

## SNAPSHOTS AT CELEBRITIES

O. W. Underwood, Who Will Lead the Democrats.



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Among the many changes that will take place when the Sixty-second congress convenes not the least notable will be the advancement of Congressman Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama. In the present house Mr. Underwood is second seniority member on the minority side of the committee on ways and means. In the next congress Mr. Underwood will become chairman of that most important committee, which carries with it the leadership of the majority on the floor of the house. He is known to be the choice of Speaker Designate Champ Clark and a majority of the Democratic membership for that position.

Congressman Underwood is a native of Kentucky, a lawyer by profession and will be forty-nine next May. He is rounding out his sixteenth year as a member of the national house of representatives. He represents the Birmingham district, in which is centered the great iron and steel industry of the new south. When Mr. Underwood first went to congress he carried the Ninth Alabama district by a scant 1,100. That was in 1894. The normal Democratic majority in the district had been 11,000. Since that time there have been only small contests against him. He was elected to the present congress by a plurality of 8,500 and re-elected to the Sixty-second congress by an increased vote.

### A Witty Suffragist.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, the suffragist leader, had her attention called at a dinner at the Colony club in New York to a stout woman who was very tightly laced.

"Look at her," said Mrs. Chapman Catt's neighbor. "She's passing every dash. She is actually laced too tight to eat."

"Yes," said the other; "it's a case of grace before meat, isn't it?"

### New Senator From West Virginia.

Clarence W. Watson, who was elected United States senator from West Virginia to succeed the late Stephen B. Ekins, is one of the leading coal operators of the state. The new senator is a Democrat, but until now has not been active in political affairs. On the contrary, his energy has been directed



CLARENCE W. WATSON.

to the development of the immense coal fields which he controls. His success in this line has been remarkable.

Until 1900 he was a mine superintendent with a nominal salary, and in a few years he jumped to the presidency of a \$38,000,000 company owning 200,000 acres of coal lands in three states bordering on the Mason and Dixon line, selling annually 10,000,000 tons of coal. Besides its mines, the company owns towns, fleets of vessels and railroads. Of recent years he has been interested in horses and has won many blue ribbons at the London and New York shows. Senator Watson is a native of Virginia and is about forty-five years old.

### Dr. Aked's Epigram.

Dr. Charles F. Aked of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church, New York, in a recent address deplored bigotry. He concluded his condemnation with an epigram at once brilliant and true.

"Bigotry," he said, "is like the pupil of the eye—the more light you throw on it the smaller it grows."

## ITALY'S CAMORRA, WORLD'S CRIME NOW FIGHTING

A GREAT trial growing out of the inquiry which the government has been carrying on for four years concerning the Camorra at Naples is now under way at Viterbo, the old papal medieval town about fifty miles from Rome. Here an old Franciscan church has been changed into a courthouse, and an iron cage large enough to hold a hundred persons has been erected in the center of the long, wide hall to serve as a dock for the prisoners on trial.

Another old building, originally a convent and still retaining its name of Santa Maria a Gardi, although used as a prison since 1870, has been enlarged and repaired, while its massive walls have been made higher to prevent the escape of the Camorristas conveyed there from Naples. Apartments are provided inside the prison for the two judges who preside at the trial and the two attorney generals, or king's procurators, who will conduct the case against the prisoners, as attempts on their lives are feared.

### Violence Guarded Against.

The garrison of Viterbo has been increased from a company to a battalion, the prison guard has been doubled, and the small town is crowded with carabinieri, policemen and detectives. Extraordinary precautions have been taken to prevent the Camorristas from entering the town, and the police of Naples have orders to shadow the relatives and friends of the prisoners, watch their movements and report by wire their departure from Naples in order to prevent their entry into Viterbo.

In the courthouse a squad of soldiers mounts guard day and night over a large wooden box securely locked and sealed, which contains the written evidence of the trial. This evidence consists of fifty folio volumes weighing 170 pounds and includes the reports of the carabinieri and the proofs collected by the examining judges during the four years' investigation of the case. The box was conveyed from Naples to Viterbo guarded by armed soldiers who traveled in the baggage van.

The trial will mark the climax of the long struggle between the government and the Camorra. The struggle has been long and fierce. The Camorra, which is the oldest, most powerful and best organized criminal association in the world and which for seven centuries has flourished at Naples and invaded with its ramifications even North and South America, is fighting for its very existence. Practically all the chiefs of the Camorra have been arrested and are awaiting trial, and for the first time in history, it is said, a Camorra execution may be avenged. Its complicated organization, its disciplined and formal rule and its secrecy have for once been powerless to protect the members of the "honorable society" from the carabinieri.

The result of the trial is of course impossible to forecast. The trial will last over six months, and less complicated trials have ended with an acquittal in Italy. But it is certain that the Camorra still retains some of its power.

The Camorristas at Viterbo are well supplied with money. They have secured the services of the best lawyers in Italy for their defense, and all are hopeful of acquittal. The police have decided to have each member of the jury guarded, an unprecedented measure in Italy.

### Still Choose New Members.

Besides, during the last four years, when all the Camorra chiefs have been under arrest and the Camorra was supposed to have been disorganized, the Naples civil police have on several occasions surprised secret meetings of the "honorable society" held for the election of new members. The Naples newspapers even gave the names of some of the chiefs who had been elected instead of those arrested by the carabinieri.

The number of picciotti, or "boys," generally beggars and pickpockets, who aspire to belong to the society and ask to be initiated has not diminished and many have been admitted on trial and after performing the expected proof of courage have been promoted Camorristi, or full members of the society.

