN & PERCY

THE TRAIN HAS COME,
 THE TRAIN HAS COME FROM BOSTON!
 IT'S SMOKIN',
 YES, IT'S SMOKIN' AND EXHAUSTIN'.
 SEE ALL THAT COAL?
 HOW MUCH Y'THINK IT'S COSTIN'?
 BUT LOOK!
 THERE'S SOMEONE GETTING OFF THE TRAIN.
 IT'S PASSENGERS FROM BOSTON!
 AND O, SUCH PASSENGERS, SUCH PASSENGERS....

(Storming onto the stage now is a battalion of suffragettes, well-coiffed, in nice, well-tailored full-length dresses. They are spearheaded by the energetic but wholesome MERCY TEMPLEWHITE. The RAILMEN gawk. **Let Us Hear You Raise Your Voice.**)

LADIES

(from offstage initially)

WE'VE BEEN WHISTLESTOPPING SEVEN MONTHS
 AND WE'LL WHISTLE SEVENTY MORE!
 WE'VE TRAVELED TO HEAR YOU SHOUT ALOUD
 A THOUGHT YOU THOUGHT WAS SILENT BEFORE.
 LET US HEAR YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE:
 "GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE!
 GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE!"
 SO LET EVERY WOMAN HERE REJOICE
 AND HEARTILY QUOTE:
 "GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE!"

MERCY

It is time the women in this country get a right to vote. The women in this country represent half of the citizenry, so they should receive half the votes. Why should the men build themselves a country which ignores and excludes half of the people living in it!? Ladies and gentlemen, you are building a new city right here, in a new country. Why not build it together!? Let us hear you women! Everyone woman in this town raise your voice now with us in support. Ready? One, two, three!

LADIES

LET US HEAR YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE.
 "GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE!
 GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE!
 SO LET EVERY WOMAN HERE REJOICE
 AND HEARTILY QUOTE:
 GIVE WOMEN THE VOTE!

MERCY

(off the silence)

Come, don't be shy! One, two, three!

LADIES

LET US HEAR YOU RAISE YOUR VOICE!
 "GIVE WOMEN THE..."
 (beginning to catch on there are only men here)
 "GIVE WOMEN...."
 SO LET EVERY WOMAN
 RE --
 AND....

MERCY

(peering out at the crowd of men)

Uhhhh. Where. are. the. women?

DINNER PAIL

Aren't no ladies here, ladies.

HOSS

Aren't even no town.

MERCY

Why not?

TOM

When the rail strike struck, we just dropped our shovels and sat us ourselves down right here. Shantied ourselves some shanties and waited it out for decent wages and fair treatment, which we got! 49% ownership in the future of America!

RAILMEN

Huzzah for Captain Undershaft, a great American hero!

TOM

But we digress. We call this place Enron, because it's at the end of the run but it's just a shantytown, ladies, and there aren't any ladies in shantytown, ladies. Unless....

DINNER PAIL

(a little lascivious)

Unless....

TOM

Unless you'll be our ladies, ladies?

HOSS

Oh, please be the ladies of shantytown, ladies.
(slurps unconsciously)

LADIES

(nervous giggle)

RAILMEN

(lascivious slurp)

LADIES

(concerned giggle)

RAILMEN

(leering)

MERCY

It is possible we have made a mistake. We thank you for your time, but now we shall betake ourselves back to the train.

PERCY

I'm afraid the train has already departed from the station, bound back for Boston.

MERCY

Departed! How can it depart the station? This is the end of the run! What did it do, go backwards?

PERCY

You must have noticed the train on which you've been whistlestopping had no caboose, but rather two engines, one to push westward, the other to pull it back eastward.

RAILMEN

(leer! slurp!)

TOMASINA

Oh, why did we not notice there was no caboose at the stationhouse!

DUCKY

Who could have foretold our honor would be in danger for boarding a train with no caboose?

DINNER PAIL

We'll be your caboose, ladies, if you'd let us pull into your stationhouse -

(PERCY elbows DINNER PAIL into silence.)

HENRIETTA

Gulp.

MERCY

Ladies, do not panic yet. We will catch the next train. Please, sir....

PERCY

Percy. Percy Ledgerdockets.

MERCY

Mr. Ledgerdockets, when is the next train expected?

PERCY

Let's see....

(pulls out a pocketwatch)

October?

RAILMEN

(leer! slurp!)

DUCKY

(whimper)

MERCY

No, ladies, still stave off your panic, stave your panic still! We are daughters of very important men in Boston. All we need do is send a telegraph to our fathers and ask them to send the train back to us.

