

"Lupo the Wolf" Is Behind Bars, but Most of His Evil Whelps Are at Large

Inside Facts About the Sources and Present Activities of New York's Most Vicious Criminal Band.

"THEY have caged 'the Wolf,' but they haven't drawn his fangs." This was the observation of one who knows Ignazio Lupo, surnamed "Il Lupo," or "the Wolf," when Judge George W. Ray sent to prison the most desperate criminal, barring perhaps Ericone Alfano, the head of the Camorra, who ever set foot on American soil.

The observation proved only too true. "The Wolf" is safe behind the steel bars of the federal prison at Atlanta, but those marked for his vengeance or the vengeance of the band of cutthroats he gathered around him, and who still remain faithful to him, live in fear of the fangs of "the Wolf" and his whelps, and some of them have fallen victims to the malevolent brood.

Sicilians all were the brood, showing the traces of Norman and Moor, Greek and Saracen, in their vicious features, with the vices of all the races that left their trace on Sicilian civilization. Thirty or more made up the band that followed "the Wolf," and seven of them went with him to Atlanta prison to serve sentences of from fifteen to thirty years on the evidence of the Secret Service agents under William J. Flynn, chief of the United States Secret Service, Eastern Division.

Chief Flynn is one of those marked for assassination by the band. Flynn knows it, and is taking every precaution. Judge Ray has also been threatened, as has been Abel J. Smith, the Assistant United States District Attorney, who prosecuted "the Wolf" and the rest of them, and when Judge Ray opened the June term of the United States Supreme Court at Birmingham, N. Y., last Tuesday he was closely guarded by Secret Service men.

When Judge Ray was sitting in the case of the Lupo-Morello band he received a letter one morning in the mail, reading:



W.J. Flynn, Chief of Secret Service.



Judge George W. Ray.

Threatened with Assassination

Thousand of Dollars Have Come from Far-off Roots of the Mafia Tree to Free Imprisoned Leaders.

One high official of the United States government in speaking of this said: "Why the fellows in these papers were not deported is a mystery to me. The immigration authorities cannot handle the matter themselves. They must have the assistance of the police, and the latter must take the initiative."

Much has been written about the Camorra, whose chiefs have been brought to bay by the intrepid marshal of carabinieri, Capezuti, and most of what has been written has been sheer balderdash. In truth, the Camorra is to Naples what Tammany Hall is to New York—no less and no more.

The Camorra, like Tammany Hall, is divided into two parts: one political and one criminal. But with this difference: Tammany Hall, as Tammany Hall, is purely a political organization, but through the gangs of gun men like the Sirocco and Zelig gangs on the lower East Side, the Gophers of the upper West Side, the Tanner Smiths of the lower West Side, used by the politicians as floaters and guerrillas or thugs, at election time, it has its criminal adjunct.

The two Camorras—for in reality there are two—are called the Camorra Alta, or High Camorra, and the Camorra Bassa, or Low Camorra. The second is made up of the fotsam and jetsam of Naples and does not differ in any radical respect from the gangs of New York, except that the Camorra is a secret organization, with passwords and signs by which members may recognize each other and give assistance in time of need. The Camorra Alta, or High Camorra, is made up of the chiefs of the Camorra Bassa and the political leaders of Naples, as well as most of the officials of the city.

Though having no acknowledged connection with Tammany Hall as a body, it is a known fact that the men comprising its criminal adjunct receive almost the same degree of political protection when they are arrested by the police that the Camorristi do when they fall into the clutches of the law. Sentences are suspended in the case of the New York gangsters whenever possible, in recompense for their labors at election time, or else their political backers see to it that the case is quashed in one way or another. The usual method is "calling off" the complainant.

There was one judge, still a member of the bench of the Court of General Sessions—Judge Malone—who was dropped from the rolls of the executive committee of a Tammany Hall district organization because he refused to lend his judicial ear to some of the politicians interested in some of the criminals who were brought before him.

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It is true that criminal groups, like the Lupo-Morello gang, made use of the phrase, but these groups always worked independently of each other, notwithstanding the oft repeated notions of the police to the contrary.

Next in importance are the marks talked of manual and written signs of these banditti. Of written signs there are none, save those described, or similar ones that would occur to any one with even a spark of imagination.

There is no denying that these banditti have used signs in courts to intimidate witnesses, and in some cases have succeeded in silencing them. But again these signs, with the exception of one, are used by people the world-over. The exception is the Italian peasant's sign of anger or disappointment, which, under certain circumstances, may be expressive of revenge. This sign is made by placing the index finger of either hand in a horizontal position between the teeth. This sign has been used on several occasions in the New York courts.

Another sign is the sign of silence that is familiar to all of us from childhood. This is made by placing the index finger on the tip of the tongue. This sign ever known to be used is the drawing of the finger across the throat.

Chief Flynn of the Secret Service, perhaps the best informed tracer of criminals on this subject, believes that until there are more stringent immigration laws, an extension of the three-year provision, but little can be done to check the criminal operations of the banditti in this country. The three-year provision renders the authorities helpless should they desire to deport an alien criminal who has been in this country three years or more. This time limit, in Chief Flynn's opinion, should be doubled.



Ignazio Lupo, "The Wolf."

"If Lupo, Morello and their companions are not liberated you will die like a dog. We have killed better men than you or Smith or Flynn."

The letter was unsigned, but did not prevent Judge Ray from imposing the maximum sentence on "the Wolf" and the severest sentences ever inflicted on counterfeitters on the rest of the gang.

