ONTARIO ARGUS RSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1915. THE

### PAGE FIVE

## NEAL of the NAVY By William Hamilton Osborne, AUTHOR OF "RED MOUSE," "RUNNING FIGHT," "CATSPAW," "BLUE BUCKLE," ETC. NOVELIZED FROM THE PHOTO PLAY OF THE SAME NAME PRODUCED BY PATHE EXCHANGE, INC. COPYRIGHT, 1915 BY WILLIAM HAMILTON OSBORNE

(Continued from page ")

pocket a pint flask and drank deep.

He smoked a cigarette, taking quick.

til the tingling of that first drink had

entered his system; and then he took

another and another. Then he re-

folced, for he was reckless now, reck-

ess as to consequences. He lit an-

that something had happened to him-

his way back to his room, opened the

Then with a choking, inarticulate

cry, he turned and darted down the

stairs, out of the house and up the

His room was a living furnace of

red flames-the hastily tossed lighted

Outside, Ponto and Hernander won-

dering, gave chase. Welcher, with

CHAPTER XVI.

Peril.

fear at his heels, sped on and on.

door and reached for the bottle.

match had done its work.

'Neal-Neal."

rond

the tap-tap of pebbles on his window. petitive examinations. Suddenly the window was raised-swiftly but noise lessly, and from without. three-quarters-by its rays he saw One of Joe's friends across the table

rose, with terror written on his face. He pointed with his finger at the win

"Look, look," he cried. They looked. A long thin, gristly brown arm with long clawlike fingers, thrust itself through the window and thrust a fold ed piece of paper into the breast pocket of Joe Welcher's coat. Joe sprang to his feet, crouched terrorstricken in the corner, shielding his face with his arm. His three cronies leaped to the window, and looked out. There was a moon. But there was no one to be seen. The owner of the hand and arm had disappeared. Welch-

er, coming to himself, clutched at the note, and unfolded it and read.

My Charming Friend: (It said) Once more I have returned from New York. I stay at Lonesome Cove Inn. Meet me there tomorrow afternoonperhaps I should say-this afternoon -at three. It is of importance. When you come, inquire for inez Castro-i have used that name in order that certain mutual friends might not hear of it. As ever,

Irene Courtier. That afternoon at three Lonesome Cove-three miles north of Seaportwas graced by the presence of Joe Welcher. Welcher made a bee line for the cafe and properly spiced up his breath before proceeding to keep the rendezvous. Then he approached Mulligan, the ill favored proprietor.

"You got a certain party here of the name of Inez Costro," whispered Welcher to Mulligan. "What's that to you," said Mulligan

Welcher produced his note-the note produced an unusual effect upon Mulligan. He dropped his surliness, and with a wink beckoned to Welcher, leading him down a dim corridor. "Go up that there staircase," he commanded, "and knock at Number Seven."

"I sent for you." Inez began, "that you should do a favor for me-" Welcher seized her hand. That was

his undoing. In a moment she was in his arms, struggling. He kissed her full upon the lips.

"I'll go to hell and back for you," he heard the nearby crackling of flamessaid. Struggling, she half so-camed. she saw the nearby glare of flame. Then something happened. Unknown Without the village fire gong clanged to Welcher, the door of Room Seven -she heard the shouts of volunteers opened noiselessly, and a well dressed coming down the road. man, with a saber cut across his face, entered on tiptoe. He closed the door

She ran to Mrs! Hardin's room. The door was locked; smoke was creeping tood there, watching Mother Hardin," cried Annette. There Suddenly Inez screamed. She rewas no response. In a frenzy Annette rushed back to her room, seized a chair and returned to the locked door. With a sudden twist of her lithe body "My-my husband," she gaspod, She she raised the chair above her shoulders and brought it crashing against

allve with flame. She sprang to her, window-no thoroughfare-the whole side wall-the side of her room-was now ablaze. Obeying some instinct Annette threw herself face downward on the floor. The air there was singularly sweet and cool.

