

BIG STONE GAP, VA., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1890.

OUR VISITORS.

Two Members of the British Iron and Steel Institute Arrive and Examine our Coke and Iron.

They Think Big Stone Gap the Best Location for the Manufacture of Iron and Steel in This Country.

OTHER INTERVIEWS.

Big Stone Gap had two important visitors on last Saturday in the persons of Mr. John W. Darby, of Washam, Eng., and Mr. F. Monks, of Warrington, Eng., members of the British Iron and Steel Institute. Both gentlemen are among the most substantial manufacturers who visited the city and vicinity at the invitation of Mr. John R. Procter, of Kentucky, and Mr. James W. Fox. After junketing with the main body of the Institute in New York, Pittsburg and other points for two weeks, these gentlemen branched off under the direction of Mr. Procter and came into this section ahead of the other members to look more fully into its resources than they could do in the hurried excursion of the whole body. They are making a careful study of the iron and coal resources and the transportation question, with a view of putting in branches of their English manufacturing here, if the outlook is sufficiently encouraging.

Mr. Darby is a young man, but has already reached a prominent position among the iron and steel producers of England. He inherits his aptness for these industries from ancestors who have been prominent in them for a century. His grandfather was the first to make iron from uncooked coal, and his own plant, located near Chester, was the first to use successfully the basic process for making steel. Mr. Monks is one of the oldest and best known of the practical iron and coke men of England.

These gentlemen propose, if they find the conditions of this section such as will justify them, to put in under one management blast furnaces, a steel plant and a wire-pulling plant, modeled after the concern of Mr. Darby in England, and making steel by the basic process. Such a plant would require one hundred acres of land and would employ a vast number of workmen.

In charge of Mr. Procter they visited the coal fields north of the Gap, and the coke works of the Virginia Coal & Iron Company on Preacher Creek, of which Captain Taggart is manager, and also the deposits of brown hematite ores in the Wildcat Valley. They were greatly pleased and deeply impressed with what they saw. To a representative of the Post Mr. Darby said:

"I am greatly delighted with what I have seen in Big Stone Gap and vicinity, and an under-lying obligation to Mr. Procter for bringing us here, and to Gen. Ayers for his courtesies to us. I speak the sentiments of a large majority of the visiting members of the British Institute when I say that what I wish to see most in your great country was the rich deposits of iron ores and coaling coals here in the South, where they are as yet practically undeveloped.

"Mr. Carnegie said to me, coming over on the ship, last month, when I told him I thought of taking the Southern route to the Northwest route, 'Oh, don't do it. Don't go South, there is not a—thing to see there.'"

"But I differ from him entirely. The very things I wanted to see are here. I did not care so much to see the manufacturing in operation, for we have those at home as numerous and as nearly perfect as one could wish to see, although I must say that I have been greatly surprised and pleased at the great concerns we saw in the North. Their equipments are not so complete as their methods so economical in England, but they are admirably adapted to the basic process. Of course, your proximity to the magnetic ores at Cranberry is a great card in your favor, but you will not need that to make the possibilities of this point simply incalculable. We have been over a large portion of the Southern mineral belt, and I regard this as the best point we have seen for the manufacturing of basic steel, owing to the quality and quantity of your brown ores and their proximity to this coke. I have enjoyed my day here greatly, and I hope I can return soon."

Mr. Monks spoke in the same strain, saying that he had been a practical producer of coke and iron for forty years, and that he had never seen better coke and iron ore, both brown and red, in any time. He thought the best card for the future of Big Stone Gap in the iron industry was the fact that they are now producing steel by the basic process.

They left on a special train, with Mr. Procter, on Saturday night, for Emburyville, Tenn., where they inspected the iron ore bedded by an English syndicate, with Mr. Hon. Henry Brand, M. P., at its head. They then rejoined their associates at Knoxville, and will complete the tour with them. They thought that many more of the members of the Institute would come to Big Stone Gap before returning to Europe.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., Oct. 26.—The Chattanooga Times of to-day contains a number of interviews with representatives of the British Iron and Steel Institute, all of whom were delighted with their Southern tour and declare that their expectations have been greatly exceeded.

