

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST JOHNSON EXALTED CYCLOPS

Old Man Eloquent of Portland Klan Not Permitted to Make Any Defense.

Serious charges were preferred against the Rev. James R. Johnson, Exalted Cyclops of Portland Klan No. 1, by the Klomann of the Order, composed of officers of the local Klavern, Thursday, May 17. The old warrior's kindly and expressive face hardened instantly and his fighting jaw set like iron when the spokesman of this dread committee gravely informed him that they had come to prefer serious charges and that he would not be permitted to say a word in self-defense. After a few moments of silence the thaw occurred and lightning failed to flash. The charges in brief were that his 61 years were innocent of wrongdoing; that his fifty years of manhood had been useful to humanity and a credit to his parents and his country; that this, it was remembered, was his birthday, the seventeenth of May, and that the Klansmen, here and everywhere, join in hearty congratulations and heartfelt good wishes for the future, in token of which he was presented with a bouquet of red carnations.

The beloved Cyclops was speechless, at least for once, and tears stood in his eyes. Later he said: "God knows I am grateful for the love and confidence of my fellow-Klansmen—the finest body of men on God's green earth. How time flies! Only a short time ago, it seems to me, I was enjoying the fun and the sorrows of boyhood. God has been good to me. My prayer is that He will spare me a few years yet for service to my Cause, which is God's Cause, as I understand it."

Mr. Johnson—the Old Man Eloquent of the Golden West—one of the greatest orators in this section, was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., May 17, 1862—at a time when his father, a distinguished Confederate soldier, was campaigning with General Joseph Wheeler, the famous cavalry leader. He grew up in Tennessee and Alabama and in early manhood became a noted law-maker in the Alabama legislature. The first child labor law ever devised in America was the work of Mr. Johnson and he rammed it down the throats of the Alabama Bourbons, who were exploiting poor children in the mills, mines and factories. Mr. Johnson has always been a fighter, ready at any moment to do battle for his cause.

The Exalted Cyclops has an interesting family of children—five stalwart sons and two charming daughters. The boys in ages are 36, 27, 21, 15 and 13; the daughters 30 and 24—all devout Protestant church members.

Mrs. Johnson, mother of the seven, who was beloved by everyone privileged to know her, passed to her heavenly reward September 30, 1922, and the body was laid at rest in Mt. Scott cemetery, Fairview, Portland. The grave is a bower of beauty, typical of the saintly character of the lamented matron. Mr. Johnson is erecting over the grave a permanent and beautiful memorial in marble.

On May 17 all Portland Klansmen were saying, "Hats off and salute our Exalted Cyclops, who is 61 years old today. May he live long and prosper."

Later—Some time after the bouquet of red carnations had been presented to the Cyclops, a messenger from the Klomann came and tried to take the big posse away from his desk, whereupon war was declared. He was mollified, however, when the messenger brought in a still more elaborate and beautiful bouquet composed of roses, carnations, snap dragons and mountain ferns. The red carnations had been intended for a pair of newly wed friends of the Cyclops.

Later—When the news was out, before the Cyclops called it a day and went home, his private office was a wend of flowers, the gifts of admiring friends. A magnificent floral offering came from the Ladies of the Invisible Empire, through the office of the Mother Counselor, Mrs. Maybelle Jette. The Cyclops said: "God bless the women! I love 'em all."

BEWARE OF KAMELIA SCHEME TO EXPLOIT PROMOTER EN ROUTE

The Western American has been officially warned that a promoter for the "Kamekia," a new scheme to exploit Protestant women which has been repudiated by the Klan and its friends, has been assigned by the

Northwest section and is on his way to Portland to attempt clean-up. Look out for him! Tell him to keep moving. He is said to be a very good man, personally, but he has the wrong pig by the ear, which never will develop a silk purse.

The aim of the Kamekia promoters, who live 'way down in Dixie, is to garner the golden ducats of unsuspecting ones, who will be few and far between in this section.

