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## **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 Engraver Do the Work-Officer Arrests Personal Friend.

The biggest counterfeiting coup ever attempted has just been discovered 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 detectives 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 investigations and got on the track of an intimate friend of Della Vecchia, a painter, Resentini, a nightly frequenter of certain wine shops on the outskirts of Milan. The lieutenant in charge disguised 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 another painter could enlighten the police further. This friend proved to be Carlo Pezzaia, 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 lieutenant that the bonds were first photographed 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 countefeiting scheme, the photographer 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 Peliaghi, 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, Cesare Galli, who now owns a silk factory worth, in the material contained therein arone. \$400,000. When arrested Galli made a full confession. He said that for many years he had been working hard to regain the self-respect lost when he counterfeited government bonds some years and. He had striven to remainstate his alf, but was contorging for great mursued ! tinn." st vi hought out a sisted in buyounterfeiting manterfeits, or ig money. that he had

reconcess to his friend and partner, Carlo Meschia, who, far from dissuading, 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 security 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 continue 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 Populace 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 stoppage 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 filtered out. You could get a good, honest sunburn in Bond street or Piccadilly.

It is an interesting scientific curiosity, 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 "violet" or rather "ultra-violet" the 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 astonished thereby. They had never experienced such a thing before. Some men. too, complained of smarting faces, "like the first day at the seaside."

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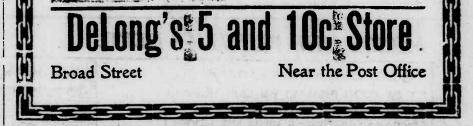
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