

neither Communist, Socialist nor criminal. He, like his father and grandfather before him, keeps a store where safes are sold. This in itself is not an unlawful profession, but he inherited from his father, besides the small store, the knack of being capable of opening any safe in the world with the help of a bit of stiff wire.

Never in his life has he been forced to break a safe open. He has been summoned by people of all nations and professional men to open safes that had jammed. But not only private individuals, but even the King, King Victor Emmanuel needed his services. The king had left keys in his private safe, where his wonderful collection of coins and emeralds, every day is rearranging the coins. He was very much worried until they told him that a specialist for safes lived in Rome and would be called to the royal vault.

Mr. X. hastened to the Villa Savola and found the king pacing up and down

"You must not damage the safe, as there is my precious collection inside," said the king.

"No, your majesty," replied Mr. X. "I do not need your damage the lock."

Mr. X. looked with a professional air at the safe.

"I am afraid you will find it a difficult task, as this is a Chubb Special," said the king. Mr. X. inserted the wire, felt with the wire inside, collectedly twisted it there and there, then opened the safe door.

"Here, your majesty, your safe is opened."

The king was very much astonished and said: "You are the most dangerous man I have ever met." Mr. X. replied: "I would be wiser I not honest."

Mr. X. is rarely inside his store, as his fame has traveled abroad and he is often telegraphed for to start at a moment's notice. Before the war he was called many times to Berlin to open the ex-kaiser's safe and he was recommended also to Francis Joseph, who often asked him for his secret, but he would allow no one but Mr. X. to open or try to open it.