

LIED ON STAND, SAY 4

Amazing Effort Is Made to Save Man From Death Chair.

COERCED BY POLICE, CLAIM

Two, However, Confess That Recantations Are Inspired by Fear of East Side Gangs' Vengeance—Know "Something Will Happen to Them" if "Paper Box Kid" Dies.

New York, March 11.—Out of the East Side's underworld has come an amazing movement to bring back Oresto Shillitani from the death house of Sing Sing prison.

Five witnesses convinced a jury that Shillitani, known to Mulberry street as the "Paper Box Kid," shot to death John Rizzo because of a gang quarrel, and then killed Policeman William B. Heaney and Policeman Charles J. Teare, who pursued him, on the night of May 3, 1913.

Four of Five Retract.

Four of these five witnesses have now taken oath that they lied when they testified to the stories on which was based the verdict of guilty returned before Judge Malone in the court of general sessions, March 2, 1914. The fifth of the witnesses has sworn that the police sought to coerce him into making him say what they wished on the stand.

In the recantations Nellie Di Carlo, John Verno, Frank Chiello, and Gennaro Selitto unequivocally assert that they were forced to take part in a police "frame up," and that fear of the police held them to the stories that were put in their mouth. James Morelli declares that he testified only to the presence of Shillitani shortly before the murder because the police could not force him to say more.

In Fear of the Gangs.

Behind the recantations is the shadow of another fear, more powerful than that inspired by the police. It has not been put into words, as has the terror of the written law and its agents, but, where gangs rule and range, words are not needed to call to mind what might be if Shillitani went to the chair.

Two of the witnesses—Verno and Selitto—confess they are gripped by the fear that if the "Paper Box Kid" does go to the chair, then "something will surely happen to them."