

UPO the WOLF, CAGED, STILL FIGHTS the SECRET SERVICE

William J. Flynn, Chief of the Secret Service, Department of the East, Is Marked for Assassination, and Members of the Lupu-Morello Band Are Trying to Force an Investigation Which Would Reveal the Names of Five Men of the Secret Service Who Have Gained the Inner Councils of the Mafia in America

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UPO THE WOLF is in the federal prison at Atlanta with twenty-three years of a twenty-five year sentence to serve. In another cell in the same prison is Giuseppe Morello, Lupu's lieutenant, but the whelps of the wolf are abroad, and from his barred cell the dreaded Sicilian still is directing the feuds and operations of the Mafia in America.

That the arrest and conviction of seven of the clan of "The Wolf" two years ago has not resulted in the extermination of the band of counterfeiters is evidenced by the fact that the organization has carried the fight into the very home of William J. Flynn, Chief of the United States Secret Service, Department of the East, and is also forcing a fight to bring about an investigation of the Secret Service Bureau which would result in the divulging of the names of five men in the employ of the government who are close to the inner circles of various petty bands which go to make up the "solidarity" known to the police and the Secret Service as the "Lupo-Morello band," or the Mafia in America.

These five men are feared by the Mafia as no other human agency is feared, for so far all efforts to learn their identity have been futile, and plot after plot hatched by the counterfeiters has been spotted by information reaching the chief of the Secret Service through roundabout mysterious channels from these men. A whisper of their names to the Mafia, as the members of the band are known to Italians, and Chief Flynn says that within the span of a single day their bodies would be found in sewers or cramped in barrels, fangs bled and limbs mutilated.

It is the desperate straits into which the Mafia has been driven which are responsible for this forlorn hope—the effort to force an investigation of the bureau and learn the names of these five men whose work lies in the underworld.

Secret Service Men in Mafia.
"It took me years to get these men into the inner councils of the Mafia," said Chief Flynn recently, "and the information they have given me has been invaluable. Without them the tribe of 'The Wolf' would be as unfettered as it was three years ago, when it had succeeded in putting into circulation \$50,000 in counterfeit two and five dollar bills. The making public the names of these five men means not only their death, but the paralysis of the arm of the Secret Service."

At the opening of the June term of the District Court of the United States at Binghamton, N. Y., Justice George W. Ray was jealously guarded by Secret Service men, who were stationed at different points inside and surrounding the court house, because of a letter received by the Justice during the trial of Lupu and Morello. The letter was not signed and it stated:

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

Abel I. Smith was the Assistant District Attorney who prosecuted the counterfeiters, and Flynn, aided by his five spies, is the man who was responsible for the tracking down and arresting of them. It was because of the work of Chief Flynn's five members of the Mafia that Secret Service men began to watch Ignazio Lupu, known as "The Wolf," Vito di Luca and "Petto the Ox" in the spring of 1903. A man named Giuseppe Di Primo was convicted of counterfeiting and sent to Sing Sing. Benedetto Madonio visited Di Primo in prison and was

commissioned to collect funds in New York for the benefit of the prisoner. Secret Service men followed Madonio for weeks. They tracked him to his eating places, to his lodgings, and watched his every move. They learned that he was beseeching the three suspects for funds

and they watched and waited, hoping to get evidence that would implicate the others.

Spies who had furnished information to Chief Flynn about the workings of the band were simultaneously keeping the bureau posted, and the men who shadowed Madonio and his three friends did not know who these spies were. Perhaps they shadowed them, too, for the spies are accredited members of the band, and none in the Secret Service ever speaks to them save Flynn himself.

The Mafia learned that they were being watched and suspected Madonio of being an informant in the interests of the Secret Service. Flynn's men may have known of the plotted murder of Madonio, but if so they were powerless to avert it. Many a grim secret they are forced to conceal.

One morning in April, 1903, Madonio was found murdered at the corner of Eleventh street and Avenue D, New York city. Lupu, Di Luca and "Petto the Ox" were arrested by the police, but they were subsequently discharged.