Later on, perhaps, the Klan itself may have an official auxiliary, but it won't be the Kamekia, so-called, but something entirely different and worth while. Official advice will be given publicly on this subject, by Klan authorities, in due season. Watchful waiting is the wise policy at the present time.

MAYOR OF CONDON IN A KAISER ROLE

Forbids Klansmen to Hold Orderly Meeting in Community Hall.

Word came May 16 from Condon, Ore., that Mayor Snow of that town, which is in Eastern Oregon, was on his high horse, at the instigation of over zealous and impudent Roman Catholics, and had positively refused to permit the Klansmen there to hold an orderly and legitimate public meeting in the Community Hall, which the Klansmen and their friends built and which they, like all others, have a perfect legal and moral right to use. The little Mayor is reported to have been very impudent about it, basing his refusal upon the ground that the meeting of the Klansmen might generate "religious prejudice" and cause some kind of trouble in the community.

Adding insult to unwarranted injury, according to report, the little Mayor also called upon the Sheriff of the county to arrest the Klansmen if they attempted to hold a meeting in defiance of his autocratic mandate. The Sheriff is said to have smiled disdainfully, for he knows the Klansmen are law-enforcers and law-abiding, devoted to the Constitution—men whom he could deputize at any time of the day or night to help him maintain law and order in any case of need.

The free-born and independent white Protestant citizens of the Condon community—the center of a rich wheat section—are said to be "up in arms" against the autocratic tyranny of the self-created "kaiser" and probably will teach him, before they get through, that it doesn't pay a man, even one so large as the mayor of Condon, to grow too big for his breeches. The Community Hall quite easily could be obtained for use by legal order, if necessary. The arbitrary action of the mayor may necessitate open-air meetings of the Klan, in which event the public will see the Fiery Cross and the Klansmen in the glory of full regalia.

The Order is growing rapidly in the Condon section and in a little while there will be a strong Klavern in Condon, with most of the free-born white male Gentile Protestants lined up for American principles and the common good.

RAINIER KLAN ALIVE AND ALWAYS GROWING

The Portland Klan executives, in the Pittcock block, were pleased to receive a visit from the Exalted Cyclops of Rainier, Ore., Klan a day or two ago. He was chided for not coming more often. The Rainier Klan is one of the liveliest in the State, with a large membership in proportion to population and steadily growing in numbers, popularity and usefulness.

There's a live-wire Klan at Kelso, Wash., too, just across the Columbia river from Rainier, taking in the Klansmen of Longview, the new saw-mill city near Kelso.

HAIL ST. HELENS BIG KLAN AND ONLY BABY

St. Helens, Ore., which has the baby Klan of the State of Oregon, is proud of the honor, according to numerous prominent citizens, who declare that while the Klan there is a baby in age, it is a husky youth in strength and aggressiveness. This new Klan's membership includes many well-known men and the leading citizens of that section. They have a progressive and ambitious program of achievement. The new organization was due largely to the helpful work of Exalted Cyclops James R. Johnson of Portland Klan No. 1, who was complimented highly by Grand Dragon Gifford for his zeal in extending his efforts.

RAMSAY TO LAUNCH MASONIC MAGAZINE

E. F. Ramsay, a distinguished Masonic publicity man, well known in

BELOVED MOTHER COUNSELOR OF LOTIE, THE LEADER OF THE PORTLAND COUNCIL



MRS. MAYBELLE JETTE, one of Portland's beautiful and talented matrons, is the head of the premier council of the Ladies of the Invisible Empire. She is widely known for her remarkable business ability, and lately as the youngest grandmother in the State of Oregon. The Portland Council is the largest lodge of women in the State, or in the entire Northwest.

this section through his official connection, with the Fellowship Forum, has been prevailed upon by Masons of Portland and other Oregon centers to organize and establish for them a monthly journal designed to fill a purely local need. It is understood the magazine, which will be opulent in size, patronage and contents, and artistic to a high degree, will issue its first number early in June and will contain some "eye-openers" for Masons and their friends. The title will be The Masonic Analyst. Mr. Ramsay is a brilliant newspaperman and has made hosts of friends in this section by his devotion to the Masonic cause.