"Somebody will come," she told herself, "somebody will come." Without the word passed that An nette had rushed into the house-was inside now. A huge figure leaped into the crowd, parting it right and left and bounded into the doorway of the house. Whimpering with fear, the Brute ran hither, thither, through the living room, and entered the hall-finding the staircase a mass of ruin. He leaped and clutched the landing up above. Some instinct led Startled, he rose and peered without. him to Annette's room. He saw and The sky was cloudless and the moon found her-clutched her unconscious form in his huge arms and leaped with three crouching figures-shadows of her to the floor beneath and, unseen, the night. One of these figures held laid her unconscious form down up a white hand. Welcher responded Then at the feet of Mrs. Hardin. with a silent signal; and then drew black, burned, and unracognizable, he pack into his room. He drew from his sped away into the night. Hernandez gritted his teeth. thought I had that brute trained." he swift, strong puffs and inhaling deeply exclaimed wrathfully, as he realized -he needed strength. He waited un-

that Annette and her treasure had es caped him, "and I thought he was afraid of fire. In both I was mistaken. We must take it out of his hide, Ponto-next time he must make no mistake."



Sunday School, 10:00 a. m. Preachng, morning, 11:00 a. m., evening 8:00 m. You need the church-the church eeds you-"Let's get together."

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the struggle, silent, sinister, -

leased herself from Welcher's armsand reeled against the table, her eyes wide with fright.

held out her hands pleadingly toward the newcomer. Welcher cowered in ablect terror.

"It was nothing-nothing," gasped Inez, "a bit of play-nothing else-believe me-"

Hernandez smiled-a wicked amile. He never looked at Inez. He glared at Joey Welcher.

"So I see," he said, "a bit of play." He whistled. The door opened once again. Two figures entered-the brute and Ponto. Hernandez gave a signand the brute picked Joe Welcher up. whirled him in the air, and brought him down seated at the table. This was the added finishing touch to make Joe realize his helplessness. Hernandez clapped his hands and the brute left the room. Ponto, the fat Mexican, curled himself up underneath the table. Hernandez seated himself.

"A bit of play," laughed Hernandez, harshly. Then his brow furrowed with wrinkles, his eyes became stern.

"Young sir," he said, "your foster sister is one Annette Illington. You live in the same house with her. She has in her possession a small oilskin packet-a yellow packet - possibly you've seen it?"

He waited for an answer. Joe mois tened his dry lips and nodded.

"Well and good," went on Hernan dez, "that packet is mine-it belongs to me. You shall steal it from hersteal it for me. You understand?"

Hernandez smiled. Then his face froze. His hand darted forward and he clutched Welcher by the wrist. thing-the yellow packet. "My young friend," went on Hernan-

dez, "you are a crook. I have watched you from first to last. Always I have watched you. I watched you while you made love to my young wife this day. I watched you when you stole her money from her a week or so

"Give me a drink," cried Welcher. "go on. What do you want me to do?"

"First," returned Hernandez, "say nothing to anyone-about me or my companions-nor about Inez herenothing. To you we are as a sealed book. Break silence and-well, my ancestors were of the Spanish inquisishe groped again. tion, my young friend. Silence comes

first. Next, get that packet. I care not by what means-and bring it to me at the time and place I shall hereafter designate. Now go. Tonight, you understand-tonight."

That night, Welcher, fully dressed. and tossing to his restless hed, heard

the door. A volume of smoke poured out. Regardless of it, Annette rushed in, dragged Neal's mother-unconscious as she was-from the bed, out of the room and down the stairs.

"Joey," gasped Annette, "Joey Welcher-he's in there. We must save Cabbage, new, ID ..... 11/2 e him, too."

"No," interposed a distant neighbor, "he's not in there. I saw him in the village, running for help." During the confusion, three shadowy figures, returning as from a chase, crept through the smoke and crouched beneath bushes in the rear of the house, unnoticed and unseen. One of these men turned to another. "Ponto," cried Hernandez in a low

with staring eyes, matted hair, and un-

kempt beard. She had seen that face before-and on that very road-it had once strick- Lard, 10lbs.... ... ...... \$1.35 ber 4th, 1915.

ever, it had a far stranger effect upon Pork chops, loin or rib, lb. ...... 20c her. No sooner had she caught sight Pork, shoulder, lb.....18c of this uncanny countenance, than, un-accountably she remembered some-

it, and the glass cracked and fell tinkling to the ground below. Then the stronged again.

"I've got it-got it," she cried in Pie Pumpkins, per ID, .....le LIVE STOCK. exuitation, and thrust the yellow pack-ot safely in her breast. There was a Hogs et safely in her breast. There was a sudden crash. She flung open her room door. The staircase, esten through with flame as its top moor-ings had tallen in. The ballway was

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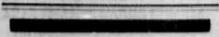
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The County Court of Malheur County meets in regular session at Vale on the first Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. County Judge, Geo. W. McKnight; M. D. Kelley and John F. Weaver, Commissioners; John P. Houston, Clerk.



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