LADIES

(cheers!)

PERCY

A fine plan, Miss....

MERCY

Mercy. Mercy Templewhite.

PERCY

A fine plan, Miss Templewhite, but for one thing. There's no telegraph office in Enron. The next telegraph office is in Lubbock, a three days' walk from here.

MERCY

Lubbock...?

PERCY

I'm afraid you're trapped here in Enron until October.

RAILMEN

(leer)

MERCY

Very well, ladies, you may now officially panic.

(THEY do. The RAILMEN leer lasciviously. **The End of the Run.**)

RAILMEN

HERE, DEAR....WE'RE NEAR....

DINNER PAIL

SSSSSO, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT A CABOOSE?

RAILMEN

UNGG....

HOSS

MY SHANTY IS SCANTY
BUT HANDY FOR USE.

RAILMEN

(leering)
WE'LL TRY NOT TO LEEEEER....

TOM

YOU SAID YOU WERE NEEDING A TELEGRAM?

RAILMEN

LEEEER....

TOM

MY MORSE CODE IS PERFECT DOT DOT DOT, MA'AM....

RAILMEN

DOT DOT DOT DOT DOT DOT DOT
DOT DOT DOT --

PERCY

GENTLEMEN, TREAT THEM LIKE LADIES!

RAILMEN

WE WILL. SLURRP.
LADIES OF BOSTON, WILL YOU BE OUR SLURRP....
SORRY, BUT WE'RE AT THE END OF OUR SSLURP....
END OF OUR RUN.
YOU'RE AT THE END OF THE RUN.
YOU'RE IN ENRON. SLURRP!

LADIES

WE LADIES FROM BOSTON ARE DELICATE MAIDENS
AND WE'RE FRAIL.
WE'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE
ANY MEN SO HEARTY AND HALE.
WE LADIES ARE FRAIL FRAIL FRAIL
FRAIL FRAIL FRAIL FRAIL.
MUST YOU ACCOST ON
US FRAIL DELICATE MAIDENS OF BOSTON?
ETC.

RAILMEN

DOT DOT DOT DOT DOT....
 END OF THE RUN, YOU'RE IN ENRON.
 END RUN, YOU'RE IN ENRON...
 LOOK WHAT THEY GAVE US IN ENRON!

LADIES

WILL THEY ENSLAVE US?
 AN END RUN?
 WILL SOMEONE SAVE US?
 END OF THE RUN NOW IN ENRON!

PERCY

(interrupting)
 MAY I REMIND YOU THAT LADIES OBJECT
 TO TREATMENT THAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED
 AS LESS THAN RESPECT?
 THE WAY TO WOO A WOMAN MUST BE CORRECT
 WITH ETIQUETTE AND ELOQUENCE
 AND ALWAYS RESPECT.
 THOUGH WE MAY NEVER SEE SOCIETY AGAIN
 THAT'S ALL MORE REASON TO BEHAVE LIKE GENTLEMEN.
 WHAT WOULD YOUR MOTHERS SAY?
 ON THAT NOW REFLECT.
 A WOMAN'S HONOR MIGHT DEPEND
 UPON YOUR RESPECT.

RAILMEN/LAIDES

SHE/WE CAN DEPEND UPON RESPECT.

(PERCY successfully intervenes with his bicycle,
 giving the women something behind which to hide.)

MERCY

Mr. Percy, I surely desire to thank you for defending a woman's
 honor. You're a gentleman and a -- bicyclist, what is that?

PERCY

It's an invention of mine involving an external steam-driven
 hydrosynthesized quadracycle thing.

MERCY

Well, I....

(overwhelmed by him in every aspect suddenly)
 Nice spokes.

PERCY

Likewise, ma'am.

MERCY

Mercy.

PERCY

You can say that again.

(THEY are rescued by the rootin'-tootin' entrance of the WIDOW STONEWALL. SHE packs a six-shooter and a buttery Georgia-peach smile. **The South Will Rise Again.**)

WIDOW STONEWALL

STOP! HALT! CEASE AND DESIST!

(SHE shoots her gun. It gets everyone's attention. CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT comes running in with a rifle.)

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

IT'S WAR! IT'S WAR! IT'S WAR!
 HEAD FOR THE BUNKER, BOYS,
 AND I WILL COVER YOU.
 IT'S CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT ONCE MORE!
 IT'S CAPTAIN UNDER --

(SHE shoots her gun again.)

