

"GETTING" THEM ONE BY ONE

The Violent Deaths, in Different Parts of the World, of the Men Accused of Complicity in the Crime of Killing Giuseppe di Primo's Brother-in-Law.

NEW YORK.—A cablegram from Italy the other day brought the information that Vito di Luca, "a land owner," had been shot and killed as he was leaving the theater in the little town of Carini, near Palermo, and that the crime was connected with one in America. The news did not seem important, but at almost the same time Salvatore Marchese, or Marchese, was killed here, and the coincidence appeared so strange in view of the cabled reference to "a crime in America," that the item found a place in the newspapers.

It was read by many Italians with a knowing smile and by a few with a black frown. For to them it had a deep and sinister meaning. One or two of them held up five fingers and whispered five names, of which that of Vito di Luca, the man killed in Sicily, was the fifth.

Vito di Luca, or Laduca, for he has been known by both names, used to keep a butcher's shop in Stanton street, Manhattan, in 1903, and subsequently opened two in Brooklyn, then one in Baltimore. If you mention his name at police headquarters the will recall the famous "barrel murder," one of the unsolved mysteries of crime in New York, and it is probable they will turn to a picture in the Rogues' gallery bearing the name of Vito di Luca, alias Vito Laduca. They will also show you a portrait of Giuseppe di Primo, who, they will tell you, was the brother-in-law of Benedetto Madonia, whose mutilated body was found one April morning in 1903 packed in a barrel at Avenue D and Eleventh street. They will add that no one was convicted of that crime, but that a strange fatality had pursued the men who were arrested on suspicion, but who escaped with no punishment save a fine for carrying concealed weapons.

Di Primo Then in Sing Sing.

At the time of that murder Giuseppe di Primo was in Sing Sing, serving a sentence for counterfeiting. He was the distributor of a large gang of counterfeiters on whose trail Detective Petrosini (who was killed a few weeks ago in Sicily) had been campaigning, and he was the first fruits of Petrosini's work. After his sentence Benedetto Madonia made frantic efforts to get him liberated. A certain Tomasso Petto, known as "Petto the Ox," visited di Primo in prison several times. Madonia was living in Buffalo, but he made many mysterious trips to this city and Pittsburgh.

The night before his body was found he had been seen by three secret service men in the butcher shop of Giuseppe di Luca, in Stanton street, in company with several others of the men suspected of counterfeiting. Giuseppe di Primo, in prison, identified a photograph of the murdered man as that of his brother-in-law. The barrel in which the body had been packed was similar to those in di Luca's butcher shop.

As soon as the murder became known the secret service men who had

were brought in, slammed on the floor before the inspector and searched. A heap of deadly coltelli and pistols and many rosaries were shaken from them. Each was in a panic of terror and their cries for mercy mingled with the curses of the officers. Trembling and bleeding, their clothing torn from them, they were lined up and put through the third degree. When McClusky was through and the wretches were hustled away to their cells the inspector said: "Well, boys, we have got the right men, and it is our fault if we don't put half of them in the chair."

Could Not Be Proved Guilty.

On Petto the Ox were found pawn tickets for the murdered man's watch and other effects; clothing on the dead man's body was identified as belonging to several members of the gang, and they were the persons seen with him two hours before the finding of his mutilated body.

But none of these men was convicted of murder. Petto the Ox was indicted for murder in the first degree and committed to the Tombs without bail, and seven of his associates were at first held as witnesses, but as the district attorney was unable to gather enough evidence against them they were released. Petto's friends engaged the best of counsel and after a year in prison the district attorney consented to his liberation on his own recognizance, on the ground that he had insufficient evidence to convict him.

The failure to convict the barrel murder gang for anything more serious than carrying concealed weapons was one of the most costly miscarriages of American justice on record. That gang was the first fruits of the Black Hand, and if it had been crushed and its rooted connection dug up and destroyed there might be no Black Hand to-day, but the best that Petrosini and the New York police could do was to drive them out of New York.

