



The Robber Baron of Enron

Synopsis

1883, at the abrupt end of an unfinished railroad, in the middle of Texas.

Railroad Baron Captain Undershaft pacifies his mob of striking railmen by offering them 49% ownership in his rail company, and then coerces his naive bookkeeper, Percy Ledgerdockets, into creating two sets of books, to make sure the workers don't get a share of the company profits. Percy confesses his crime to a whistle-stopping suffragette, Mercy Templewhite, who is enthralled with the idea of falling in love with a convicted felon. Meantime, however, the Widow Stonewall shuts down Undershaft's company by producing property deeds which prove her the owner of the railroad's land. Undershaft's crony, Judge Nix, trumps the Widow by reclaiming the land by right of "eminent domain." Everyone is ruined, however, when a dreadful geyser of oil floods the land. But when Undershaft hits on a scheme to make Americans dependent on some sort of vehicle which would run on oil, he once again bamboozles his workers into buying shares for his new venture. The Widow, Percy and Mercy join forces and blow the whistle on Undershaft and Nix, patriotically confident in their ability to lobby for reform of securities laws, so that Americans will never again be duped by greedy oil companies.