MAR 12 1924

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THE DAYS OF '49

Photoplay in two reels

#1 SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE

Story by Karl Coolidge

Directed by Jacques Jaccard

Author of the Photoplay (under section 62)

Arrow Film Corporation of the U.S.

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"DAYS OF '49"

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Synopsis

Chapter 1.

The story opens with a covered wagon train wending its way to a promised land -- California. At this time California, under the rule of Mexico, is a region little known, and little traversed outside the chain of Franciscan missions that extend from San Diego, in the south, to Sonoma, in the north.

At Sonoma we find Judge Coleman and his son, Cal, awaiting an audience with Juan Bapitista Alvarado, the Governor. Meeting him, Judge Coleman inquires his attitude concerning American emigration, and is told by Alvarado that Americans will be warmly welcomed -- that they are the best colonizers in the world. Coleman is gratified, stating that his son Cal is just about to depart to guide an expected wagon train on back through the dangerous Indian country.

Also in Sonoma we discover three characters celebrated in Californian history. One is Captain Sutter, a man of great vision and character; another Robert Marsdon, unscrupulous and avaricious; the third Arabella Ryan, a woman of great magnetism -- and an increasing desire for fame and power. These three foresee that California is destined to become a land of great wealth, and have planned that it shall be theirs -- an Empire of the Western Seas.

The Governor has given Sutter a grant to a large tract of land where the present capitol of California, Sacramento, now stands, and here Sutter, Marsdon and Arabella propose to erect a fort that is later to become their central seat of government.

But -- a previous grant has been made to this district, to a family of the name of Cardosa. This worries Sutter, but Marsdon tells him that he need have no fears, that the Governor has already cancelled that grant, and that even now he has men bringing in Cardosa, so that the matter can be definitely settled.

At this moment, in charge of two of Marsdon's men, Senora Cardosa rides up. Appearing before Marsdon, Sutter and Arabella she bitterly berates them, declaring that her father was too ill to make the trip, and that their grant, given them by the President of Mexico, holds good until voluntarily surrendered -- and that this will never be the case.

As Senora leaves, several of Marsdon's men endeavor to humble her, Cal, seeing this, rushes to the scene, puts the men to rout, and as Senora rides off homeward she informs him that she is glad at least to have met one American gentleman.

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With the morning, Sutter and Marsden, with some of their followers, ride off towards the location of Sutter's grant. Cal, en route to guide the wagon train, joins them.

Reaching her father, Senora informs him of her talk with Sutter, the father stating that he will never surrender the grant. Marsdon, Sutter, Cal and their men arrive. Marsdon demands the return of the grant from Cardosa, giving him a limited time to think it over and make a decision.

With Senora and her father is Boris Demetroff, a young Russian, who through love for Senora, has interested himself in the case. The father tells Senora that she must leave, that violence is certain to occur, and against her wishes Senora rides away. Marsdon sees her, and despatches two men after her, thinking that she may be escaping with the grant. While Cal, recognizing Senora, in turn follows the men.

Again refusing to surrender the grant, Marsdon and his men, against Sutter's pleas, attack the cabin of Cardosa.

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