Sir James Kitson, president of the British Institute of Civil Engineers, and

head of the National Liberal Federation of the Gladstonian organization, consisting of representatives from every electoral district, is the leading representative of the British party. He said:

"This is my first visit to the iron districts of Alabama and Tennessee and my first to the United States. Of course, we can only express an opinion on a considerable difference after so short an observation, but I may say in behalf of the English visitors that they were not prepared to find such enormous and rich deposits of iron ore and coal as were shown to them in the neighborhood of Birmingham. The same may be said of the iron ore deposits at Shelby and elsewhere on our route to Chattanooga. The point that pleased and surprised us most was to see that all the disasters of the civil war had been energetically set to work to develop its resources as a manufacturing community, and that much had been done, though much yet remained to be done.

"The mines in general do not appear to be worked with the appliances and developments to which we are accustomed. The ore deposits on many of the hills are as abundant as those of Spain, which supply England so largely. These mines in Spain are worked with mining rails, and the ore is shipped at a low price, and it would appear on a cursory examination that the same system might be applied here with considerable economy.

"As to the pig iron, although it is reported only in a few instances as suitable for Bessemer steel making, yet it is well adapted to be dealt with by the basic process, and we should expect that the iron masters of this section and Alabama districts would be enterprising enough to adopt this process and manufacture pig iron into steel on the spot.

"Also it occurs to us that in America many small industries to convert the iron and steel into the finished article are wanting, and there seems to be sufficient consumption in the Southern States of worked material to use up all the iron and steel produced in the country.

"The coal does not appear to be of the same quality as the coal of the North, but its composition in its abundance and its accessibility. The coking coal may be much improved by the adoption of washing processes, and coke of the better quality thereby produced, which would give the furnaces better results in every way. It is quite possible in some of the districts we have passed through to make pig iron as cheaply as it can be made in any part of the world.

"This arises in great measure from the iron ore.

"My opinion is that the establishment and development of new town settlements cannot but beneficially affect the South. The working population will be stimulated by what they see in this new life in the towns, and the consumption of the agricultural produce will be a stimulus to agriculture, and thereby cannot but be beneficial if the settlement of the new towns is conducted with discretion and is not pushed on at an unreasonable rate. It is particularly struck with the beauty of the town of Anniston, and its attractiveness as a residence town, and also with the enterprise of the merchants who have warehouses which would surprise the English in towns of centuries of growth."

When Sir James was interrogated as to what, from his observation, was the greatest deficiency and necessity of the South, he declined to express an opinion, saying it would only affect the people who had been certain of his own views. He expressed himself as highly pleased with the condition of the negro as a laborer.

DR. WEDDING. Dr. Wedding, of the German party, is a professor of metallurgy at the Mining Academy, and is also employed by the Government in several departments of the ministry and commerce. He said: "I was in America in 1876 as Commissioner to the Centennial Exposition, but did not visit the Southland. I see that you have enormous quantities of natural treasures here in the South, and you have begun the early development of them. My opinion is that the future success of iron and steel manufacture in your section will be in the basic process. You have just begun, and it is very interesting to see that you are going in the right way. The appliances so far as you have gone compare very favorably with those of our country. While you have many blast furnaces, you have not many basic furnaces, but that will all come by and by. The greatest need of this section is basic work. Not all of it can be done in the right proportion and made suitable; but if that is not possible, you can then combine the features of the basic, acid, and open hearth furnaces."

MR. J. E. STEAD. Mr. J. E. Stead, brother of W. T. Stead, of the Pall Mall Gazette, and a famous socialist, is a member of the British Institute, and originally interested in the development of the basic process, said: "I am very strongly of the opinion that in ten years' time you will be making enormous quantities of steel by the basic process and producing iron, which, when ground up, will be of immense value as a fertilizer for the farming lands, as the phosphates, which in the ordinary process are a very objectionable element, in the basic process are utilized for agricultural purposes, and the slag is used in the same way. The basic process is the only one in the Southern States that with proper manipulation, he made into material admirably suited for making such steel.

"The ore you have in this district is admirably adapted for making basic iron and foundry iron. The blast furnace practice altogether is apparently ahead of our practice in England, and so far as making any criticisms are concerned, I do not see where they would come in, except in some of the older or smaller works."