WIDOW STONEWALL

Don't you point that thing at me, you Yankee!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Who you calling a Yankee, you Confederate?

(HE shoots his gun.)

WIDOW STONEWALL

You'll be singing out the other side of your Northern mouth once you see what came on the train from Boston for me, at last, at last, at last!!

(SHE puts down her gun to unfurl a paper, with great relish.)

MERCY

(sotto to PERCY)

I thought you said there weren't any ladies in Enron.

PERCY

(shrugs, and gestures at the WIDOW)

The Widow Stonewall. I stand by my statement.

MERCY

Ah.

WIDOW STONEWALL

(shoving the paper in UNDERSHAFT's face)

This, my dastardly Captain Undershaft, suh, is from the County Recorder! It's a Deed of Property which states unequivocally that this land that everyone is standing on, this land belongs to me, and me alone, and without my permission, your railroad cannot pass through here, and do I grant you that permission, Captain Undershaft? I do not!!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

With all undue --

WIDOW STONEWALL

Ah, ah, I'm doing the talking here! You, suh, are a Northerner, and I, suh, am a Southerner. I do not forgive you, suh, for your part in the Civil War, nor for ruining this country mine! This piece of paper -- sorry...let me do this right....

(SHE levels her gun with one hand, and the paper with the other. Continue with **The South Will Rise Again.**)

WIDOW STONEWALL

NOW I C'N TELL YOU WHAT YOU DASN'T DO HERE.
YOUR LI'L OL' RAILROAD,
IT AIN'T PASSIN' THROUGH HERE.

(batting her eyes)

SORRY, YANKEE!

(doing battle again)

BUT SOME DAY SOON THE SOUTH WILL RISE AGAIN!
SO, CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT, THOUGH YOU BE HAUGHTY,
THIS PIECE OF PAPER, IT GIVES ME AUTHOR'TY.

(batting her eyes)

SORRY, YANKEE!

(doing battle again)

THIS PAPER SAYS THE SOUTH WILL RISE AGAIN!
IT'S WAR! IT'S WAR! IT'S WAR!
THE NORTHERN MEN DEFEATED
BY A SINGLE SOUTHERN CITIZEN,
A SOUTHERN BELLE,
A SOUTHERN BELLE BEAT NORTHERN MEN!
GET READY WHEN, AMEN, AMEN,
THE SOUTH WILL RISE, WILL RISE AGAIN!

HOSS

I'll take some pie.

WIDOW STONEWALL

(disgusted)

I don't mean it literally. Ain't a one of you ever gonna taste
a bite o' my peach pie. Now, you and your rail-splittin' boss
here has ezactly five days to git that rail off'n my durn
property, or I start shootin!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Widow Stonewall, I'll give you a hundred dollars for your land.

WIDOW STONEWALL

I'll give you a hundred beads of buckshot in your backside.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

A thousand dollars --

(thinks better of it)

-- eight hundred.

WIDOW STONEWALL

I don't think you understand, Captin Undershaft. When your Yankee marchin' done grab my cotton-pickin' land, my husband an I, we done come out here to be ourselves cattle-ranchers. But then one of your fancy bankers from Ohio done come out here and horseshaggled us out of our longhorns, which done kill my husband from grief of shame. Don't you see, Captin Undershaft, this land all I got, and now I got myself this provin' Deed of Property, ain't now nothing I'd like to see more than to ruin you and your Yankee railroad company by preeventing you from finishing it through to Caleefornee. Five days to remove that rail; I made myself clear, Captin Undershaft?

(fires her six-shooter)

Captin Undershaft?

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

(implacable)

Widow Stonewall, my dear discharming Southern belle of the ball-peen hammer --

WIDOW STONEWALL

Mah, how you can talk to a girl!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

I don't need five days.

WIDOW STONEWALL

All the better.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

I need about ten minutes.

WIDOW STONEWALL

You that strong you can pick up those rails by your l'il ol' big self?

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

No, but I'm friends with Judge Nix, and he and I will find a way to annul that document, or my name isn't...Captain Undershaft!

(HE exits with a flourish so rousing that the RAILMEN begin with a cheer again.)

RAILMEN

HAIL THEE, CAPTAIN UNDERSHHHH --

(But they are quickly silenced by the barrel of the WIDOW's gun.)

HOSS

Glurp.

(The men gather together quietly, uncertain what to do. MERCY shimmers her way to the WIDOW.)

MERCY

You're a very brave woman, Widow Stonewall.

WIDOW STONEWALL

No, but I am a very good shot.

