

## BRIGANDS

### MEET TRAGIC DEATHS—ONE FOOLS PURSUERS.

Magyar Who Mutilated Captives, Shoots Himself From Ears; After Reforming.

Three brigands have been the subject of more or less romantic stories in the European newspapers in the last month, two on account of their spectacular deaths, the third because of the skill with which he has so far baffled the police.

One of the three was a Magyar, one, Sovanyou Soska, and his field of operations long ago was the Carpathian Mountain district with its vague, lonely roads and inaccessible retreats. Twenty-five years ago he was the scourge of the country.

No traveller was safe, and when travellers were too scarce rich farmers and even landed estate owners in the surrounding region were his prey. One of his pleasant habits was to seize people and hold them for ransome. If his demands were not satisfied he did not kill his prisoners, but usually sent them home minus their ears or a couple of fingers or even a hand.

He became such a nuisance at last that a small army was sent out to hunt him. He fell into their hands by accident and was sentenced to

#### IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE.

In prison he became softened in spirit. He turned religious and his repentance was so sincere that the Bishop of the district at last interceded with the Emperor Francis Joseph in his behalf.

He was released after twenty-two years confinement and returned to his native village, where he started to make his livelihood as a herdsman for his brother. His wild career as a robber had been made the subject of a whole library of stories and memoirs of the dime novel kind in German and Hungarian.

He at once made a collection of these and read them over and over with avidity, commenting on their literary merits to his friends and correcting their historical inaccuracies. He plainly regarded himself as a great public figure and revelled in his glory.

After a while, however, his fame began to pall on him. He lost interest in peaceful pursuits, grew morose and dependent and spent his time roaming among the rocks and forests where his early exploits were performed.

At last he was missing for several days. Search was made and he was found dead in one of his favorite hiding places, with the best of the books about him neatly stacked at his side and the big cavalry pistol, with which he had blown the top off his head, still grasped in his hand.

#### THE SECOND BRIGAND

who has just met a tragic end was Francesco Parisi, who flourished and died in the neighborhood of Salerno, Italy. He was an intelligent and very robust peasant of the better class and led a peaceful life until some time ago he became the victim of an accusation which he declared to be false and was convicted and sentenced on what he declared was perjured testimony. As he was taken to prison he swore that he would devote his life to revenge when he was released.

In the last six months he established a reign of terror in the country around Salerno. He robbed nobody, but devoted himself absolutely to his vendetta. He hid in the woods and fields and only emerged from time to time to shoot at some one who was concerned in his trial. Some he missed, several he wounded more or less seriously. One man he maimed for life only a week before his own end came, because he believed him to be a spy of the carabinieri.

Parisi was so skilful and had so much sympathy from the country people that the authorities could get no trace of him, although they picket a forest known as the Faiella, in which he was supposed to lurk, by day and night. Finally it was by tracking women who were supposed to be his sweethearts and admirers that they located him. Incidentally, they found that there were several of these and they carried all his supplies of food and ammunition to him from the only three lines of approach to his lair.

A pitched battle was the result, and Parisi is said to have fired sixty-one shots from guns and pistols before he was killed. None of the soldiers was hit, but they say the bullets whistled close to them and they had to keep well covered to save their lives. The brigand's body, when they took it into Salerno, was found to have no less than

#### TWENTY-NINE BULLETS IN IT.

Giuseppe Salomone is a Sicilian. He is still at large, though a hundred carabinieri are looking for him. He also proclaims himself a victim of the law's injustice, seeking revenge. He says he was the victim of political spite.

It is true that he was accused of stealing about \$10 from two fish dealers in Caltanissetta, though there had never before been the least reason to doubt his honesty. A local official, whom he had fought politically, pushed the prosecution and he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment.

"The good God," he screamed to the spectators in court on his conviction, "ought to make the earth open and swallow up these false witnesses."

However, he took his punishment quietly. When liberated he showed no signs of bitterness. But when he reached home he found that his mother had died on the previous day. After the funeral he took to the woods. His very first act was to shoot dead the official whom he held responsible for his prosecution.

When the man died at once, Salomone bewailed the fact. He had hoped he would linger for some time in the torments of remorse and the fear of judgment.