AN Important Improvement. FORTUNE, Ala., Oct. 23.—Col. J. W. Barlow, United States Army, of Nashville, engineer in charge of the Tennessee river improvements, has formally announced that the Muscle Shoals Canal is now open for navigation. The Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce has been notified to await a day on which the canal will be opened. The whole Tennessee Valley will celebrate the event in a suitable manner. Chattanooga will send a boat load of foreign goods, and will bring through a boat load of iron ore from New Orleans.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., Oct. 26.—The case of Rev. Dr. Carter, of this city, editor of the Methodist Advocate, who has been on trial for the past two days by the Holston Conference at Greenville, terminated yesterday in a verdict of acquittal, by a vote of 12 to 2. Dr. Carter had been charged by his presiding elder with immoral conduct. It is said by prominent members of the Northern Methodist Church, whose ministers are investigating, that this verdict will settle the affair; but that the case will be taken into the Circuit Court, as three preachers are involved.

Lot Sale at Goschen. (Richland News.) The sale of lots at Goschen, Va., Thursday and Friday, aggregated nearly \$400,000. One lot brought \$2,000. There were purchasers from Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburg, Richmond, Charleston, S. C., Norfolk and Charlottesville.

The Vanderbilts at Asheville. ASHEVILLE, N. C., Oct. 22.—George W. Vanderbilt arrived at Blountville last night in his private car. There were with him his brother, William K. Vanderbilt; Mr. Hunt, architect; Mr. Otishead, landscape architect; and Mr. Barnett, farming supervisor. Mr. Vanderbilt will remain on his estate several days.

A COMMERCIAL CLUB.

Proposition to Hold a Mass Meeting Saturday Night for the Purpose of Organizing It.

WHAT IT MAY ACCOMPLISH.

Big Stone Gap has suffered in consequence of a lack of organization among its business men. There is no concert of action. There is none of that power which union brings. There is no committee nor organization of any kind to look after strangers, furnish them with information and point out to them the advantages of the city. Men of means often come and go without any effort whatever being made to interest them and induce them to invest here. There should be a Commercial Club, with comfortable headquarters, and a secretary to discharge the duties pertaining to it.

Besides, our merchants have suffered from delays in getting freight, from overcharges, and from outrageous gouging by the Express and the Railroad Company; yet there has been no organized effort to make these grievances known and to secure a remedy for them. If the people would take an interest in a commercial club, attend its meetings and unite upon definite action in such matters, much good could be accomplished.

It is suggested that a mass meeting be held tomorrow, Saturday night, at the new building of Mr. Summerfield for the purpose of discussing this and other propositions affecting the interests of the city. It is to be hoped every one who has the prosperity of the community at heart, every one who has an appreciation of his own interests, will attend at 8 o'clock. There has been no definite plan formulated as yet, but those who feel an interest in the enterprise should give the subject some thought and be ready to make definite suggestions. There should be no delay in effecting an organization. Every intelligent citizen can see at once how valuable such a club can be made.

A Post reporter, in his rounds yesterday, talked with a number of business men on the subject and they seemed unanimously in favor of the project. Among those who expressed themselves are the following:

Mr. Dillard said: "I think some step should be taken to form a Commercial Club or Board of Trade at this place. They have them at every place of importance, and if there was ever a place that a concentration of efforts was needed, and something done to push things along, it is this. Our merchants could work on the different railroad companies, by uniting, and make them give us special freight rates, and act upon many things, and devise plans, that would be of benefit to all."

John Goodloe said: "I think we need an organization of this kind to promote our interests generally. But we must go to work and not merely talk and talk about the matter, as that will avail nothing, but some kind of action should be taken at once, and a concert of efforts on the part of the business men of the town is what we need. I have noticed on my trip that the wonderful progress of some of the towns in Southwest Virginia, and the booms they are enjoying is due mainly to the great efforts made by the people. Every man is working for his own place. They attract the attention of capitalists and manufacturers by having good men in the field, and do not let a chance of any kind slip that will do their town good. Many towns that do not possess half the natural advantages that we have, are outstripping us because they are working. Any organization here to get the people together to discuss the general interests will be a good thing for our place."

Mr. E. T. Shortt said: "I think the merchants here ought to be organized in something like a Commercial Club and combine their efforts and work for the good of each other. Anything that will bring the people together to consult on the needs of our place, and the general welfare will be of great service."

Charles Bergmann said: "I think a club ought to be formed by the business men of the town, controlled by a Board of Directors, and have a good man appointed secretary, pay him a salary, have him to look after the interests of our town; show the strangers that come here what we have, and always be on the alert to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself in any way to help things along."

