POLICE BREAK UP EXTORTION GAME

Italian Believed to Be Black-Hand Member Is Arrested for Operating Here.

RAZOR CONCEALED IN SHOE

Officers Think They Prevented Killing by Capture of Rocco Caffaro, Who Wanted Money to Defend Murderer.

Rocco Caffaro, an Italian 35 years old and of the most brutal appearing type, was arrested by the police yesterday forenoon after having created a reign of terror for five days among the poorer class of Italian residents of Portland. He was engaged in raising money by threatening methods for the defense of an Italian murderer named Labaterro, now in custody at St. Paul. Rocco Calatorti, a section foreman employed by the O. R. & N. Company, caused Caffaro's arrest after having been threatened with a horrible death for failure to contribute $40 to the fund. Caffaro is believed by the authorities to be of the murderous Black Hand fraternity.

Many Italian workmen and petty dealers have given Caffaro money during the short time he has been operating in Portland and so profound is the fear of Black Hand vengeance among the poorer Italians that Caffaro might never have been exposed except that he drove too harsh a bargain with the section foreman. Calatorti was told that unless he procured the $40 demanded of him by Saturday night his head would be severed.

Tells Story to Police.

Not able to raise that much money on short notice Calatorti went into hiding Friday, when he was told he must pay or die. Hounded by the fear of death he finally resorted to seeking police assistance Saturday. That his fears were not without basis was shown forcibly when Caffaro, on being arrested by Detectives Coleman and Price, was found to have a razor secreted in his left shoe. It was with a razor that he had threatened to sever the section foreman's neck, so that intended victim vows.

Calatorti says it will never again be safe for him to leave his home at 669 Fifth street after dusk, as Caffaro has four close friends who have been about with him for several days and who may be confederates. The police are now looking for these four men, although they are not known to have made any threats.

Owing to the fear in which the Italians hold the Black Hand, the officers had great difficulty yesterday in tracing Caffaro's movements during his money-getting campaign here. After several hours of persistent inquiry, Detectives Price and Coleman learned of but two who were willing to admit they had given the fellow money. Joseph Galaberis, a peddler, gave up $1.70, all the ready cash he had. Sarveris Golovanalli, 669 Fifth street, parted with $7. Galaberis was talking with the blackmailer at Fifth and Sherman streets when the arrest was made. Apparently having confidence that the peddler would be afraid to assist him, Caffaro attempted to slip the tell-tale razor to him unobserved by the officers.

May Have Planned Crime.

Caffaro was arrested a few minutes after he had called on the man he had threatened. The police believe he had gone there to kill the section foreman. This view is supported by the fact of the secreted razor, which had been previously named as the instrument of execution. The call was made, too, after the last hour of grace had expired for payment of the $40.

The intended victim was in hiding in South Portland up to the time of arrest. He had arranged with an Italian woman residing in the same house to notify the police the moment Caffaro put in an appearance. This the woman did but she refused to see the officers when they arrived or to give them any information, saying she was afraid the Black Hand agents would dynamite her home. Having previously secured a minute description of Caffaro, the officers cast about the neighborhood, after receiving the warning call from the woman, and finally picked the fellow up at Fifth and Sherman streets, where he was loitering in company with Galaberis. From where he stood Caffaro was able to see the Calatorti home and the officers regard it as not improbable that he was watching for the section foreman.

When arrested Caffaro indulged in some grand opera heroics, demanding to know why an innocent man was molested by officers while speaking with his friends. He was promptly informed as to the charge against him.

Maintains He Is Innocent.

"Ah, you makka me seek," he said, folding his arms dramatically and drawing himself up to his full height in an absurd posture. When Detective Coleman caught hold of him he struck at the officer's arm but after being shaken up a little resumed his grandiose pose and went quietly to the jail. En route he saw Calatorti, who had betrayed him to the officers, and he favored that individual with a most uncomfortable scrutiny from as black and ominous a pair of eyes as ever graced a brigand, comic opera or otherwise. "I will feex you fora dis," he hissed, and Calatorti manifested symptoms of extreme discomfort.