The day they were freed Giuseppe di Primo was in a state of wildly excited suspense. When he heard the news he raved, but suddenly grew quiet, and kneeling with his rosary in his hands, he swore the great oath of vendetta. Then he waited, sending word to his friends outside the prison walls to keep constant trace of the gang, that he wanted to know always where they were. At the end of his three years' term he walked out of the doors of the prison, an exultant smile on his crooked mouth, took train for Buffalo, saw the widow and children of Madonia, tried his eye and hand for an hour in a Niagara street shooting gallery, found that he was still the wonderful marksman he had been, and then vanished.

"Petto the Ox" First Victim.

Giuseppe di Primo is a little man, with a thin, hard face and a crooked mouth. All who know him remember him by his smile, which is crooked and cruel.

As soon as di Primo was released from Sing Sing Petto the Ox vanished from New York. He went to Pennsylvania and was soon living in a

the gang has caught more than five. However, only five are positively known now to have perished. That leaves about seven, for of the 16 who were arrested only 12 were suspected of actual participation in the murder.

Di Primo Man of Mystery. And Giuseppe di Primo, who swore the dreadful oath of the vendetta when he heard of his brother-in-law's murder, "ov'e?" as the Sicilians say—where is he? Where has he been in these last two years? He was in Buffalo last New Year's day, but his goings and comings are sudden, silent, unexplained. When he is seen his face always bears that cold, cruel, crooked smile, and the Sicilians of Mulberry street—the vast, respectable majority who mind their own business and have nothing to do with gangs or criminal secret societies—hint that on the dates of those five murders Giuseppe di Primo might have been found not many miles away from the scene of each. These men also predict that within two years every man of the gang that was suspected of the barrel murder will have been overtaken by a cold, cruel, crooked smile and a bullet or a dagger.

There are those who believe that the murder of Salvatore Marchese, or Marchioni, had some connection with that of di Luca, but it will probably be found that their terminations—one in Sicily, one in America—were simultaneous merely by chance. Both, how-

lets, the first in the feet, the second in the right knee, the third in the groin, the fourth and last in the heart, and Petto the Ox fell dead.

Girolamo Mondini was one of the later suspects arrested by McCluskey. He had been one of Raffaello Palizzolo's band of cabmen in Palermo that had the reputation of a fondness for killing for the fun of it. A more desperate set of men than these never lived. It is on record that a billiard hall proprietor offered one of these men fifteen lire (\$3) one night to stick a stiletto in the leg of a perfect stranger who had created a disturbance in the billiard hall. The cabman took the money, followed the man and an hour later drove up in front of the billiard hall, lifted out of his cab the stranger's corpse with a row of 15 stiletto wounds in the chest, laid the grisly thing on the pavement, tossed the fifteen lire into the door and drove away.

Second Man Lured to Death. Mondini and Petto were close friends and the former did the latter's letter writing. He was not in di Luca's butcher shop the night Madonia was murdered.

On November 14, 1906, just a month after Petto's death, Mondini received a message purporting to be from a friend, calling him to No. 305 East One Hundred and Sixth street. He went, but instead of his friend he met a man at sight of whom he turned to



GIUSEPPE DI PRIMO

run, but a bullet dropped him before he had taken two steps.

The second of the suspects in the barrel murder case had met his fate. Ignazio Lupo, "the wolf," was the business man of the gang. His saloon in Prince street was a favorite rendezvous of the counterfeiters. He was slightly deformed and had a very cunning mind. When the trouble was all over he changed his name to De Loup and was in business in the Bronx colony uptown. About the time of di Primo's release he disappeared and no one knew where he was until one night he was found near the railroad tracks in Niagara Falls with a bullet hole in his head, and before he died in the Sisters' hospital he told Giordano Carmelo that it was the Madonia vendetta which had overtaken him.

Slain on Monte Pellegrino.

Behind Palermo a grim and desolate mountain rises. It is called Monte Pellegrino, and it has seen enough bloodshed for every rock to bear a stain. The people of the city speak of a man going "the way of Pellegrino," which means with them the way of death at the hands of the Mafia. In the old city Nicola Nera was known before he came to America merely as a fruit vender who went about with a tray of melons, figs or oranges on his head. He left Palermo hastily after the disclosure in the marvelous Ricard-Cavonne murder case and joined the barrel gang here. The returning tide of Italians homeward-bound for Christmas a year ago took him back with a clean police record. He had been hauled in as a suspect merely. One night last fall he was drinking in a little wine shop, when a little emaciated man with a crooked smile came in, tapped him on the shoulder and said something in his ear. Nicola Nera began to tremble violently, but rose and followed the stranger out. The next morning his body was found on Monte Pellegrino. The fourth of the barrel murder suspects was wiped out.