R. T. Irvine said: "I am decidedly in favor of the immediate organization of a Commercial Club. It is one of the most important factors in the development of a new city. It will be a nucleus around which all the enterprising elements of the community can rally, and through which they may act with some system and efficiency. It is a capital idea."

Mr. McElwee said: "I am certainly for it and hope it will be organized at once."

W. C. Robinson: "I am with you. That is what I have been preaching ever since I came. Count me in, heart and soul."

Joshua F. Ballitt, Jr.: "It is a good movement and a Commercial Club will accomplish much more than any real estate exchange."

A. Summerfield: "Of course I am for it. Hold your mass meeting in my house on the corner."

Judge Manry said: "I think such a club, well organized, would be of great advantage to the town than any other one thing which could be named. Such clubs have been built up towns which had not the shadow of a resource. I have seen them in the land, and for another, that there were not enough linen manufacturers in the country to use it up. I don't say that our American flax, as it is at present cultivated, is good to make the finest linen, but it can be made so with a little more care and study. As soon as we get on to the curves of this business we can beat the world, and these Europeans who are coming over here know that, or they wouldn't come. Flax is not the only thing, either. I don't think so," was the reply.

"Some of them may, but I think that for a few years England will send over to us machinery where she used to send linen and the like."

MCKINLEY'S FIGHT.

One of the Most Spirited Contests Ever Witnessed in Ohio Now Going on in McKinley's District.

MEXICO, Ohio, Oct. 23.—Politics are boiling hot in this McKinley's district. The district, as at present made up, gave a democratic majority of over 2,000 at the last election, the democratic Legislature having arranged it apparently, with a special view to McKinley's defeat. But in spite of these odds the republicans are doing their level best, and the democrats realize that they too must work in order to beat down the strong combination that has been made to overcome their majority and return the author of the McKinley Tariff bill.

Governor Hill, of New York, and a number of other leading democratic orators have made appointments to deliver speeches, and from now until the election the conflict will rage with almost unparalleled bitterness.

Speaker Reed and Gen. R. A. Alger have made a number of speeches and the republicans are aroused as they never have been before. Both Reed and Alger spoke here last night to an audience of about 5,000 people. Governor came in from all directions, many of them farmers. There were ten bands of music and a battery of artillery for the firing of salutes. Mr. Blaine is expected to make two speeches in the district.

It is impossible to judge with any certainty of the result, though it is probable the democrats will win, but with a reduced majority. A vast deal of money will be used by the republicans, and unless this is offset by a free use of democratic cash, the issue will be doubtful.

MIGRATION OF MANUFACTURERS.

Agents from Europe Securing Sites for Large Manufacturing Firms, Who Are Forced to Come Here in Consequence of the Tariff Bill.

(New York Sun.) A lot of English, Scotch, Irish and French men are running about this country now looking for favorable sites on which to erect mills and factories, where linen, hosiery and woolen dress goods can be made. They are hunting, too, for mills that have been shut down, or they are willing to purchase an interest in American mills where these goods are manufactured. They are the agents of the owners of mills in Europe, which have for years been supplying the American market with all the fine linen consumed here, and with stacks and stocks of woolen dress goods and hosiery that have been piled up in the American stockpiles.

The new tariff is responsible for the agents' raid. The new rates of duty on the product of the European looms threaten to ruin their trade with America, and just as a matter of self-defense they are going to move over here and manufacture their goods. They won't shut up their European mills, but none of the product of those mills will be put on our counters.

Most of the agents who are trotting about the country have been here ever since it became known that the McKinley bill was going to become a law. Some of them have succeeded in finding what they want, and it is only a matter of a little time, perhaps a year, when mills will actually be opened.

The first of these new founders, as far as can be learned, is J. Carmichael Allen, who has been in the linen manufacturing business in Ireland nearly all his life. He came over here himself at the beginning of the migration. He decided that it would pay to have a factory here, and he organized a company of Americans. With part American capital he is going to build a linen mill in Minneapolis. The money is all subscribed, and a site in the northeastern part of the city has been purchased. The work of building will be begun at once. To start with there will be fifty looms, and flax fibre grown in northern Minnesota will be used. The machinery that will be put into the mill will be of American manufacture, and the mill hand will all be American and will get American wages.