From a letter that was found in the prisoner's pocket the officers were able to learn that Caffaro was collecting money for the assistance of a St. Paul murderer. The letter, written in Italian, was not of such a nature as to compromise Caffaro, however, although there are words in it which were very difficult for Italian students to decipher and which may have meaning other than that conveyed on the surface, so the officers believe. The letter was signed by Filipio Labaterro, Upper Levee N. 24, St. Paul. It set out that the writer's son, and Caffaro's cousin was in prison for killing someone and that $500 was needed to defend him. The sum of $440 had already been subscribed and Caffaro was asked to send on $60.

Blackhand Is Not Mentioned.

There was nothing about the communication to indicate any blackhand connections, although the officers say it is unlikely that any such reference would be made in a letter of that description. It is essentially a blackhand practice, however, to raise funds for the defense of any member of the subtle brotherhood who may chance to get into trouble through murder or blackmail or any other of the established practices of the society.

Caffaro has been in and out of Portland for the past three years. Where he rooms while in the city the officers were not able to learn yesterday. The prisoner declined to tell, suavely assuring them that he never bothers about sleeping and consequently doesn't need any room. It was learned that he came in from Spokane only a few days ago. It is possible he was there on the same mission. While his hands are those of a laborer they do not show the effects of recent work. He has never been known to work more than a few days at a time and the local Italians say they have no information as to how he keeps up.

The subject of Caffaro was one which the majority of bootblacks and Italian workmen seen by the police declined to take up. He is said to have been in Chicago and St. Paul just before going to Spokane on his last trip out of Portland. No one seems to remember just when he left Portland, although he had been missing for six months at least. Two years ago he was suspected of complicity in a supposed blackhand murder which occurred at First and Clay streets. Nothing could be proved, and after a brief detention he was released. Investigation as to his connection with that affair may now be renewed.

Missed Chance to Get $1000.

Golovanalli, the Italian who donated $7 to the fund, told the officials that he came near to losing $1000 in currency. Caffaro demanded of him that he give all his money. He took him to his home, opened a trunk and with great ceremony uncovered a small tin cup in which was the $7 in small change, hidden away for emergency. Caffaro was satisfied that he had gotten all there was and left. Golovanalli says that at the time he had $1000 in bills in his pockets, having drawn the money for use in a business transaction.

This occurred last Tuesday, which was the day, seemingly, that Caffaro began working the local Italians. The extent of his receipts can only be guessed at, as nearly all those who put up are afraid to tell. His appearance being that of a man who would cut a throat on the slightest provocation, his countrymen admit they were afraid of him.

"He came to me on Friday," said Calatorti, who caused the arrest: "He said, 'I want $40 from you.' I knew what that meant and asked no questions. But I did not have the money. He told me to get it off my friends by Saturday night if I didn't want to lose my head."

Notwithstanding a considerable degree of fluency in the use of the English language at the moment of his arrest, Caffaro was in a "no sabe" mood last night, and all efforts of the officers to cross question him came to naught. "Threatening to kill" is the charge jotted opposite his name on the police blotter.

ITALIAN ARRESTED FOR EXTORTING MONEY BY THREATS TO KILL

ROCCO CAFFARO, WHOM POLICE BELIEVE IS BLACK-HAND MEMBER.

SUIT WILL TAKE YEARS

O. & C. LAND CASE SEEMINGLY INTERMINABLE.

Claimants to Railroad Timber Land May Die of Old Age Before Decision Is Reached.

Among lawyers it is not regarded as an exaggeration to say that several of the men associated with the Oregon & California Railroad Company as defendants in the Government's land-grant suit will have died before the case finally is decided in the courts. Because of the magnitude of the suit and the interests involved, it will remain for the United States Supreme Court to write the final decree, for it matters not which side wins in the lower court it will be taken to the highest tribunal in the land. The suit involves 2,300,000 acres of the most valuable timber land in the state, exceeding $40,000,000 in value.

