

PLANT FAKE BOMBS TO GET REVOLVERS

Gangsters Use Giant Firecrackers in an Effort to Obtain Permits to Carry Arms.

POLICE UNEARTH PROOF

**Find Wrappers of Crackers After Many Scares on the East Side—
Few Explosions Due to Bombs.**

Investigations by detectives of the Mulberry Street Station into many supposed "Black Hand" bomb outrages in the last few months have led to the discovery that most of the explosions were part of an ingenious plan to obtain from the authorities permits to carry firearms. The detectives have become convinced that explosions of this sort were not due to bombs at all, but to giant firecrackers.

Such a bomb scare occurred early yesterday morning in front of a five-story tenement house at 253 Elizabeth Street, between Houston and Prince Streets. Some 100 persons live in the building. A restaurant, conducted by Antonio Daidone, is on the ground floor.

There had been rumors in the neighborhood that Daidone had received many threatening letters. A few days ago he departed from the neighborhood and those who lived near him decided that the "Black Hand" had scared him away.

Awakened yesterday by a loud explosion, the persons living near the restaurant thought at once of Daidone and the "Black Hand." In a few minutes the street was full of frightened Italians, who had tumbled down fire escapes and narrow stairways without taking time to dress. The presence of one or two policemen reassured them and when they found no signs of damage to the house, they returned to their rooms.

An examination of the premises made by detectives disclosed hundreds of bits of red paper, such as is used for the outer wrappers of giant firecrackers. There was no indication that any bomb had been exploded in the neighborhood.

The detectives told a reporter yesterday that more than one-half of the so-called outrages were fakes.

"Every two or three weeks such a scare occurs," they said, "but they very seldom turn out to be bomb explosions. We have noticed that after many of them Italians would come to the station and ask for a permit to carry a revolver, saying that the Black Hand was after them. Permits have never been granted in such cases. Sometimes the 'explosion' would be staged with a touch of realism, such as a smashed window or a broken door.

"Since the Sullivan law went into effect the gunmen of the Kenmare Street gang, of which Oresto Shillitoni, who is accused of the murder of Patrolmen Heaney and Teare, is a member, have been using every method they could think of to obtain permits, and the police think the fake bomb outrage is merely another of their subterfuges to evade the law against carrying weapons."