The second enterprise to find a place is a dyeing concern, to be run by Louis Hermsdorf, the famous Saxon "fast black" man. In his establishment in Chemnitz, Saxony, he employs 1,500 hands, and he makes black dye for all kinds of hosiery, gloves and tricot cloth. He is going to settle in Philadelphia. His agent has done everything except arrange the details of the purchase and construction of factories. He said a few days ago that everything was settled, and that Hermsdorf would have a place here in a few months.

"How many foreigners are going to move over here with their establishments?" was asked of a man who knows all about the linen industry in America, and who has been consulted by many European manufacturers or their agents.

"That is hard to say," he replied; "but there is a considerable number of them looking around already, and there are many more I know of who are waiting to have received all sorts of letters from linen manufacturers asking what the prospect is for making money, besides putting numerous other questions, and I know that any number are considering the question in addition to those who have already sent their agents here. It's all poppycock to say that they cannot make linen here as good as they can make there, or that the flax of the flax grown in this country cannot be utilized to make linen. There are some men who are going to settle here and make their goods as the men who for years have been saying that American flax was worthless, and that it was useless to attempt to grow flax for seed and for fibre at the same time. The United States is one of the greatest flax-producing countries in the world. Last year more than a million acres of land was devoted to the industry. It was for seed alone, though most of the fibre was burned. Why? Just because the farmers didn't know that it was worth anything for one reason, and, for another, that there were not enough linen manufacturers in the country to use it up. I don't say that our American flax, as it is at present cultivated, is good to make the finest linen, but it can be made so with a little more care and study. As soon as we get on to the curves of this business we can beat the world, and these Europeans who are coming over here know that, or they wouldn't come. Flax is not the only thing, either. I don't think so," was the reply.

"I don't think so," was the reply. "Some of them may, but I think that for a few years England will send over to us machinery where she used to send linen and the like."

"Will they get around the difficulty of securing skilled labor by importing men and women from Europe who have been brought up in the business?"

"No, they will not," the man replied. "They will depend on the superior intelligence of American labor. Delicate as the work is it will not take the average American man or woman long to adapt himself or herself to it and to become as skillful as the Europeans who have been born in the business. There is no question about the success of the woolen dress goods men and hosiery men who settle here. They will come into competition with the American manufacturers. Woolen men say there is room for them all, but that they will have to hustle to keep along. They will not be advanced as have the linen and woolen and hosiery and dye men.

"This emigration isn't a bad thing for America," said a Worth street merchant. "American bricklayers and carpenters and laborers will be employed to build the factories with American material, American machinery, in part, at any rate, with American raw material. It will stimulate business generally."

NASHVILLE FIRE. Penitentiary Buildings Burned Causing a Loss of \$300,000. (Nashville Special.) One of the most disastrous fires of late years in Nashville occurred at the State penitentiary last night, consuming nearly all the workshops within the walls of the prison, and jumping the wall on the east side and consuming two cottages and an immense amount of lumber, stacked there for use in the wagon manufactory within the penitentiary.

The total loss of the Tennessee Agricultural works, not including the buildings which belonged to the State, is estimated at about \$250,000. The total insurance is about \$125,000. The loss in machinery alone was very heavy, as a great deal of new machinery had recently been put in the shops. The machinery was valued at from \$75,000 to \$90,000. There were about 4,000 wagons in the shops, a large portion of which were burned, one warehouse filled with them having been destroyed.

ITALIAN ASSASSINATIONS.

Intense Excitement Over the Assassination of Chief of Police Hennessy and the Threats Against the Life of Mayor Shakespeare.

OVER FIFTY ARRESTS.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 23.—The excitement over the murder of Chief of Police Hennessy has not abated. The chief left the police station at 11 o'clock p. m. and started home, accompanied by one of his subordinates. For some time past he had expected an attack from a band of Italians, whose murders and other outrages he had been unearthing. For this reason he has usually had one or two of the force with him wherever he went. But on this occasion he told his subordinate to proceed on his rounds as he was within a square of his house and was going home.

He had reached his front door and was taking the latch key from his pocket when two assassins fired at him from a frame building on the opposite side of the street, with double barrel shotguns, loaded with buckshot. He sank on his doorstep and his wife rushed out to find him dying. When the police arrived he was barely alive, but drew one close to him and in reply to the question who shot him, he replied "Dagos." He died the next morning at 9 o'clock.