When Giuseppe Di Primo, in prison, heard of Benedetto Madonio's death he swore a vendetta against the trio that he declared had murdered his friend and forsaken him. Upon his release he tracked "Petto the Ox," who was a wrestler, to Wilkesbarre, Pa.

On Trail of the Wolf.
Tommaso Petto was living there in a cottage. On the evening of the third day after Di Primo was released from Sing Sing, "the Ox" heard the old familiar call of his band. Taking a revolver he walked calmly to his door and threw it open. From the pathway leading to the street a pistol flashed; at the same instant Petto fired, but he missed, having been shot through the heart at the very instant his finger pulled the trigger. Giuseppe Di Primo then calmly emptied his revolver into the body of "Petto the Ox."



William J. Flynn.



Ignazio Lupu, The Wolf.



Tommaso Petto "The Ox."



The Eight Prisoners Gazed Tranquilly but Grimly at "Comito the Sheep."



Justice George W. Ray.



Salvatore Saitta.



Giuseppe Morello.

would probably have been completed and "Lupo the Wolf" would not now be in the federal prison fighting for freedom. Ignazio Lupu only gained strength by the death of his two confederates and became the leader of the Lupo-Morello band, which Secret Service men say is really the Mafia in America. Although the Secret Service spies were powerless to prevent these murders among the law breakers, the quarrels between members of the band helped them to their ends, and in the fall of 1909 they had put so great a mass of evidence in Chief Flynn's hands that the arrest of the counterfeiters began.

Seven of them, including "Lupo the Wolf," were arrested in a farmhouse near Highland, N. Y., where they were making counterfeit United States and Canadian money. With the greatest of assurance when he was arrested Ignazio Lupu offered a considerable bribe to Chief Flynn.

Morello was arrested in New York, and in his rooms his wife was found sitting on a pile of letters which appeared to have been sent to various merchants demanding money ransoms to the band. These letters had been returned to the writers with the money asked for. At his trial in the Criminal Branch of the United States District Court Lupu confessed to the murder of a man in Sicily. He was a business man, he said, who owed him 500 lire, and Lupu was forced to kill him in self-defense.

The Italian authorities tell a different story, and, according to Mr. Flynn, the police of New York have been aware for ten years that Lupu was wanted at home

for murder. Secret Service men could at any time have informed the police of his whereabouts, but no effort was ever made to deport him or to turn him over to the Italian government. This was, out "This is not exactly the fault of the police," said Chief Flynn. "These bands are protected by money and by political influence. I do not blame either political party exclusively. Both protect these bands for one reason or another. Of course, besides being able to collect thousands of dollars from Italians and Sicilians, they are able to sway hundreds of votes by terrorizing 'citizens.' The police are to a certain extent powerless because of the powerful backing these men get from politicians. Since Lupu and some of his pals have been imprisoned members of the band have collected almost \$50,000 to be used in an effort to have

them liberated. This money is forced from residents of Italian and Sicilian colonies in all the cities of the world. It is collected by the 'compari' or godfathers of the prisoners and by men under them. An equal amount of money has already been spent in the fight to liberate these men. It comes from Tunis, Algiers, Liverpool, New Orleans, St. Louis, New York and every other big city of the world, where there are any considerable number of Italians."

It has been learned by one high in the Secret Service that last December two men visited Lupu in the prison at Atlanta. They were ordered to assassinate Chief Flynn. One of the Secret Service men, who appears on the roll books merely as a number, learned of this and informed Mr. Flynn. This man is one of the five who are high in the council of the Lupo-Morello band. The greatest precautions are taken by Mr. Flynn and his men. Even in his office in the Custom House, New York city, the most careful watch is kept.

"My children never venture a hundred feet from the house except under the protection of some dependable person," said Mr. Flynn. "I have received many letters from the writers of which threatened to kidnap my children, but, worse than this, my spies have informed me of several plots with the same purpose in view. The letters may be fakes, but these men, who know every move of the Mafia, have time and again frustrated the kidnapping schemes or warned me of them."

A Home at the Seashore on a Small Salary.

VERY day brings us nearer to those hours of discomfort attendant on the summer season, hours when the hemming in by hot brick walls seems more insufferable than ever, when we are prone to envy the rich, who are able to summer at the beach or in the mountains. And I just want to tell you, sister, that the task of getting a home outside the city is not nearly so insurmountable as you fancy, and how I made a cozy little nest for myself within easy walking distance of the seashore.

