

THE "SHADOW"

By George Elmer Cobb.

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"Going to get married, eh?"

"Yes, Uncle Harold—to Miss Ina Walron."

"H'm! I guessed that much. In fact, her father, the judge, has just left me after an hour's conference over this very subject. Now, that sweet little lady, as you well know, is my prime favorite, but—"

"You don't mean to say you are going to object to our union!" chal-



A Thrilling Spectacle Met His View.

lenged Ned Davies with mingled indignation and amazement.

"Don't take fire so readily, young man," advised Mr. Wade with his quaint, accustomed smile, "or I'll discharge you, and then where are your dreams of bliss?"

"That's so," half smiled Ned.

"Being so, you haven't much real

business backing except through your old uncle, hey?" inquired Mr. Wade. "Well, I'm right with you, boy, and I'll leave you quite a little fortune—provided you do what I tell you to do. First and foremost, you will postpone this marriage for a time. That is the decision of both the judge and myself."

"Why, what for?" demanded the ardent young lover breathlessly.

"Well, we want to see you show the stuff you're made of. The judge likes you and all that, but he wants to see you demonstrate some initiative as a business man before he entrusts his daughter to your care. I've a suggestion to make that solves the whole proposition."

Ned looked dreadfully downcast and disappointed, but showed respectful attention while his uncle proceeded:

"Ten years ago I went out to Idaho without a dollar. I worked hard, met a loyal-hearted old miner who helped me out and came back with a modest fortune. I'll give you a better start. I shall present present you with a five thousand-dollar nest egg. There are splendid investment opportunities out on the Golconda range. I'll give you a letter to the kind old friend who was so helpful to me. Then it's up to you to make good."

Thus it was that Ned Davies found himself a new arrival at the little border mining town of Hopeton at the twilight end of a rare Idaho day. Inside the pocket of his outing shirt was the money upon which he relied to win fortune and Ina.

It was upon the letter to the old friend of his uncle, a Dr. Wilman, that Ned relied for an introduction to the business world of the hills. A great disappointment faced him, however, right at the outset. He found that the old residence of Doctor Wilman had been burned down, and when he inquired of a neighbor regarding him he was told that the doctor had left Hopeton some three years previous and was believed dead.