Burglars continue to pay a regular percentage on their spoils. Taxes are levied on every unlawful resort, while money lenders who practice usury pay a small share of their profits to the "honorable society." All the cabs that enter Naples from the neighboring towns and villages continue to pay the usual Camorra toll of a cent, and the farmers who bring their produce to market do likewise.

The crime which led to the trial is the murder of a man named Cuocolo and his wife. Cuocolo was a member of the Camorra, but he belonged to the high class or alta Camorra and was a sort of retired member of the society, very influential and powerful and wealthy. He belonged to a respectable family, and it is reported that he was led astray by a woman of bad repute, Maria Cufinelli, whom he married probably to fulfill a vow generally made by Camorristi, who promise to marry a woman of bad repute in order to prevent her from leading a life of sin.

As in the case of all the members of the high Camorra, Cuocolo benefited largely from the work of the rank and

## OLDEST OF ORGANIZATIONS, FOR EXISTENCE

file without doing any work or taking any risks. He lent money at usury, purchased and received stolen goods, levied taxes, took an active part in local politics and municipal elections and increased his income in several ways. His specialty consisted in planning burglaries.

It often happened that the Camorristas cheated Cuocolo and kept a great part of the booty for themselves, but Cuocolo had a good remedy in such cases. He merely denounced the Camorristas to the police and had them convicted of the burglary he planned.

One day over four years ago Cuocolo and his wife were murdered. His body was found on the bench of Torre del Greco, and on it were forty-seven characteristic stabs and slashes of the Camorra, while his wife was found murdered in her house at Naples. There seemed to be no doubt that the double murder was a Camorra execution.

The civil police made a mild investigation and made a few arrests. Among those who testified in behalf of the prisoners was a priest who held the post of municipal chaplain at the cemetery, Don Oiro Vitozzi. This priest is Enrico Alfano's godfather, and Enrico Alfano, nicknamed Erricone, was known to be one of the chiefs of the Camorra. The prisoners were released and the case was practically dropped.

### Carabinieri Take Case.

A Socialist member of parliament who did not owe his election to the Camorra then broadly hinted that the Naples civil police were in league with the Camorra and suggested that the investigation of the murder should be intrusted by the government to the carabinieri, who went at the case vigorously. They made some interesting discoveries.

They found out that on May 25, 1906, a secret meeting of the Camorra was held at Bagnoli which was attended by all the chiefs of the ten districts of Naples and a couple of Camorristi from each district. There seemed to be no doubt that the Camorristas assembled to sit as a tribunal and pass judgment on a traitor. The punishment of a traitor is always death. The carabinieri then made another discovery.

On the day the Cuocolo murder was committed a party of Camorristas assembled in a small restaurant at Torre del Greco, where they had supper late in the evening. The windows of the restaurant overlooked the beach where Cuocolo's body was found. There was nothing eventful about the supper except that when it was half through a man rushed in with a wild look on his face and, going up to Enrico Alfano, whispered something in his ear. Alfano merely shook hands with him, and the man left. The Camorristas who attended the secret meeting at Bagnoli and those who had supper at Torre del Greco were the same.

The carabinieri succeeding in getting hold of a Camorrist named Abatemaggio, who explained many circumstances. Abatemaggio said that Cuocolo had been murdered because a Camorrist named Luigi Arena, who was then serving a long term of re-education or coerced domicile in the island of Lampedusa, had denounced him as a traitor to the tribunal of the Camorra. Arena had worked under Cuocolo and successfully accomplished many burglaries, and yet Cuocolo had him sent to prison and supplied the police with the necessary evidence for his conviction. Arena wrote to the chiefs at Naples and exacted Cuocolo's punishment according to the code of the "honorable society."

### Sentenced to Death.

The chiefs of the Camorra passed on Cuocolo the usual sentence of death. Four Camorristas were charged with the execution of the sentence. The death of Cuocolo's wife had not been decreed by the Camorra tribunal, but it was decided on by the murderers themselves, who feared she would avenge her husband.

The carabinieri then arrested all the Camorristas with the exception of Alfano and two or three others. While the carabinieri were trying to collect all the evidence possible against the prisoners Police Sergeant Petrosino arrested Alfano at New York, where he discovered him at a banquet given in his honor by the representatives of the Camorra in Elizabeth street. It is likely that the murder of Petrosino three years later at Palermo was the Camorra's vengeance for the arrest of Enrico Alfano.

About thirty Camorristas were charged with complicity in the Cuocolo crime and active participation in a criminal association, while the priest Don Oiro Vitozzi is accused of subornation. The Camorristas who will be tried at Viterbo number over forty, but many other Camorristas arrested by the carabinieri for other crimes and now still in prison will be called to give evidence. The only Camorrist who evaded arrest is Andrea Attanasio, who is suspected to be in hiding in South America.

The judicial authorities took a year in going over the case before fixing the date of the trial. They realized that it was impossible to have the trial at Naples, where possibly many jurymen would belong to the Camorra, and decided to have the case tried at Viterbo.

## BUYS FINE LOT

### FROM JOHN HOLT

John Holt who several months ago purchased the Seller's lot in Eastport, last week sold same to Fred Fisher. The lot is considered the finest residence property in Newport, and for years the beautiful Denton home stood on it, but fire swept it away several months ago, the property belonging to G. W. Sellers at the time.

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## C. C. Holder

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I. E. Moore of Chestnut Hill Jefferson county left Tuesday morning for Woodruff, S. C., where he will work in the cotton mill located at that place. Mr. Moore and his family of a wife and six children spent Monday in Newport.

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