L. Luca, whose murder in Sicily has just been announced, makes the fifth. It may be that some of the unidentified Sicilians who have been found in various parts of the world in the last two years bearing the signs of having been murdered were members of this gang. If so the Nemesis that follows

ever, were of the same class of the lowest order of the Mafia, but Marchese is not known to have had anything to do with that "barrel gang."

MAKE THEIR MONEY GO FAR

Women Workers of Paris, France. Neatly and Prettily Dressed on \$2.50 a Month.

There is a proposal on foot to institute a series of prizes to be awarded every year to those girls employed in the workshops of the Paris dress and costume-makers who are found to keep up the best appearance throughout the year on the smallest sum.

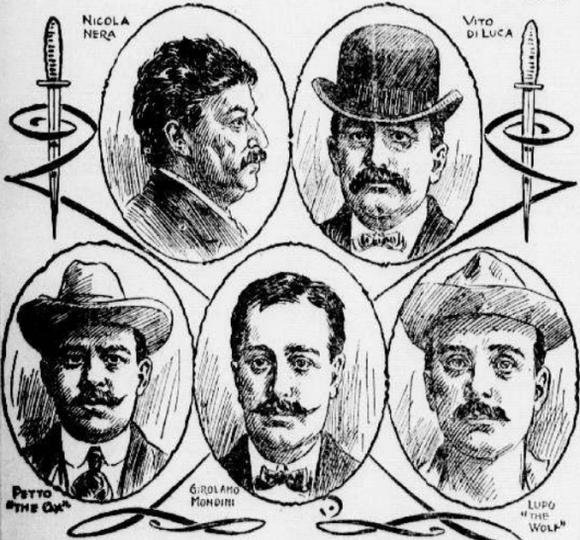
The ingenuity of the Paris "midnette" in presenting a becoming appearance on a ridiculously small sum is proverbial. One of these girls, whose age is just 17, recently described how she managed last year to limit her total expenditure on clothing to a trifle over six pounds. In the summer, she said, her outlay was as follows: Hosiery and boots 20s; parasol, 8s; shape for a straw hat, which she trimmed herself, 2s 6d; veil, 4s; trimmings, ribbons, etc., 10s; gloves, 2s 5d.

"I pulled my previous summer's dress to pieces," she continued, "and made it up anew by lengthening the waist, so as to make it look as fashionable as those we work on in the workrooms. Of course, I am able to pick up many a little bargain, and sometimes bits of ribbon and silk come our way for very little."

"I succeeded last year in dressing myself so as to look neat on Sundays and holidays, for an average of 10s a month, without assistance from anybody, so that it is quite possible to dress neatly, with a little trouble, and still remain a good girl!"—London Mail.

Motor Vehicles in Germany.

At the end of 1908 there were 41,727 motor vehicles in use in Germany, including 20,928 motorcycles. In the year there was an increase of 5,705 in motor cars. Accidents numbered 5,069 (increase 225) with 2,630 persons injured and 141 killed. Allowing for the increase in cars, there was a decrease in the proportion of accidents.



on the trail of the counterfeiting told Inspector McClusky, then in command of the detective bureau, all he knew, and in a few hours' time dozen squads of four powerful and wildly-armed detectives left headquarters and pounced on 16 prisoners various parts of the city and at once rushed them to headquarters. An ensue one of the strangest scenes ever witnessed in No. 309 Mulry street. Each squad was stripped and its prisoner. The gangsters

shanty near a mining settlement outside Scranton. He behaved as if he was in hiding. His neighbors spoke of his strangely-guarded actions.

One early morning he heard a voice calling his name. Somebody was coming up the hill path. He took up his heavy revolver and stepped boldly to the door. Petto raised his gun and fired. He missed. The other man sent a bullet through Petto's pistol hand, knocking the revolver out of reach, and then he planted his bul-

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