Since then Salomone's life has been the ordinary one of a brigand. He robs and levies blackmail on the villages and even the towns of Sicily. He has the sympathy of the very poor, who keep him posted on the plans made to catch him.

He is said to be a most daring fellow. He meets in disguise the carabinieri who are chasing him and carouses with them; then he sends them on wild goose chases to look for him fifty miles from where he is going to be. He has scraped acquaintance with judges and other public officials, shaken hands with the commissaries of police, stopped at the best hotels and frequented the theatre. His crowning exploit was to write his own memoirs and have them published in a Sicilian newspaper.

#### FOREST PLANTATIONS.

##### How to Plant in Sandy Soil, on Hillsides and Rocky Spots.

To a certain extent every proposed forest plantation is a proposition to be considered by itself, especially if it is waste land that is to be planted; and it is well to have the advice of a forester in making such plantations. In the majority of cases, too, it is just such waste land that is to be planted.

Even where the soil is almost pure sand, in which no grass will grow, a good crop of trees may be raised. This is being abundantly shown on a plantation in Durham county, made some three years ago under the direction of the Forester of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. In such land a good supply of moisture is retained by the subsoil, which for the tree roots is more important than the surface soil itself. With soil of this sandy character cultivation is never necessary, nor, indeed, advisable.

A steep hillside is often the place where it is desired to plant. If the hill is not too steep, it will probably be found most advantageous to plough furrows—as far apart, of course, as the rows of trees are intended to be. These furrows should always run along the side of the hill, not up and down the hill. Care should be taken that the furrow is ploughed so that the earth is thrown down the hill, so that the furrow will retain as much rain as possible.

On very steep hillsides and on very stony ground a mattock or grub-hoe must be used. The distances of trees from each other need not be adhered to very closely. Sometimes a hole is made with the mattock, as might be done with a spade or hoe, the plant put down and the earth replaced and firmly packed down around the tree. Another method is as follows: The mattock is driven into the earth with a powerful stroke; then the handle is forced away from the planter, the head of the tool thus forcing up a quantity of earth. In the largest crack thus formed the tree is placed. The mattock is withdrawn; then the earth is allowed to settle back in place and finally is tramped down firmly. This latter method is much quicker—and so cheaper—than the former, and is often favored on that account.

The whole subject of tree planting is treated at much greater length in a bulletin entitled, "Forest Planting," by Mr. E. J. Zavitz, Forester to the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture. This is one of the O. A. College bulletins.

#### WHITE PINE.

##### The Most Generally Desirable Tree for Planting in Ontario.

White Pine is undoubtedly the tree to be preferred above all others for planting in Ontario. It is a wood so generally useful and so generally acceptable to woodworkers of almost all kinds that a ready market will always be assured for it.

Unfortunately, White Pine trees suitable for forest planting are not yet grown in large quantities by nurserymen in this country. This is largely due to the high price of seed, which at present sells at two to two and a half dollars per pound, and is often more expensive. In many cases, indeed, it has been found cheaper to import the seedlings directly from Germany than to grow them here.

Two-year-old White Pine seedlings are found very satisfactory for planting.

Five feet apart each way is the distance at which they are most often placed; i. e., five feet apart in the rows and the rows five feet apart. Four feet apart each way might do even better, but would require over 50 per cent. more trees. Often the White Pine seedlings are put only every other tree; the other places are filled with hard maple, on good soil, or with red oak on poor soils. Both these are cheaper trees, which may eventually be removed.

The White Pine is very accommodating in regard to soils; it will grow on sticky clays or on sand barrens or on soils intermediate between these. Naturally it is best developed on good agricultural soil. Under very favorable conditions, in plantations, it may, from its eighth year till about its fifteenth or sixteenth year, grow three feet per year. In the forest a yearly growth of twelve to fifteen inches in height may be reckoned on.

From forty to fifty years is the least time that can be allowed White Pine trees in order to enable them to attain a good size; and, in order to give them a chance to do their best, twenty years more should be allowed them.

On average forest soil the White Pine will make, on the average, one cord of wood per year; on good agricultural soil one and a half cords or more will be produced annually.

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