Investigation has pretty conclusively shown that the murder was the work of a band of Italian assassins who are organized into a secret society. They have been hitherto murdering each other, but the efforts of Hennessy to break up the organization and bring the assassins to justice, excited their hostility with the above result.

Mayor Shakespeare sent a message to the council describing the organization and the murder, and in conclusion announced that he had received a letter from one of the assassins saying he would be the next victim.

A public meeting was also called and a committee of fifty appointed to raise the necessary amount of money and to aid the authorities in vindicating the law. About \$1,000 were raised in a few minutes and the fund has been increased since.

The ladies owning the shanty where the assassins are supposed to have plotted and gathered, identified Macheba as the man who rented the place from them and paid a month's rent in advance. Several parties also said they followed Macheba on the night of the murder. He and the Matrangos, also supposed to be leaders in the affair, were eating supper while the shooting was going on. They remained together until 4 o'clock in the morning having a good time, and when they parted Macheba said: "Boys, I've done a good thing; I'm only sorry he was not killed at the first fire."

AN AVENGER. While the body of the late Chief of Police David C. Hennessy lay in state at the City Hall, Antonio Scalfida, identified as one of the assassins of Chief Hennessy, was shot and mortally wounded in the parish prison by Thomas C. Duffy, a brother of the ex-prize-fighter of that name. Duffy informed Deputy Sheriff Ardit, that he had called for the purpose of seeing one of the "Dagos" arrested for the assassination of Chief Hennessy, as he believed that he was able to identify him. Scalfida came down, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Dwyer, and put his face within a few inches of the gate to recognize who it was that wanted to see him. Duffy, who was standing about a foot from the gate, with a lightning-like motion drew a revolver from his hip-pocket and putting it within a few inches of Scalfida's face pulled the trigger, and the Italian with a groan fell back in the corridor, the blood spurting from a wound in the left side of the neck. Duffy was disarmed.

While in the station Duffy said that if the Italian died he was willing to hang. He said: "I only wish there were about seventy-five more men like me." Duffy was locked up.

When the wounded man reached the Charity Hospital Judge Bringer sent for, and, with his assistant, Judge Hall, arrived in a few minutes. Scalfida was asked if he had anything to say before he died and replied in the affirmative. About fifty arrests have been made and there is every reason to believe the guilty parties will be discovered.

One Italian has made a confession which implicates several members of the society. The ship Elosca is coming up next week with Italian immigrants on board. The mayor has interviewed the custom-house authorities and as a result Judge Hall has ordered the ship. Unless the immigrants can satisfy the officers they are desirable, financially and morally, they will not be allowed to land.

Joe Macheba, who was arrested to-day, has heretofore been considered a prominent Italian, above the murderous plots of his more ignorant fellow countrymen. Since his arrest some damaging evidence has developed.

AN EXTENSIVE SOCIETY. As yet the police have made little progress toward getting at the bottom facts concerning the Mafia. The question is, who are its leaders? This honor is assigned by some to Macheba, and by others to one of the Matrangos. Giovanni Provenzano, Pietro Provenzano, Nicolo Giorullo, Antonio Pellagrine, Antonio Giancarro and Gaspario Lombardi have been in the parish prison since May, charged with wounding while lying in wait, Salvador Sanzeri, Vincent Caruso and Tony Matrago, all three of whom have been arrested in connection with the assassination of Chief Hennessy. They talk quite freely of the Hennessy murder and the Mafia, which they assert, was controlled by the Matrangos.

"Hennessy was killed," said Provenzano, "because he was going to expose these men. He knew all about Matrago and Gerace; he got news from Italy about them, and he was going to tell what he knew, and that would have broken them up. Matrago was the head of the Stoppalieri Society."

"What is that society?" was asked. "They are the people who work for the Matrangos. There are about twenty leaders of them, the committee, and there are about 300 greenhorns, who have got to do anything the leaders say. When Jim Caruso came to me about four years ago with a letter asking \$1,000 for the Mafia or they would kill us, Caruso told me Matrago was the president, and Rosco Geracei was a leader. Caruso said he had been in it too, but got out of it as soon as he could. He said they took him into a room, where he saw Matrago dressed in a black domino, and others in dominoes, and they made him swear on a skull with a dirk in it. He said he was willing to rob anybody, but he didn't want to have to kill people; so he

got out of it. I didn't believe Geracei was in it, but Caruso told me so again. I took the letter to Geracei, (his brother, George Provenzano), and said I thought we had better pay it. Geracei said, 'No,' and showed it to some friends there. They were in a pool-room on St. Charles street. A lot of men wanted to get a crowd, go out to the house, have us pay over the money and then catch the fellows. Judge Davey, Mr. Menley and Ralph Morgan were among the crowd."

