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BY THE LAW (DURA LEX), (1926)

Translation of the Russian intertitles from the print at the Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, Cal. 94720. Two frequently used alternative titles for "By the Law" are "DURA LEX" and "EXPIATION". Viktor Shklovsky was Kuleshov's literary advisor on the film, which is still the least expensive film ever produced in Russia. — Jerry Heil.

1. From the Collection of Films of Gosfilmofond, USSR.
- 2.* BY THE LAW — a film adaptation from the story "The Unexpected" by Jack London.
- 3.* A Production of Goskino.
- 4.* The third work of Kuleshov's Collective. (collective, literally, or "workshop")
- 5.* Scenario: Viktor Shklovsky (titles 2-3-4-5, marked *, are "run-on", i.e. not separated by scenes or fades)
Director: Lev Kuleshov
Assistant: B. Svешnikov
Cameraman: K. Kuznetsov
6. The Yukon.
7. Gold-prospecting fever had brought them to this deserted shore.
(or: "gold-digging fever")
8. The Irishman Michael Dennin / Vladimir Fogel.
9. President of the Board, the Swede Hans Nelson / Sergei Komarov
(predsedatel' pravleniia, chairman or "President of the Board", sounds odd here, but it is correct)
10. Nelson's wife, the Englishwoman Edith / Alexandra Khokhlova.
11. The shareholder, Detchy / Porfiri Podobed. (= "Dutchy" or "Dutchie"?)
12. The shareholder Harky / Pyotr Galadzhev.
13. "We're not getting anything from this gold field -- we have to find another one."
14. "Dennin, go and collect the tools and we will move on farther."
15. The joint-stock company's gold field.
(or: The gold field/mine of the shareholders' company.)

16. Gold.

17. Gold.

18. The company had good fortune all winter long.

19. [a sign, no need to title it] "Little home, great happiness."

20. The washing and extraction of the gold continued on.

(if this scene shows them panning gold, then use this term instead of "washing")

21. "I found the gold, but they keep me here as a laundress."

(prachka, laundress, is correct here)

22. Spring was coming slowly.

23. Dinner.

24. "Dennin's not here, he's not hungry any more: Envy has made him lose his appetite."

25. "Your health, Mr. Dennin."

26. "Stop it ..."

27. "Stop it ... stop it ..."

28. Alive.

(perhaps this word should be in quotes)

29. "You can't do it without the law -- he's a white man."

(zakon, law, can refer to the law itself or to a law-officer, as in the American "the law", and I think it means both here: see reel 3, #9)

(End of Reel 1)

(Reel 2)

1. The weather changed abruptly.

2. An inch an hour.

3. "All the same, I'm gonna kill you!"
4. "He's dead."
5. "The two graves are ready, unless the Yukon floods them."
6. The two murdered men are being sent in the darkness and the storm to their icy crypts.
(a long interval between #6 & #7)
7. After the rain and the storm, the frozen Yukon was covered with water.
("After the rain storm ..." sounds better in English, but the translation is correct.)
8. Day after day was passing in tedious quiet.
9. The man or the woman, one of the two, would always be sitting at the side of the criminal.
10. "Kill me!"
11. "I want a drink."
12. The Yukon began to thaw and break up.
13. Day.
14. Night.
15. Another day.
16. "What do you intend to do with me?"
17. "You will be dealt with according to the law."
18. "I'm so tired, so tired."
19. Running out of tobacco. (or: Short of tobacco.)
20. "Give me back my tobacco."
21. "You can't do it without the law."

(End reel 2)

(Reel 3)

1. Edith's birthday came up.
2. "Don't be afraid, get it."
3. "It's a birthday present for you."

4. "Give me a shave."
5. "Shave him, today's my birthday!"
6. "Why did you do that?"
7. "It's really quite simple, it just occurred to me."
8. "You told me that I would die on the scaffold."
9. The days kept passing, but it was impossible to reckon on the law coming for several weeks.
10. "Let's try him." (or: "Let's put him on trial.")
11. "We can't do it today -- it's Sunday."
12. [Over a picture of Queen Victoria] "The Queen of England"
13. Edith insisted that the court proceeded according to English law, because the criminal was a subject of the Queen.
14. "You, the accused, are an Irishman, and we are trying you in the name of Queen Victoria."
15. The judges.
16. The witnesses.
17. The jurors.
18. The verdict.
19. "Michael Dennin, according to the Queen's law, you shall be hanged by the neck ..."
20. "... and shall remain hanging until you are dead ..."
21. Dead ... Dead ...
22. "I spoke well."
23. "That's how it is in our courts ..."
24. "Well now, everything's finished ..."
25. "Death, they say, is not agonizing ..."
26. The designated time arrived.

- 27. "Lord have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy"
- 28. "I couldn't have done it better myself, if I were preparing it for you, Hans."
- 29. The execution.
- 30. "May ... God ..."
- 31. "... receive you, a repentent criminal."
- 32. "This'll bring luck."
- 33. The End.