A little remote from the built-up section of a fashionable summer resort, and where there were a few bungalows just beginning to make an appearance, there lay a number of plots of rather low land, backed by a fine trout stream. These plots were covered with underbrush, there was a fresh water spring on one of them, and pine trees were scattered prominently over the property. I purchased three of them, 50 by 200 feet, at \$250 apiece, making a bargain with the real estate dealer for \$10 down and easy payments on a sliding scale commencing with \$5 a month for the first six months, rising afterward to \$7 and then to \$10, keeping up the latter rate of payment for as long a time as was required to com-



Giuseppe Morello.

"These are the men whose lives would be forfeit if their names were revealed at an investigation, I would welcome an investigation of the Secret Service which would not cripple it, but I will never divulge the names of those men who are fighting quietly and without fame or glory for the sake of their government and decency. I would rot in prison before I would betray those who have been so faithful to me. I owe to them the safety of my own children."

"There are sixty-five members of the clan of the Wolf at large in the United States to-day and forty-five in prison. I expect that within a month Mr. Bourke Cockran will apply for a writ of certiorari for Giuseppe Morello. This shows how powerful this band is and how rich also. "Since its members have been operating in this country I know of sixty murders which they have committed. For months they sometimes average one murder a week. Most of these murders take place in New York, but the bodies are usually buried in a burial ground known only to a few of the members of the band who are high officers. In a few days I shall know where this burying ground is through the men I have in the council of the band. I meet them here, there and everywhere, but they are never seen speaking to me. Some of my own men might unknowingly arrest them."

"Just about two months ago Joe Morello was shot to death in 114th street, near Second avenue, New York city. His real name is Colajero Morello, and he is a son of Giuseppe Morello, Lupu's trusted lieutenant. He was killed because members of the band believed he was giving information to the Secret Service. How long would my men last if their real character were known?"

Since young Morello, who was only eighteen years old, was killed Benny Testa and another Italian whose name is not known to the police were murdered in New York. One high in authority in the Secret Service declares that all three of these men were killed by the Lupo-Morello gang because they were suspected of being informers.

The Omerta.
The success of the Mafia operations in America has been due partly to the inactivity of the police in prosecuting the members and partly to what is called by Italians omerta. There is no single word or expression in English which is fully equivalent to omerta. The word implies that force which induces the eyewitness of a crime to swear, while under oath on the witness stand, that he knows nothing of the crime or of the person accused. Omerta is said by some to be a corruption of the Italian omere, meaning honor, and by others it is said to be derived from homo, man, but in any case omerta as a force is one of the most trying and baffling difficulties with which police and Secret Service men have to contend.

When Lupu and six confederates were being tried in the District Court in New York witnesses for the state were carefully guarded by Secret Service men and were taken to court one at a time. Even in the court room Secret Service men, armed with revolvers, protected them. Comito the Sheep was one of the members of the counterfeiting band who turned State's evidence, and he was most carefully guarded against attack, being escorted to pad from the court room by a squad of men. During the trial, while Comito was giving testimony, Lupu the Wolf, Giuseppe Morello and the six other prisoners gazed calmly and steadfastly at him. Calm they were, but their eyes burned into his and never wandered from his face. At first Comito did not seem to mind, but as counsel asked him question after question and no matter what the answer the eight pairs of eyes continued to gaze steadily at his face he became fascinated. He could not let his own eyes wander from those of the men who gazed at him. Each face was tranquil, but grim, and Comito the Sheep knew what it meant. He broke down and was assisted from the witness stand, his testimony incomplete.

A woman in the court house screamed. "It is the sign of death." Then she became hysterical. The witness paled, tottered on his feet, and sank to the floor in a dead faint. When he was revived he swore that he knew nothing of the crime and that he could tell nothing which would throw light on the stealing of the boy or the movements of the other accused men.

The trial was allowed to drag for several days until the excitement subsided in order that other witnesses might be pacified and recover from the fright produced by the dramatic episode.