"I know they have marked me," said Chief Flynn. "Perhaps they'll kill me. The hunter is sometimes slain. But I'm taking all precautions. Only last December two men who visited Lupo and his companions at Atlanta left there with instructions to assassinate me. Several times I have been warned that some of the gang would try to kidnap my three children, and as a result they never leave the house alone, and if they go far from home, there is always some one watching over them."

But the Secret Service men—and there are some of these whose names are never known to the outside public, and who appear on the government payrolls as men known only by numbers—who have never let up their vigilance on "the Wolf" and his band.

These men know that the gang has spent at least \$20,000 since their incarceration a little over two years ago in an effort to get free. Where did they get the money? From all parts of the world. From relatives and others in the settlements of Sicilians as far away as Tunis, Algiers and Palermo, Sicily; from Liverpool, England, and from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, St. Louis and Chicago, and from every other large city in America. The most of this money is given in fear, said Chief Flynn.

"Just how much money these fellows have collected will probably never be known," said Chief Flynn, "but it is an immense sum. They are going around to shopkeepers every day collecting. Who are the treasurers of the fund? Several, principally the compari, or godfathers of some of the prisoners, and in other instances their relatives or trusted friends."

Before the end of the present month Bourke Cockran, according to Chief Flynn, will apply to the United States Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari in the case of Giuseppe Morello, Lupo's chief lieutenant, who was sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment. This is the first big step in the band's efforts to undo the work of Chief Flynn and the United States Courts.

A striking instance of the still tremendous power of "the Wolf" was pointed out by Chief Flynn in the murder of young "Joe" Morello, the eighteen-year-old stepson of Lupo's chief aid. The boy had been suspected of betraying the secrets of "the Wolf" and he was killed four weeks ago in 314th street, near Second avenue, in the heart of New York's uptown Sicilian colony.

With young Morello at the time were two other youths, who were wounded, and who have since died from the wounds.

"And since the shooting of young Morello," said Chief Flynn, "I have been informed by my agents that two other Italians have been murdered who had been marked for assassination by the Lupo-Morello crowd. One of them, Benny Testa, I knew. But, of course, we haven't been able to fix the crime definitely on any one, but we know pretty positively why and by whom they were slain."

Chief Flynn has information showing that the Lupo-Morello gang have their own



Vincenzo Giglio.

private cemetery, where the bodies of those who have been killed to satisfy the sanguinary lust of the gang are buried.

"My agents," went on Chief Flynn, "have traced sixty murders to the Lupo-Morello crowd, including the many barrel murder mysteries, where their victims were packed into barrels after being horribly mutilated and left on the streets."

Sixty assassinations in about ten years, including that of Petrosino, and one long, unending series of bomb outrages, stabbings, shootings, kidnappings and constant blackmailing was the record of the Lupo-Morello pack. And yet the principals in this criminal solidarity ran at large until they were rounded up by the United States Secret Service agents in the fall of 1909.

"Why were these men permitted to run at large so long?" was the question put to a man who knows.

"Money and politics, but principally money," was the ready answer.

And here it is proper to state that when Chief Flynn arrested Lupo the latter tried to bribe the Secret Service chief in an off-hand way.

Lupo—and this, he it remembered, was known to the police of New York for fully ten years prior to his arrest by the Secret Service agents—was wanted by the Italian government for a murder committed in Sicily when he was nineteen years old. Lupo had been tried after he fled the country, and was sentenced to twenty years' solitary confinement.

Lupo admitted the murder when he took the stand in his own behalf during the trial of the band in the Criminal Branch of the United States District Court, a little over two years ago.

With tears streaming down his cheeks and his voice on long sob, "The Wolf," overcome by self-pity, gave his version of the assassination of a business man in the little town of Viapiano, near Palermo, who owed him \$50 lire. "The Wolf" testified that he killed in self-defense. But the authorities tell a different story.



Giovanni Calicchio.

dizement of "The Wolf" and his followers. This silence is part of what the Sicilians call omertà.

Omertà is the word that describes the attitude of a witness, who, while under oath, falsely swears that he knows nothing of a crime of which he has been an eye-witness. But the word means more than that. It would also describe a person who refused, even under pain, to divulge information to the police concerning a criminal.

When the Secret Service agents arrested Morello at his home they found his wife sitting on a small bundle of letters. These were of the usual blackmailing sort sent by the gang, and bore addresses and postmarks, showing they had been received by small storekeepers in the neighborhood.

Morello and his wife would not discuss them. The recipients of them, the Secret Service men knew, had turned them over to Morello with a sum of money equal to the tribute demanded in the letters. All these business men when called before the federal grand jury, refused to incriminate

Morello. They were living up to the omertà. Like the word mafia, the etymology of the word omertà is unknown. Some philologists believe the latter word to be a corruption of the Italian word for honor, onore. Others believe it has its root in

gonu, the Sicilian for man.



Salvatore Cina.

But the name of the dread Sicilian solidarity has no true etymological significance. A member of the Mafia is called a mafioso. The word that is used for a good looking boy is the same, and that for a beautiful woman is mafiosa.

The Mafia to-day controls the entire island of Sicily. It is all powerful at elections and it dictates to all large employers of labor. If a fruit grower should resent its interference he awakes some morning to find most of his orchard destroyed. Two ineffectual attempts have been made by the Italian government to break up the Mafia, but it flourishes as strongly as ever.

Its leader is Palizzolo, twice convicted of the murder of Marquis Emanuel Notarbartolo, but freed at the third trial on a techni-

cally. He is the political boss of Sicily. He was a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies when the Marquis Notarbartolo accused him of embezzlement. Five days later the marquis was stabbed to death in a train after leaving Rome and his body thrown on the side of the tracks.

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A JUDICIOUS RESERVE. No man tells his wife everything. He—He wouldn't have a wife very long if he did.—Illustrated Bits.