

TELLS MURDER JURY HE HAS SLAIN THREE

**Admissions of Convict Witness
Given So Nonchalantly It
Shocks Counsel and Court.**

IN PAY OF EAST SIDE "KING"

**Man Known as "Butcher" Gloats
Over His Participation In Nazzaro
Slaying in 1917 at Yonkers.**

Special to The New York Times.

WHITE PLAINS, April 21.—With a smile and a sneer at the defendant, Alfonse Sgroia went on the witness stand today before Supreme Court Justice Arthur S. Tompkins and told of several murders in which he had taken part, as though they were ordinary events. He was testifying at the trial of Frank Fevrola for murder.

Sgroia, known as "Butcher" among the crooks of the lower east side of Manhattan, one who would do murder for a few dollars, admitted that he had been in the pay of a man known as "King of the Gang." This person paid him \$20 a week to "follow orders," he said.

His story was so sordid that it shocked not only the counsel for the prisoner, but also District Attorney Davis and his assistants. Justice Tompkins, who has tried many murder cases, was forced to knit his brows.

A man named Nazzaro was found shot to death on the tracks of the Nepperhan Avenue branch of the Yonkers Trolley Company on the evening of March 16, 1917. The evidence brought out before Justice Tompkins today went to show that Nazzaro was enticed to Yonkers under an impression that he was to kill his so-called friend Fevrola, but instead Nazzaro was slain.

Sgroia, who seemed to take delight in discussing the murders he had committed in the last five years, told how he had been hired by the "King of the Murder Gang" in Manhattan to commit many crimes. He seemed pleased to tell about his association with the Coney Island and Navy Street gangs and of the various crimes with which the gang members had been connected.

After the witness had told how Fevrola, Antonio Paretti and Annielli. Paretti had taken part in the shooting of Nazzaro, who was also known as "Joe Chuck," a member of the lower east side gang, it was brought out that all were serving time in State's prison.

It is contended that the murder of Nazzaro was because of his revealing a secret of the murder gang. Sgroia testified that he had met Fevrola and two others, members of the gang, at Yonkers. He said he had been directed to entice Nazzaro to Yonkers. "We walked some distance," he said, "and then, according to a signal we had agreed upon, Fevrola said he had a stomach ache and stepped back. Then he fired at Nazzaro. Anniello and I, according to plans agreed on, also fired. Then we ran away. We took a trolley car for Mount Vernon. From there we went to Manhattan.

The District Attorney asked Sgroia whether he had been implicated in other murders. As though it were a mere trifle, the witness replied:

"Sure, I belonged to the Navy Street and Coney Island gangs. I have got three other murders to my credit.

Sgroia is serving twelve years in Dannemora for manslaughter. Lawyer Thomas J. O'Neill, who is defending Fevrola, put Sgroia through a rigid cross-examination.

"Did you shoot to kill after you say Fevrola shot at Nazzaro?" he asked.

"When you shoot, you shoot to kill,"

the witness replied. "You must understand that this was not my case. When I shot I never shot a man in the back." Sgroia said Fevrola had a notion that the dead man intended to "get even with him," and therefore had him enticed to Yonkers "for the purpose of ending his life."

FIFTH CONVICTION IN SLAYING.

**'Little Joe' Zambelli Aided in Double
Killing at South Ozone Park.**

"Little Joe" Zambelli, former gang leader of the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, was found guilty yesterday of murder in the first degree in the Queens County Supreme Court before Justice James C. Van Sicken. He was remanded to the Queens County jail for one week, after which sentence will be passed.

Zambelli was the last of five men to be tried for murder in the first degree for killing Joseph Holbach and his wife at Holbach's hotel at South Ozone Park, in January, 1919. Three are serving prison sentences; the indictment against one was dismissed and Michael Gasalino is under sentence to die during the week of May 5. He was the most important witness against Zambelli.

According to the testimony at the several trials, Zambelli needed money and got his gang together to go to the Holbach hotel and hold up the proprietor, who always had large sums of money on hand, since he was a money lender to Italian farmers. The gang went to the hotel on a Sunday night. Shots were fired and Holbach and his wife fell dead in the barroom. "Little Joe's" hat led to the arrest of the men. Zambelli gave the police a chase for eighteen months through several States. He was arrested in New Haven, Conn.