MERCY

I mean, you live out here at the end of the run, the only woman in the midst of all these men! You must live in constant fear of them....

WIDOW STONEWALL

Like I say, I'm a very good shot. Besides....

(SHE strides towards the men; THEY recoil from her, repulsed rather than fearful.)

WIDOW STONEWALL

I don't think I'm in very much danger.

MERCY

Oh, that's so sad.

WIDOW STONEWALL

(sudden self-pity and loneliness)

Yes. Yes, it is.

MERCY

Don't you ever...?

WIDOW STONEWALL

(growing touchy)

Yes. Yes, I do.

MERCY

So couldn't you sometimes --

WIDOW STONEWALL

Ask me one more question and I shoot you right through the
dimples, do I make myself plain, Miss...Miss --?

MERCY

Mercy.

WIDOW STONEWALL

Now we're getting somewhere.

(shouting back to the boys, readying to leave)

Five days, boys!

(But her grand exit is foiled by the grander
entrance of JUDGE NIX; elderly, pompous, twitchy.
Trailing him is the triumphant CAPTAIN
UNDERSHAFT. **The Only Law.**)

JUDGE NIX

I don't think so.

WIDOW STONEWALL

Judge Nix!

JUDGE NIX

One and the same.

IT'S TRUE THAT I'M ALL THE LAW HERE IN TEXAS.
BUT WE NEED NOT LET THAT FACT EVER VEX US
FOR THOUGH CRIMINAL WOMEN'LL TRY TO DENY
AND A FELON'LL TELL AN ELABORATE LIE,
STILL WE MUST ASSUME JUSTICE
WILL WIN BY AND BY. BUT DON'T WORRY.
BOTH JUDGE AND THE JURY AM I.

I'M THE JUDGE AND I'M THE JURY
AND YOU'LL FIND OUT IN HURRY
THAT THIS SIMPLE LEGAL SYSTEM
SIMPLY HASN'T ANY FLAW.
I'M YOUR JUDGE AND YOUR ATTORENY
FROM YOUR CRADLE TO YOUR GURNEY.
WE HAVE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE
THAT I'M THE ONLY LAW.

(turning to them for acknowledgement)

Well?

ALL

YOU'RE THE ONLY LAW.

JUDGE NIX

YES, I'M THE ONLY LAW.
AND YOU ALL ONE DAY WILL NEED ME!
SO BE WARNED, YOU'D BETTER HEED ME:
MAKE THE LAW YOUR FRIEND FOREVER,
THAT'S MY BEST ADVICE FOR YOU.

THERE ARE MANY A VILLAINOUS PLAINTIFF
WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO ACQUAINT IF
WE ASSUME THE WORST AND JAIL THEM FIRST
BEFORE THEY GET THE CHANCE TO SUE.

A JUDGE IN TEXAS REFLECTS A SOCIETY
AND SO A JUSTICE, YOU TRUST HIS PROPRIETY.
EVERY LAWFULLY AWFUL ELONGATED PLEA
WILL DISPEL ANY FELONY YOU CAN FORESEE
SO THE REASONS MALFEASANCE AND YOU WILL AGREE
IS NO MATTER THE MATTER,
IT ALL GOES THROUGH ME.

I'M THE JUDGE AND I'M THE JURY
AND YOU'LL FIND OUT IN HURRY
THAT THIS SIMPLE LEGAL SYSTEM
SIMPLY HASN'T ANY FLAW.
I'M YOUR JUDGE AND YOUR ATTORENY
IN YOUR LONG LITIGIOUS JOURNEY.
WE HAVE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE
THAT I'M THE ONLY LAW.
(gestures to them for acknowledgement)

ALL

YOU'RE THE ONLY LAW.

JUDGE NIX

YES, I'M THE ONLY....
(cadenza)

THE ONLY LAW!

Now, is there something you wanted to ask me, Widow Stonewall?

WIDOW STONEWALL

This land you're wind-bagging so hard on belongs to me, and I demand this Yankee railroad git off it!

(SHE shoves the Deed into the Judge's face. HE studies it intently for precisely one-quarter second, then tut-tuts to UNDERSHAFT.)

JUDGE NIX

Oh. Oh, dear, Captain Undershaft, Captain Undershaft, this is bad for you. This is a Deed, indeed. She might have you, my war-bemedalled friend, she might just have you.

(But CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT presses some money into the Judge's hand.)

JUDGE NIX

(peers at the Deed again)

And then again....

(but)

No, there's an official notary seal from Boston, I'm afraid.

