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The Fall Quarter Will Open
Tuesday, August 16, 1921

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The News is only \$1.50 a year.

COUNTERFEITING COUP BLOCKED BY MILAN POLICE

Wealthy Manufacturer Is Held as
Master Mind.

BIGGEST PLOT EVER PLANNED

Gang Duplicates Italian Treasury
Bonds and Begins Passing Them—
Bonds to Amount of Over Million
Dollars Found in House of One of
the Accomplices—Artists and En-
graver Do the Work—Officer Arrests
Personal Friend.

The biggest counterfeiting coup
ever attempted has just been dis-
covered by the police in Milan. The
value of the counterfeited Treasury
bonds found hidden in the house of
one of the accomplices amounts to
more than one million dollars, says a
correspondent of the New York
Tribune.

About two months ago a bank in
Milan and another in Rome notified
the police that false bonds of the face
value of \$10,000 were being negotiated
by persons unknown. The cleverest de-
tectives were put on the track, but no
one could be caught. Simultaneously
the police in Milan were looking for a
man who had counterfeited the customs
stamps at Saronne. Their suspicion
fell on a young electrician, well known
as an engraver, who was employed in
the electric works; but for some time
he had been missing from home.

This man, Della Vecchia, was well
known among artists and esteemed as
one himself. When fifteen days ago the
officials of a bank again notified the
police that they had heard that other
\$10,000 bonds had been circulated the
authorities decided to search the house
of Della Vecchia. The electrician was
out, but his wife was at home. Posing
as a collector from the works, the
detective examined the meter and
then insisted on searching the studio.
There he found forged seals, with
which the Treasury bonds must have
been stamped. The wife could throw
no light on the matter, and though
arrested insisted on her innocence.
The husband had disappeared entirely
and some say he has gone abroad.

Lieutenant Arrests Friend.
With these seals as proof that the
bonds had been counterfeited in Milan,
the police continued their investiga-
tions and got on the track of an inti-
mate friend of Della Vecchia, a painter,
Resentini, a nightly frequenter of cer-
tain wine shops on the outskirts of
Milan. The lieutenant in charge dis-
guised himself as a Franciscan monk
in search of alms and finally discovered
Resentini drinking with boon friends.

The lieutenant called on him, in the
name of the law, to accompany him to
the police station. When he reached
there he confessed he knew something
about the counterfeiting, but that an-
other painter could enlighten the police
further. This friend proved to be
Carlo Pezzala, who had turned his
studio into an up-to-date typographical
office, with noiseless machines and
many bronze and zinc plates. He made
a full confession and told the lieuten-
ant that the bonds were first photo-
graphed by one man and then taken
to Della Vecchia, who engraved the
plates, while the printing was done in
his studio.

The seals, the printing press, paper
and plates having been found, the next
task was to find the photographer and
the heads of the gang. In an effort to
satisfy the police the painters decided
to assist them in getting on to the
track of all the others involved. They
accompanied the police to the friend
photographer, and by no sign or word
did they betray the fact that the police
were with them. Thinking that the
visitors were friends and interested
in the counterfeiting scheme, the pho-
tographer proudly showed his modern
apparatus, his plates, the \$10,000 bond,
and when he had finished the police
arrested him.

Though they had found the seals and
machines they had not yet obtained
possession of the \$1,400,000 worth of
counterfeit bonds. Without these their
work was almost useless. Pressed for
the name of other accomplices, the
painters mentioned Celeste Peliagli, a
polisher of bricks; Cesare Galli, owner
of a silk factory, and his partner, Carlo
Meschia. The first visit was to Celeste,
who was surprised to see the police.
The house was searched thoroughly
and were it not for information from
one of the accomplices the search
might have been in vain, as the bonds
had been hidden behind inside shutters
in a specially prepared niche. There
was found the \$1,400,000 worth of
beautifully engraved Treasury bonds,
of the value of \$10,000 each.

Alleged Originator of Plot.
The last man to be arrested was the
leader and originator of the plot, Ce-
sare Galli, who now owns a silk fac-
tory worth, in the material contained
therein alone, \$400,000. When arrested
Galli made a full confession. He said
that for many years he had been work-
ing hard to regain the self-respect lost
when he counterfeited government
bonds some years ago. He had striven
to rehabilitate himself, but was con-
tinuedly pursued by the police for great
sums. He had then bought out a
partner who had been arrested in buy-
ing counterfeit money. He had then
counterfeited, or had had counterfeited,
the money. He had then had
that he had

he confess to his friend and partner,
Carlo Meschia, who, far from dissuad-
ing, thought it was a wonderful
scheme, and together they started
working and planning. They began with
a \$100 bond, sold it and then bought
a \$200 one, sold that and continued
in this way until they reached the sum
of \$10,000. This bond was used as
a model for those afterward made
and now in the possession of the police.
By counterfeiting on a large scale, they
had hoped to use these bonds as se-
curity in their business undertakings.
Were it not for the luxurious mode of
life which Galli and his partner were
indulging in few would have suspected
them.

The engraver will probably never be
caught in Italy, but no doubt will con-
tinue counterfeiting wherever he lives,
as it is a passion which, once it takes
hold, can never be eradicated.

Fortunately, the police acted with
dexterity and haste, and saved many
from being deceived, as once the \$1-
400,000 bonds were in circulation it
would have been almost impossible to
recall them, owing to the effect on the
financial condition of the City of Milan.

LONDON HAS "SUNBURN DAY"

Air Cleared by Lack of Coal and Pop-
ulace Suffers.

Whit-Monday was sunburn day in
London, says the London Times. It
was the most severe for at least fifty
years, for, thanks to the coal stop-
page and the holiday combined, the
London atmosphere has become so
clear of smoke that the burning rays
of the sun—the so-called violet and
ultra-violet rays—were no longer fil-
tered out. You could get a good, honest
sunburn in Bond street or Piccadilly.

It is an interesting scientific curios-
ity, and, in these days of smokeless
atmosphere, worth knowing about—if
one wishes to avoid red arms and face
—London normally is quite safe from
sunburn simply because the burning
rays, which are invisible and occur at
the "violet" or rather "ultra-violet"
end of the spectrum, are shut out by
the smoke in the city atmosphere. In
the country they are not shut out, and
so the town dweller soon has his pale
face reddened and then tanned when
he goes outside the city borders.

A great many girls got quite severe
sunburns in London, and were aston-
ished thereby. They had never experi-
enced such a thing before. Some men,
too, complained of smarting faces,
"like the first day at the seaside."

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pound crystal glass
humidor with
sponge moisture-
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