



The Loan Shark's Office

THE USURER'S GRIP

A Motion-Picture Film on the

Evils of the Usurious Money-Lending Business

Produced by

THE EDISON COMPANY

In co-operation with the

Division of Remedial Loans
of the

RUSSELL SAGE FOUNDATION

31 Union Square, New York City

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Payments Must Be Made Promptly



The Clerk is Discharged

THE USURER'S GRIP

A clerk, on account of the illness of his child, finds himself in great need of money. He happens to see in the morning paper the alluring advertisement of a loan company offering confidential loans without security at low rates. He goes to the loan company and finds that for a loan of \$25 for six months he is compelled to mortgage his furniture and repay \$45 in six monthly installments of \$7.50. On account of his necessity he finally agrees to pay these ruinous rates. At great sacrifice the first few of the payments are made regularly, but he soon gets behind, and after repeated threats the loan company sends to his place of

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business an agent known as a "bawlerout," who in loud tones and in the presence of his fellow-clerks demands the over-due payments, denouncing him as a liar and a cheat. His employer, hearing the uproar, enters the room, and finding out that he has a loan with a loan company discharges him. The employer little realizes that in doing this he is playing into the loan shark's hands—for it is this fear of disapproval or discharge which compels many men to pay extortionate and illegal rates of interest to usurers.

Matters have now reached a critical stage. The furniture is mortgaged, the child is still sick, and there is no food in the house. After tramping wearily from place to place he at last finds another position only to be again confronted by the woman collector, who leaves a card on the new employer's desk. The latter recognizes the injustice and illegality of the loan company's demands and promises to help the clerk out of his trouble. He takes him to the co-operative savings and loan association which has been organized by the employees of the company to provide a place to deposit savings and to make loans in time of need, at legal rates. The clerk becomes a member of the association and receives a loan sufficient to pay the loan company. The employer also advises him to take his case to the prosecuting attorney.

Accompanied by the prosecuting attorney he gets home just in time to rescue his furniture which the sheriff, at the request of the loan shark, is about to seize. The prosecuting attorney compels the loan agent to give an accounting and remit the usurious interest.

The next scene takes place several months later. The child is now well. Relief from financial troubles has perceptibly brightened the home. Through his membership in the co-operative savings and loan association he has been able to lay by a tidy sum against the proverbial rainy day.





The Collector Threatens



The Co-operative Association Makes No Charge
for "Drawing Papers"

The evils resulting from the existence of usurious loan companies are well known. The economic necessity for institutions where needy people can obtain loans at reasonable rates on the security of personal property or their character is recognized. In the absence of such institutions loan companies come into existence that charge extortionate rates of interest and employ methods of collection that undermine the physical and moral fiber of those who are unfortunate enough to be compelled to borrow from them.

Ignorance of the usurer's methods and the inability to obtain money from legitimate loaning concerns is the basis of this great national evil. The program of the remedial loan movement includes the organization in all cities of competitive loan societies of a social nature in the pawnbroking and chattel loan fields, and the establishment of co-operative associations for savings and loans among employees.

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HOW TO GET THE FILM AND MAKE IT EFFECTIVE

Inquire of the nearest "licensed" motion-picture theatre when they will show "The Usurer's Grip." Tell the proprietor how many groups of people in your city are interested in this film and how he can reach them with advertising matter. Offer to co-operate with him in arranging a private view, to be attended only by influential persons and the reporters.

The manufacturers distribute their product through "exchanges" of which there are more than one hundred in different parts of the country. Films are sold or leased to the exchanges, which in turn rent them by the week or by the day to exhibitors at rates ranging from \$1 to \$10 a day per reel. If you wish to rent the reel for some special occasion, correspond with the film exchange with which the licensed theatre of your locality deals, or with the General Film Co., Educational Department, 200 Fifth Ave., New York City, which is privileged to acquire any motion picture, no matter by whom produced.

Communities wishing to organize remedial loan societies and employers and employees interested in forming co-operative savings and loan associations in their establishments, are invited to write to the Division of Remedial Loans of the Russell Sage Foundation, 31 Union Square, New York City.