Only the first round in what will prove one of the most stubbornly contested legal battles in the history of the country has been fought. It consisted of the argument on the railroad company's demurrer to the Government's bill of complaint, which was concluded and submitted before Judge Wolverton Saturday. As has been pointed out, a ruling by Judge Wolverton on the points raised in the demurrer and which attacks the sufficiency of the complaint and the Government's right to maintain its suit, cannot be expected for probably eight months. The railroad company has been given 60 days to prepare and submit its brief. An additional 30 days is allowed the Government to file its brief and then the railroad company has 30 days longer to file a reply brief. In this way four months more will be consumed before the demurrer finally is submitted to Judge Wolverton, who probably will require an equal length of time to write his opinion.

Regardless of what Judge Wolverton's opinion may be, the losing side will take an appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Should the demurrer be sustained by Judge Wolverton and the ruling of the trial judge be affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, the effect would be to terminate the litigation. But should the demurrer be overruled by Judge Wolverton and that opinion ratified by the Supreme Court of the land, the case would have to pass through the usual procedure and be tried on its merits. This would be but the first step in the almost endless legal journey to be followed.

If the demurrer is finally overruled, then the defendant company will be given time to answer the complaint. Counter motions would be offered by both sides and months would pass before the case would be at issue and ready for formal trial. The findings of the trial court in the suit would follow the same legal route mapped out for the ruling on the demurrer to the complaint. Years instead of months will be required for a final decision in this important suit.

SETTLE NORMAL QUESTION

APPEAL TO LEGISLATURE TO REACH DECISION NOW.

Mr. Fenton Objects to Turmoil Over Schools, Involving, He Says, Other Matters.

PORTLAND, Or., March 14.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to the special session of the Legislative Assembly to convene on March 15, permit me to express my views upon a subject of vital importance, in my judgment, to this state.

Primarily the special session has been called for the enactment of the appropriation bill for improvements at state institutions, particularly the Insane Asylum, so that the unfortunate wards of the state may have that attention and care which an intelligent and enlightened commonwealth must take of those who are the peculiar wards of the state in these circumstances. In addition thereto, I assume that the unfortunate situation of the three state normal schools should be brought to the sharp attention of the members of the Legislative Assembly, and it seems to me, with all deference to the views of others to the contrary, that the Legislature should at the ensuing session settle for all time to come the state normal school question, and end once for all the disgraceful and unfortunate situation in which the state is now placed. Portland does not want a state normal school. It is an insult, if I may be allowed to use strong language, to the intelligence of Multnomah County and the City of Portland to throw out this bait for a state normal school and thereby give thoughtless and careless voters of Multnomah County, who have no interest in the question, who know nothing about the normal question, an opportunity to vote a large plurality in favor of such measure, and thereby destroy the work of years at Monmouth, Ashland and Weston, and thus engender further jealousies between the metropolis and the rest of the state. It may also be taken as a sop to Multnomah County in return for support to retain the state capital at Salem.

While Senator Smith in introducing and the Legislature just closed in enacting into law the bill referred to doubtless had no such thought in view, it will be considered by the voters of Multnomah County as intended to quiet the agitation in this county and in other sections of the state in favor of the removal of the state capital to the City of Portland, a thing which ought not to be considered for a moment, and a thing which ought not to be injected into any election or into any prospective state legislation. Portland does not want the state capital, it does not need the state normal, and it should have neither, and a vote on either question ought not to be attempted, thereby unsettling the political situation in Oregon for the next two or four years. This bill ought to be repealed formally and summarily. In lieu thereof the Legislature should decide whether to maintain three state normal schools, one at Monmouth, one at Ashland and one at Weston, or to select one of the three and maintain it. I myself favor three, Weston, Ashland and Monmouth, and I believe in liberal appropriations for the building and maintaining of each of the three schools for each of the three separate sections of the state. It will save expense and give better work to have three such schools than to have one big school.