Rosina Martines was escorted to court by police backed up by a number of Secret Service men. The last statement she made before taking the witness stand was that she did not fear the Mafia and that she would tell her story from start to finish.

The first part of her story involved only minor details and referred to unimportant members of the band. But just as the name of Mimi San Filippo, one of the leaders, was on her lips, that prisoner made a sign suggestive of the cutting of a throat. Rosina faltered, but recovered quickly. As she was about to proceed with her story there was a loud hiss from some one among the spectators. Secret Service men were scattered throughout the court room. They all turned to see who had made the sound, as did the Judge, the jury, and almost every one else in the room. While attention was distracted from San Filippo a Secret Service man caught a glimpse of a gesture he made with his hand.

Rosina Martines staggered from the witness stand and was supported by court attendants. "By the God in heaven," she shrieked. "I swear I do not know about this man. By the sacred grave of my mother I swear I know nothing of this matter. I know nothing and I can tell nothing. I swear it. I swear it."

Not another word could be coaxed from the woman and her valuable testimony was lost to the State. If it were not for the Secret Service and their work in watching the bands which go to make up the Mafia in America, because of their counterfeiting, it is difficult to say how widely these criminals might operate. The police are in a measure powerless and it is hard to convict a member of the "solidarity" of murder. The omerta seals the lips of witnesses, and members of the gang who are themselves attacked prefer to wreak vengeance after their own fashion rather than allow justice to take its course.

There was a barber, Carlo Maresse, who went to New Brighton, Staten Island, from Sicily. In February, 1907, he received a letter from a friend, Giuseppe Vena, who said that he, too, would like to live in America. Maresse sent him money for his passage and \$40 to spare, but Vena had not been in New York long before Pasquale Pucillo, a cobbler friend of Maresse, was threatened with death unless he should send a certain sum of money to a stated place. Pucillo, alarmed, showed the letter to Carlo, who thought he recognized the writing.

Among his papers he found the letter which Vena had written from Sicily and, comparing the two letters, declared that Vena was the would-be blackmailer. He sought out Vena in a saloon in Mulberry street, New York city, which the latter frequented and warned him against the life he was entering.

Methods of the Mafia.
Vena called him a liar and said that he had written no letter to Pucillo. Nevertheless the cobbler received another letter, and after Maresse had advised him to turn it over to the police the barber was himself attacked by Vena and a man named Parente. A driver of a milk wagon interfered and saved Maresse, but as his assailants fled they promised to wreak vengeance on his daughter, a girl of eighteen, reputed to be very beautiful. From that time Maresse kept a heavily loaded shotgun in his home. One night Vena and Parente tried to force an entrance to his house. The barber was ready for them and gave Vena the contents of one barrel, but missed Parente with the other. Giuseppe Vena was taken to the New Brighton Hospital, where he was confronted by Carlo Maresse. "Is this the man who shot you?" asked the policeman who had the barber in custody. There was no reply from Vena. "Do you know this man?" asked the policeman. "I never saw him," said Vena, who was dying. Maresse glared at him. "You lie!" he said. "I shot you and you know why I did it." Vena died without making any statement as to who shot him, but Maresse steadfastly declared that it was he.

That is the way of the Mafia, or the Lupo-Morello band, or the Camorra, as you wish to call it, for the Secret Service men say they are one and the same thing inasmuch as the different bands have the same leaders. That the Italian bands are close to those in America was shown when Joseph Petrolino was killed in the Piazza of Palermo while investigating the records of Italian criminals who had come to America. They are even more powerfully protected in Italy than in America, for the Mafia is the controlling political organization in Sicily. It was originally founded to defend the island against invasion, probably in the time of the Spanish Bourbons, or, perhaps, as some believe, as long ago as the thirteenth century at the time of the Sicilian Vespers, when the island became free. The greatest check which has been put upon the Mafia in America was the conviction of Lupu the Wolf, Giuseppe Morello and five of their henchmen. While there are many of the "whelps of the wolf" at large, they are in desperate circumstances because of the five men under Chief Flynn who are influential members of the band, and many believe that it is the death struggle of the Mafia in America; this fight to have the names of these five heroes revealed.