PROHIBITION CHIEF CALLS LYING PRIEST

Washington, D. C., May 9—Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel of the Anti-Saloon League of America, is in another controversy and this time has the best of it. John L. Belford, Catholic priest, is on the other side of the dispute. Belford recently stated that a certain United States Senator received \$80,000 for voting for the eighteenth amendment. Wheeler demanded that he tell the authorities who the Senator is. Belford, in true Catholic style, refuses to do it. It is understood Mr. Wheeler will institute proceedings to haul the priest into court and either make him admit he is lying or make him tell the name of the Senator. The general belief is that the priest is lying.

Honor Song Writer.

NEW YORK—Hundreds of men, women and children gathered about the home of John Howard Payne at Eastampton, Long Island, Tuesday and sang "Home, Sweet Home" in memory of the one hundredth anniversary of the first rendition of the song. Following the ceremony a tablet in his honor was unveiled at historic Clinton academy. Frieda Hempel, celebrated opera singer, broadcasted the song that night by radio while on the steps of the city hall, Gotham's 900,000 school children sang the song.

"Did You Ever?"

WASHINGTON—Manuel Herrick, ex-Congressman from Oklahoma, whose love affairs have attracted nationwide attention, is now to sue one of his "sponsors" for breach of promise. He recently was arrested and convicted here for annoying a young woman on a street corner. Herrick was denied membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

"Home, Sweet Home."

WASHINGTON—There is being erected in the park just east of the White House grounds a replica of "Home, Sweet Home," about which John Howard Payne wrote the song which will last through the ages. The house is of concrete blocks, like the ancient building of stone. It will be open to visitors during the Shrine convention.

Albany is Scene of Big Initiation

(Continued from Page 1)

way close to 9 o'clock, the Fiery Cross was carried by a Royal Rider. Followed then the Klan dignitaries, behind whom marched the Riders. First came the Royal Regent of the Riders, followed by the Vice-Regent and the Imperial Lecturer; then the color-bearer, with a huge American flag, accompanied by two color guards with drawn swords. The Patrol, following, formed the red cross as they marched through the streets of Albany. Right behind the Drill Team followed the rest of the Royal Riders in full regalia; then came a host of white-robed Klansmen. Nearly everyone threw back the hood, proudly showing to the world that they were members of these great patriotic organizations.

The Ladies of the Invisible Empire also were represented. On the long march the band played "America," and the whole procession was singing. The paraders returned to the starting point shortly before 11 o'clock, after which was staged the initiatory ceremonies.

It was well after midnight when the Royal Riders and Klansmen departed from Albany, reaching Portland after 3 o'clock in the morning. The "Four R's" left Portland for Albany at 4 p. m. in large auto stages and their own private cars. The trip from Portland, about 80 miles each way, was enjoyed immensely by all, for the scenery along this route is magnificent. The Royal Riders arrived in Albany shortly before 7 o'clock and swooped down upon the nearest restaurant. Dinner and lots of it was demanded. The invaders were not expected in such large numbers and the restaurant was short of help, but the crowd was fed. In this joyous expedition, fortunately, there were a number of first-class cooks, who took possession of the restaurant kitchen. Other members served as waiters, thus making it possible to spread a bounteous repast within 45 minutes.

The Klansmen were proud of the Royal Riders and grateful for the honor of their assistance in the ceremonies. The great Order of the foreign-born Americans has a membership which includes men from every walk of life.

The occasion was what everyone called a brilliant success, never to be forgotten by the Klansmen, the Royal Riders and the general public of Albany—and the Riders, in their beautiful regalia, were the most impressive sight of all.

Anyone wanting photographs of scenes on this occasion can obtain them for \$1 each on application to H. M. Sanderson, Salem, Ore., Box 466. He happened to be in Albany and snapped some excellent views.

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