

fended himself with a chair, which was soon smashed. Sawyer's wife and daughter came to his relief, when the Italian drew a revolver and fired. All three of his victims were mortally wounded. In this country, of late, similar scenes have been enacted.

The butcheries committed by the brutal classes of Italians are rendered all the more repugnant, because they are almost invariably associated with the use of the knife, or dirk, from an attack with which the bravest people instinctively shrink. There is a natural dread of meeting death by the process of stabbing, cutting and carving. Such a method inspires much more terror than the bullet.

Recent developments show that novelists who have associated Italian heavy villains of their tales with the stiletto and secret assassination have had some foundation for such portrayals. The Mafia revelations, providing a tithe of them can be relied upon as correct, indicate that secret murder is a thriving business with the villainous organization.

Recently the correspondent of the London Times at Rome gave an interesting statement of the principles upon which the Mafia is founded and which inspire its operations. It is stated that the society has its grades as clearly defined as those of the nobility. At the roots of it is a principle of morality, called Omerta, which is recognized as the first qualification. This Mafiotte abstraction of morality "establishes as the first duty of a man to do himself justice with his own hands for all injuries received, and stamps with infamy and holds up to public execration and public vengeance whoever appeals to justice or assists its operations." So strong a hold has this principle that even the honest common people regard it as a virtue to hide an assassin or to decline to testify against him, the code of the Omerta being that "when one man is dead we must think of the living one," and that "giving evidence is good as long as it does not harm the neighbor." Under the operation of these two convenient principles it would be almost impossible to secure evidence for the conviction of assassins were it not for the free use of money by the police. The lowest member of the Mafia is the manutengola, who is the friend who hides, or feeds, or aids the active agent of crime, and sometimes bribes or threatens the jury when the criminal is brought to trial. The next grade is the malandrino, who is a positive criminal, often of the worst type, and is the organizer and director of bands of brigands. Outwardly he lives honestly, has a busi-

ness, is regular in his life, and is a citizen in full possession of his rights and privileges. He protects and aids the brigands and cattle stealers and highway robbers with whom he is in connivance, and assists in disposing of the booty to his own pecuniary advantage.

The Mafia being largely made up of murderers and cut-throats, the very existence of any community which gives them shelter is menaced. The obliteration of such a sinister organization is a serious question in this country. It is a work made more difficult of attainment by the fact that it receives aid and comfort from a class of Americans who will engage in any scheme, no matter how nefarious, which will insure them success in money-making.

THE PRICE FOR SPRINKLING.

THE action of the City Council, on May 5th, in reducing the tax for street sprinkling, was a step in the right direction. The reduction is a drop from ten cents to seven cents for a frontage foot during the season.

The proper thing to have done would have been to abolish the tax altogether. We have heretofore given the reasons in detail for entertaining this view, which is in accord with popular opinion. The special tax is unjust, on the ground that, while the levy is uniform, the degree of benefit received by different classes of taxpayers is out of all proportion. The better and juster course would have been to pay for the sprinkling of the streets from the common fund of the city. However, the reduction decided upon last night is a leaning toward the right of the matter, and an indication that there exists in the Council some degree of consideration for the wishes of the people, and we are pleased to have an opportunity to say even that much to the credit of the present city government.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN NEBRASKA.

THE manufacture of sugar is a live subject in Utah, consequently any information associated with it is of local interest. The Omaha *World-Herald* contains a lengthy correspondence in relation to the operations of the Norfolk Beet Sugar company, of Norfolk, Nebraska, from which we reproduce the following:

"The Elkhorn valley is most beautiful at this particular time of the year when it is taking on its spring garments, and it seems as if every farmer was alive as we ride up this beautiful valley, and see them plowing and preparing their ground for the various crops they propose to put in. All around the factory is just one great field of beets. I counted forty-

six teams at work from the factory building yesterday morning, some plowing, some harrowing, others planking and preparing the ground for the seed, others with seeders actively at work putting the seed in where the ground had been made ready.

"The company has spared no money nor effort to make this year a telling one in the agricultural part of this great industry; for they realize that this is the great question to be solved, and they have supplied the farmers (who have been unwilling to purchase), at reasonable figures, with a most complete and perfect seeder, which will seed about fifteen acres per diem in a very satisfactory manner.

"After this comes the cultivator, which is another new implement, and which is a very perfect contrivance for sugar beet culture, materially saving in cost and labor—serious obstacles heretofore in the way of this crop.

"Other agricultural companies are now busily at work in perfecting a harvester, which is expected to take the beet out of the ground and cut the top off. Thus, it is believed that in a very short time—possibly this year, but certainly within a very limited period—beet culture will become much simplified as compared with present and past methods. In Europe, where this industry has thrived to such a great extent, good beet land is worth from \$500 to \$700 an acre, and even then has to have some \$5 to \$30 expended each and every year for fertilizers, while in this great State of ours we have the richest land that produces a beet varying from 8 to 8 per cent more in saccharine matter than any in Europe, and grown on land that can be had even here in this section at from \$30 to \$40 an acre, and when located at some distance from a railroad station can be had at very much lower figures; so that this new industry bids fair to bring to us a great many immigrants.

"Secretary Hamilton has told me that the French people doubt that the sugar beet can be produced in this country as rich as has been already demonstrated, and adds that a large and wealthy corporation in France has stated in a recent communication to him that there were several hundred families that would like to come to Norfolk and buy twenty and thirty acre plots of ground for this purpose, if they could be assured that the beets can be raised as rich as we here know they can be produced; so that this new and great industry that has come to our state means more than would appear at first glance—it means a great influx, not only from all parts of the United States, but from the sugar producing section of Europe; it means that instead of a farmer producing a crop that is more or less dependent upon Chicago speculators he will produce a crop that is contracted to be sold before planted, and on which, with our Yankee ingenuity, he can make from five to fifteen times as much per acre as on any other crop he now produces. And then again, the pulp that is partially given free to the farmer producing the beets is something that must not be overlooked, for it is a well-known fact, and has been largely commented upon recently by some of our most authoritative agricultural papers, that hog cholera is absolutely unknown where beet pulp has been fed. This alone, were factories in sufficient number established in our western country, would save millions of dollars to the farmers. Being located as we are, without minerals, timber, coal or river navigation, such local factories mean more than those who do not think seriously of the question can comprehend; for the soil produces the raw material which is manufactured into a marketable article and sold out of the State or out of the locality where the factory is situated,