

THE GREATER OREGON
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An Assistant For Criminal History
 By LORNE E. CLARK

The city of Naples is protected from the waters of the bay on which it is built by a sea wall. At the northern end of this wall is a landing to which a few boats are fastened. One day two men lounged on this landing. One of them said to the other:

"Light, how is it that you always have money to spend and yet you never work, while I am usually hunting for a job and can never get one unless it is unloading the ships at the docks on the other side of the city? And I can assure you, that is very hard work and poor pay."

A knowing look came upon Luigi's face. "Only fools work, Giovanni," he said. "What men plan?"

"I know what you mean," said Giovanni. "What you call wisdom is arranging to take one's share of the good things of the earth of which he has been unjustly deprived. That is all very well for you, for if you get caught you are not punished, while I—well, I would suffer the penalty."

"What do you mean by that?"

"You know very well that when you are tried your friends are in court, and a witness is called to testify against you. You clasp your hands together over your breast dolorously. The witness knows that if he testifies against you he will be killed. How is all this arranged?"

"Do you really wish to become one of us?"

"I surely do."

"Well, I have my eye on a rich man who should by rights divide with me. I being poor. He is looking for a butler. Go to him and solicit the place. When you see a chance for a good haul make it, divide with me, and I will see, if you are arrested and tried for maintaining your right, that you are protected."

Giovanni accepted the proposition, went to one Signor Murelli and obtained the position of butler, to Luigi's surprise, with very little difficulty. Within a month he left Murelli's service with 1,000 lire, which he divided with Luigi. Giovanni was arrested and tried, but the witnesses against him were cowed, and he was acquitted.

One day soon after that he went to his friend Luigi and said: "I have heard that the police are on the track of the murderer of Francelli, who was done to death six months ago. They have laid a trap for him, and he will very likely walk into it."

"What trap?"

"As to that, if I give information I must be paid for it. I don't save a man's life for nothing."

Luigi tried in vain to get from Giovanni the method of procedure of the police to trap the murderer, but failed. Luigi, who knew who was the murderer, went to him and told him what he had heard. It was agreed that Giovanni should be paid 500 lire for the secret. Giovanni refused to deal with any one except the person most concerned, but consented to tell things to prove that on his information depended the safety of the criminal. This frightened the latter, and, knowing that Giovanni had robbed his master and had been protected from punishment by the society of criminals, he felt it would be safe to trust him. He therefore agreed to meet him and hear what he had to say.

When the two met Giovanni demanded his pay before giving the information. Criminals do not keep their money long, and the murderer, whose name was Andrea Cavelli, could raise only a part of the sum agreed upon. Giovanni accepted it on condition that Cavelli would give his note for the rest, stipulating what the payments were for. Cavelli balked at this for awhile, but when Giovanni reminded him that he himself was a criminal and had applied through Luigi for membership in the Society for Mutual Criminal Protection he consented and signed the note filled in as Giovanni desired.

The first installment having been paid Giovanni said the police knew that Cavelli was the murderer of Francelli, but had nothing except oral testimony against him, which would be frowned down at the trial by members of the Society for Mutual Protection. The government had therefore secured the services of a woman, who was to enthrall Cavelli and secure evidence that could not be suppressed by threats. All Cavelli had to do to keep himself safe was to beware of any woman who seemed disposed to favor him. But Giovanni decided that as soon as the police had found the proper person for the decoy he would know it and would communicate it to Cavelli.

The day after this arrangement had been made a party of the carabinieri arrested Cavelli, and the officer who commanded it was Giovanni.

He had been instructed by the government to track the murderer of Francelli, and for the purpose had made the acquaintance of Luigi. The position of butler had been given him by Murelli with the understanding that he was of the carabinieri and that the robbery of his master was taken. In this way he gained the con-

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GOOD HIGHWAYS AND PROSPERITY

Better Roads Mean Better Times For Ruralists.

SAVING IN TRANSPORTATION

The Old Order Has Changed From the Slow Going Oxcart, Telling Over the Worst Kind of Roads, to the Speedy Automobile and Motor Truck—Farming Communities Benefited.

Within the memory of many of us the only way of traveling in various sections of the country was by means of ox teams over the worst kind of roads, says H. Collin Campbell in Hoard's Dairyman. The country producer delivered his crops at some river point where water transportation conveyed them to the nearest market. Cattle were driven for long distances over all kinds of roads. But the stock grower and farmer came to realize that this method of reaching the consumer was too costly and that their time and effort are valuable and should be economized as much as any other element of cost. The low going ox team has given way to the speedy automobile and motor truck. The railroad has in many cases relieved the farmer of his long and dangerous trips to shipping points, yet in many places the poor, unimproved muddy road prevails.

Statistics show that 60 per cent of the automobiles manufactured recently have found their way to the farms; hence the rural dweller has not only been given the opportunity, but has developed a greater desire, to travel than ever before. Moreover, he has seen good roads, and evidence is real to him that a community so favored is one to thrive.

There is a direct relationship between good roads and the general prosperity of any community. Proof of this is obtainable wherever modern roads have been constructed. On the National Pike, that old cross country highway which was begun by the government in 1800 and that is now being rehabilitated, there stand monuments that point to a local development that followed the construction of this new historic road. In localities where highways have been improved, where first class roads have been built and well maintained, where highway travel has been made comfortable and pleasant, there is evidence of a constant increase in population, more business and local improvements.

One of the most recent proofs of this statement comes from Ohio, where highway enthusiasts point to the fact that those counties where roads have been improved have lost population, while, on the other hand, the counties that have modernized their highways have increased their population and land values have risen. Another evidence of the increased prosperity that follows good roads has been furnished by some investigations conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture of road work in Virginia. Conditions in Spottsylvania County were studied with particular care. The results were surprising. In 1900 the county voted \$100,000 to improve forty miles of road. Two years after completing this work the railroad shipped from Fredericksburg, the county seat, during a period of twelve months 75,000 tons of the products of the soil, valued over the improved highways in that time. Before improvement had become a fact the total was only 40,000 tons annually. In other words, the products of the soil had increased more than 40 per cent.