"Are there any Italians in the Mafia besides the people who work on ships?" he was asked. "I don't know. They have got the Mafia society everywhere. They have it in San Francisco, St. Louis, Chicago, New York and here."

"Did you ever belong to it?" "No, indeed," was the reply, uttered with considerable vehemence. "Where does this Mafia society meet?" "They meet anywhere—out near the levee, back of town, and in Carrollton, I think. They make the greenhorn men just arrived from Italy do the killing. They pay them \$10, \$20 or \$100 to get a man to do the way, and if the man they order to kill some one won't do the job they have him killed."

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Mayor Shakespeare sent a message to the council describing the organization and the murder, and in conclusion announced that he had received a letter from one of the assassins saying he would be the next victim.

A public meeting was also called and a committee of fifty appointed to raise the necessary amount of money and to aid the authorities in vindicating the law. About \$1,000 were raised in a few minutes and the fund has been increased since.

The ladies owning the shanty where the assassins are supposed to have plotted and gathered, identified Macheba as the man who rented the place from them and paid a month's rent in advance. Several parties also said they followed Macheba on the night of the murder. He and the Matrangos, also supposed to be leaders in the affair, were eating supper while the shooting was going on. They remained together until 4 o'clock in the morning having a good time, and when they parted Macheba said: "Boys, I've done a good thing; I'm only sorry he was not killed at the first fire."

AN AVENGER. While the body of the late Chief of Police David C. Hennessy lay in state at the City Hall, Antonio Scalfida, identified as one of the assassins of Chief Hennessy, was shot and mortally wounded in the parish prison by Thomas C. Duffy, a brother of the ex-prize-fighter of that name. Duffy informed Deputy Sheriff Ardit, that he had called for the purpose of seeing one of the "Dagos" arrested for the assassination of Chief Hennessy, as he believed that he was able to identify him. Scalfida came down, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Dwyer, and put his face within a few inches of the gate to recognize who it was that wanted to see him. Duffy, who was standing about a foot from the gate, with a lightning-like motion drew a revolver from his hip-pocket and putting it within a few inches of Scalfida's face pulled the trigger, and the Italian with a groan fell back in the corridor, the blood spurting from a wound in the left side of the neck. Duffy was disarmed.

While in the station Duffy said that if the Italian died he was willing to hang. He said: "I only wish there were about seventy-five more men like me." Duffy was locked up.

When the wounded man reached the Charity Hospital Judge Bringer sent for, and, with his assistant, Judge Hall, arrived in a few minutes. Scalfida was asked if he had anything to say before he died and replied in the affirmative. About fifty arrests have been made and there is every reason to believe the guilty parties will be discovered.

One Italian has made a confession which implicates several members of the society. The ship Elosca is coming up next week with Italian immigrants on board. The mayor has interviewed the custom-house authorities and as a result Judge Hall has ordered the ship. Unless the immigrants can satisfy the officers they are desirable, financially and morally, they will not be allowed to land.

Joe Macheba, who was arrested to-day, has heretofore been considered a prominent Italian, above the murderous plots of his more ignorant fellow countrymen. Since his arrest some damaging evidence has developed.

AN EXTENSIVE SOCIETY. As yet the police have made little progress toward getting at the bottom facts concerning the Mafia. The question is, who are its leaders? This honor is assigned by some to Macheba, and by others to one of the Matrangos. Giovanni Provenzano, Pietro Provenzano, Nicolo Giorullo, Antonio Pellagrine, Antonio Giancarro and Gaspario Lombardi have been in the parish prison since May, charged with wounding while lying in wait, Salvador Sanzeri, Vincent Caruso and Tony Matrago, all three of whom have been arrested in connection with the assassination of Chief Hennessy. They talk quite freely of the Hennessy murder and the Mafia, which they assert, was controlled by the Matrangos.

"Hennessy was killed," said Provenzano, "because he was going to expose these men. He knew all about Matrago and Gerace; he got news from Italy about them, and he was going to tell what he knew, and that would have broken them up. Matrago was the head of the Stoppalieri Society."