

# WRITER OF BLACK- HAND LETTER WAS JUST AN AMATEUR

Directions to Prospective Victim Followed by Police and He Was Arrested.

ADMITTED HIS  
GUILT IN COURT

Demand Was Small, but West End Merchant Wouldn't Comply With It.

The records of the Sault show that some of its citizens have had to deal with members of the Black Hand Society, but no members of the clan have hitherto proven as cheap as regards demands for money as Baldo Baldalino, some twenty years of age, who attempted to pull off a stunt in the west end and was apprehended by the police while his operations were yet in the embryo stage. The real members of the Black Hand Society, if such exists, will give "Baldo" the glad laugh. He didn't make good, and his efforts were so amateurish that he wouldn't even make a real, good, live real estate dealer.

On Tuesday a man named Alphonse Greco, a grocer in Little Italy, received a black hand letter, threatening the lives of himself and family, including his parents, if he failed to deposit not less than \$20 and not more than \$50 in under the seat of a cutter standing in a yard close to James Street. The exact spot of the deposit was indicated in the letter in detail.

Mr. Greco at once placed the matter in the hands of the police, and according to the terms of the letter placed a parcel under the cutter seat as directed. In the mean time the police got busy, and plain clothes officer Fortune secreted himself within twelve feet of the sleigh in a nearby stable. Chief of Police Ralph Vincent was also on the job, and was within hailing distance, as was afterwards shown.

About 8.15 last night officer Fortune stopped a man approaching the scene. The man lifted the cushion seat and pocketed the parcel, whereupon he was arrested and handcuffed by the officer. The culprit gave his name as Baldo Baldalino, an Italian, who has been in different parts of the province for the past twenty-one months, having upon his initial appearance on Canadian soil arrived direct from Italy. The accused is twenty years of age and speaks and writes fairly good English. He has apparently a good education.

This morning he appeared before Magistrate Elliott and elected summary trial. Crown Attorney Moses McFadden was notified, and appeared on the scene. The evidence showed clearly the guilt of the accused, and after the evidence for the crown was submitted the prisoner admitted that he had written and posted the Black Hand Letter, contending that he alone was responsible. The only excuse he gave for so doing was that he was drinking at the time.

Magistrate Elliott remanded the prisoner for sentence pending further investigation into the character and habits of the accused.