Referring to Monmouth in particular, the property now claimed by the state normal at Monmouth is owned upon the condition that it shall be maintained as a state normal school, and unless it is so maintained, all the property at Monmouth will revert to Christian College, the former owner of the property, and this property is worth approximately $100,000. The prudent and wise thing to do is to put these three schools on their feet at once, allowing their large classes to go on, and to go on with the idea that that school is permanent, and the Legislature which does this will establish the state normal school system in this state upon a permanent basis which, in the long run, will be a work of economy. The state normal school is as necessary as the common school; if the common school system must be maintained by the state, the state normal school must be preparing the teachers for such work; the two are co-related, and it is a mistaken policy to assume that a state normal school is merely a high school for a local community; it ought not to be so, and it will not be so if a proper effort is made to maintain the schools as they should be maintained. If there should not be three schools thus established, I would of course favor Monmouth as the oldest and probably the best of the three schools, although this may be debatable, and thereby save the $100,000 worth of property at Monmouth which otherwise will be forfeited to Christian College and be lost entirely to the state.

It is a disgrace to our state that the Legislature should have adjourned with this question in the present condition. Weston is trying to raise money to maintain its normal until June; Ashland and Monmouth are doing the same thing. These classes now there, in the middle of the school year, are cut off by the state without any thought as to the reckless course that has been pursued. I speak with a good deal of earnestness, but I am satisfied I give voice and expression to the sentiment of the great majority of the people of this state. I am myself a friend of the state university; I have two sons who graduated there; I am myself a graduate of old Christian College, but I have a very high appreciation of the educational system of this state, and I wish to have restored the state normal system, and have it removed from current politics.

I am also an admirer and friend of the Agricultural College at Corvallis, and believe it has a mission to perform which should go on to its successful destiny, and it, too, should be liberally and properly supported. If the Legislative Assembly, when convened in special session, will restore the state normal school system, it will be the end of so-called trading on this account, or of threats of reprisals upon the state university or upon the Agricultural College, which has been the subject of criticism for 20 years.

A constitutional convention may be rejected or created at the election in November, 1910, by the vote on the Smith bill for a state normal at Portland. In other words, the great public question which underlies the organic law of the state, which should be considered by men as statesmen, will be sacrificed to get a state institution at a particular point, or to destroy a state normal at some other point. The tendency is vicious, and ought to be ended at once.

I do not care to speak in detail as to the remedy for the situation in which we are placed, but I do say that it is supreme folly to place Oregon as one of the five states out of the 48 without a normal school system. Oregon cannot afford thus to destroy this instrumentality so effectively necessary in the extension, development and care of its common school system.

WM. D. FENTON.

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GREGORY WAKED THEM UP YESTERDAY

Again yesterday the streetcars, streetcar employes, salesmen and everybody connected in any way with GREGORY, were taxed to the utmost.

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$100 A LOT, PAYABLE ON SUCH EASY TERMS as $5 DOWN, $2.50 MO. **$10** A MONTH, LESS THAN RENT FOR A HOME of YOUR OWN

VISIT GREGORY HEIGHTS THIS WEEK

SCHEDULE TO BE ALTERED

Six-Minute Service Planned for Montgomery-Street Cars.

The Portland Railway, Light & Power Company is planning to establish a six-minute service on the Montgomery street line. Cars are now scheduled to run every 10 minutes coming from Mt. Tabor and up Eleventh street. A loop system will soon be established, running up Morrison street to Eleventh, south on Eleventh to Montgomery, west to Thirteenth, north on Thirteenth to Washington, east on Washington to Third and south on Third to Morrison. When the loop system is put into operation, the Mt. Tabor cars will be routed up Morrison street to Chapman, which corresponds to Eighteenth street. A 10-minute service will be given on the Mt. Tabor line. The Jefferson street line also runs into the territory covered by the loop system. A switch is now being installed at Thirteenth and Montgomery streets to complete the loop.

The work of installing a switch at East Water street and Hawthorne avenue has been completed, so that the Oregon City and Cazadero cars are no longer compelled to run though the freight yards on the East Side. A turnout switch has also been put in on East Water street, near Hawthorne avenue, facilitating the service, although it does not prevent a few minutes' delay to Oregon City cars that are compelled to wait for Cazadero cars to pullout from East Morrison and Water streets.

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