(The CAPTAIN palms the JUDGE more money.)

JUDGE NIX

And then again. And again?

(The CAPTAIN palms money a third time.)

JUDGE NIX

Ah. Didn't notice this before.

(clucking with pity at the WIDOW)

T-t-t-t-t....I have two words for you, Widow Stonewall, and they are: *eminent domain*.

WIDOW STONEWALL

Eminent what? I'll shoot you if you pull a fast one.

(SHE grabs her document back and looks at it, trying to follow what JUDGE NIX explains.)

JUDGE NIX

Eminent domain. Legal concept articulated in 1783 by our founding fathers asserting the right of the government -- in this case, me - to take private property - in this case yours, for public use, in this case, the railroad....

WIDOW STONEWALL

Take? What do you mean take? You can't just take someone's property!

JUDGE NIX

By virtue of the superior dominion of the government's sovereign power over all the lands within its jurisdiction, I'm afraid, my little Georgia peach, that I can, and I will.

(snatches her Deed)

And I did!

(Commotion.)

JUDGE NIX

The State of Texas hereby asserts its eminent domain right to purchase your land, Widow Stonewall, for the price of -

(counts her some change out of his pocket)

-- forty-seven cents!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

Gentlemen, you may now complete our railroad!

(The RAILMEN cheer; the WIDOW ignites. **Together**
Let Us Go.)

RAILMEN

(cheers!)

WIDOW STONEWALL

YOU CANNOT, MUST NOT, SHALL NOT
DARE PURSUE IT.
I HAVE THE DEEDS THAT SAY
YOU CANNOT DO IT.

JUDGE NIX

HAD 'EM, MADAME.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT/JUDGE NIX

YOU SEE THE LAW IS QUITE A HANDY THING!

TOM

Again Captain Undershaft has saved the day!

(The WIDOW STONEWALL exits, outraged.)

RAILMEN/LADIES

Hip hip hooray!

ONCE AGAIN THE CAPTAIN'S DONE IT!
CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT HAS WON IT!
AS HE WAS IN CIVIL WARFARE,
NO ONE EVER COULD BE MORE FAIR.
WE HAIL THEE CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT,
OUR HERO, CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT.
WE HAIL THEE CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT,
WE HAIL THEE CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

BECAUSE I CARE FOR YOU,
I'LL SHARE WHAT I HAVE BEGUN FOR YOU
AND I WILL DARE FOR YOU
FOR EVERY IMMIGRANT ONE OF YOU.
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL
BUT NONE OF ME IF NONE OF YOU.
TO WORK! TO WORK! TO WORK FOR ME!

RAILMEN

TO WORK! TO WORK! TO WORK FOR YOU!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

TOGETHER LET US GO
INTO THE FUTURE, SIDE BY SIDE,
BUILDING A RAILROAD WITH PRIDE.
AND WATCH OUR PROFITS GROW!
AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS ARE SATISFIED!

RAILMEN

TOGETHER LET US GO
INTO THE FUTURE, SIDE BY SIDE,
BUILDING A RAILROAD WITH PRIDE.
AND WATCH OUR PROFITS GROW!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT AND RAILMEN

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS ARE SATISFIED!

LADIES

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT,
PLEASE ADDRESS OUR ANXIETY
THAT YOU WILL PROMISE US
AN EQUAL GENDER SOCIETY?

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

ABSOLUTELY! RESOLUTELY!
AN EQUAL GENDER SOCIETY:
A MUST WITH ME, SO TRUST IN ME!

LADIES

WE TRUST IN THEE.
WE TRUST IN THEE!
TOGETHER LET US GO
INTO THE FUTURE, SIDE BY SIDE,
BUILDING A RAILROAD WITH PRIDE.
AND WATCH OUR PROFITS GROW!

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

AMERICAN WOMENFOLK ARE SATISFIED!

LADIES AND RAILMEN

TOGETHER LET US GO
INTO THE FUTURE, SIDE BY SIDE,
BUILDING A RAILROAD WITH PRIDE.
AND WATCH OUR PROFITS GROW!
AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE SATISFFF --

(Nearby the Widow Stonewall's ramshackle house,
there is a sudden rumble, and an explosion!)

MERCY

What is that!?

WIDOW STONEWALL

(rushing in)
A geyser! A geyser of thick black horrible oil.

JUDGE NIX

This land's unstable, Undershaft, too unstable to run a railroad
line through here, or build a town.

CAPTAIN UNDERSHAFT

We are all ruined, each and every one of us!