ALL WROTH AT MR. NEILL

MEMBERS OF VARIOUS FRATERNITIES CRITICISE HIS ACTIONS.

"Hasty and Ridiculous," Say Some—Head Consul Falkenburg Wants to Forget and Forgive.

Among the members of fraternal and social orders yesterday the absorbing topic of conversation and comment was the Neill incident at Spokane. Not only Elks, but members of other organizations discussed the actor's sudden and dramatic withdrawal from the lodgerooms and his subsequent caustic letter, which he made public, in which the mode of initiation applied to him came in for strenuous censure. Similar incidents are rare in lodgedom, and therefore the interest is great. Estimations of Neill range from "hasty and ridiculous" to indorsements of Exalted Ruler George E. Chamberlain's characterization of him as a "sissy," and between the two are denunciatory designations which are not pleasing, nor are they complimentary. Undoubtedly certain of the local Elks are in possession of details of the occurrences in the lodgerooms to which Neill took exceptions, but they will not divulge their information nor the source of it. The statement gained credence yesterday that the blow with the stuffed club which was the climax to the "indignities" was not struck by a member of the Spokane lodge, but by an actor who was a visitor. From opinions gathered from local Elks yesterday, Neill did not reach the stage of actual initiation.

"The ritual of the Elks is beautiful and impressive," said D. Solis Cohen yesterday. "Had Mr. Neill had opportunity to know what the actual initiation is like, it would have taken a club to drive him from the lodgerooms. Mr. Neill acted in a hasty and ridiculous manner. The indignities he complains of were no part of the ritualistic ceremony, but probably were arranged by his friends, and were preliminary to actual reception into the order. Mr. Neill showed he was not fitted to become an Elk. It is a satisfaction to find out that fact before he was received as a full-fledged member. While the benevolence and liberality of the Elks, not only to unfortunates of their own, but without regard to membership, are well known features of the work, those are not the principles for which a man is supposed to join. First and foremost social good fellowship is the cardinal point in the Elks' creed. Members are taught to look upon the bright side of life. I have initiated ex-Governor Lord, Senator Mitchell, and other prominent men in public and private life in Oregon in the Elks, and none complained of indignities or that their finer sensibilities were shocked. Mr. Neill was hasty and ridiculous."

Mr. Cohen is past deputy exalted ruler of the Elks, and is past grand master of the A. O. U. W.

F. A. Falkenburg, head consul of the Woodmen of the World, and one of the foremost fraternal order workers in the country, was at the Portland yesterday, en route from Astoria to Oregon City, where he spoke last night. "Mr. Neill was very foolish," said Mr. Falkenburg. "He will see his mistake later, and his action will bring upon himself sufficient punishment. I have taken degrees in seventeen fraternal organizations, including Masonry, Odd Fellowship, Knights of Pythias and other prominent orders. I am a member of the committee on statutory legislation of the National Fraternal Congress of the United States, representing over 4,000,000 members. This is the first case I have ever known a candidate to take exceptions to degree work of an organization on such trivial grounds. Personally I am not an Elk, but many of my dearest friends are, and from what I know of the order there is nothing in its legalized authorized ritualistic work which would detract in any way from the dignity of manhood. I question seriously the candor of the man who acts as Mr. Neill has in this case. I look at it more as a desire for notoriety than an evidence of sincerity.

"Most orders have side degrees, instituted for the promotion of general enjoyment. I was initiated in an order once where on the first trip around the room I was stopped four times, and upon each halt a revolver was fired off directly beside me. And I want to state here that it was no air-gun weapon, either, but was capable of making a report which was reminiscent of bombardments and military sieges. Startled? Perhaps, but I knew I was in the hands of my friends and of gentlemen, and they surely had no desire to maim me or otherwise injure me. If Mr. Neill has been active as an actor, he must have known what to expect when he presented himself for initiation. I do not believe that the Elks should or would oppose Mr. Neill because of his action. In my judgment it would be beneath the dignity of a splendid, great order. Mr. Neill's action will bring upon himself sufficient punishment, and that will be enough."

Probably no order organized for social enjoyment and recreation has been more generally talked about than the Mystic Shriners, a side degree in Masonry. Their banquets and gatherings are popularly supposed to be the acme of good fellowship, and their initiatory tactics are reported to be the warmest ever. Masonry itself is solemn and impressive, religious in its beauty. Mystic Shriners are bon vivants, epicures and splendid roysterers. J. M. Hodson is past grand master of the Masons of Oregon, and has been prominent in Masonry and likewise in the Mystic Shrine. "The Shriners are the social adjunct to the Masonic order," said Mr. Hodson yesterday. "Their primary function is the promotion of recreation and pleasure. Consequently initiation into the Mystic Shrine is in keeping with its objects. As to the Elks I can say nothing. I am not a member, but I indorse what Mr. Chamberlain said of Mr. Neill when he called him a 'sissy.'"

P. S. Malcolm, who is the presiding officer of the Scottish Rite Masons of Oregon, and also a Shriner, said that a man who is a candidate for admission to an order should judge of what manner of initiation he would get by the sort of men belonging to it. "The Mystic Shriners of Masonry are promoters of social enjoyment, and it is more than probable that the man who joins it for fun will furnish part of the amusement when he is put through," said Mr. Malcolm yesterday.

A. M. Smith, City Attorney of Astoria, who was in the city yesterday, said: "Neill is a quitter. I don't know what they did to him in detail, but there certainly could have been no excuse for his withdrawal or his subsequent action in publishing his letter of censure."

"I received all that was coming to me when I joined," said Police Commissioner W. J. Cook, of Astoria, "and I cannot understand why Mr. Neill should have done as he did."

From Mr. Neill's letter it is gathered that in addition to being spanked he was the victim of a stuffed club. "That's nothing," said an Astoria capitalist, who was in the city yesterday. "He should have been baptized as I was with an egg which had much of that quality which improves wines, but has a contrary effect on eggs." Other reminiscences of hazing indulged in when candidates are initiated into secret orders were rife about the streets yesterday, where knots of people gathered to discuss the Neill episode. "Did you ever think you were getting branded for life?" asked one prominent member of a well-known order. "Now, that is an experience that is apt to be a bit harrowing for a moment. You can hear the branding irons being moved about, the heated air from the fierce fire fans your wrinkled brow. Somebody gives the command, and you feel something applied to the bare skin. The first sensations are horrible, and you shut your teeth with a do or die determination until you find out that ice has been substituted for red-hot metal. Oh, it's pleasant—afterwards."

In one order the candidate is commanded to jump in his bare feet onto a board studded with what appear to be fiercely sharp spikes, only to find when he lands that they are of flexible, harmless rubber. The story is told of a candidate who was sent through the paces with two members whom he thought were also new to the mysteries of the lodgeroom. Nothing unusual happened, that is, nothing unbearable, until near the close. Intentionally the bandage on the new man's eyes had been allowed to slip until he could see what was going on in the half-darkened room. He peered over the cloth and saw a man approach one of his companions in the initiation brandishing a wicked-looking razor. A slash, a spurt of red, red blood, and the blade apparently sank deep in the victim's throat. Then the new man fainted, and when he was brought to it required repeated assurance that it was all in fun, that the back of the razor barely touched the man's skin, that the supposed blood was red wine, and that the entire play was but a part of the ceremony. Another ruse practiced with a razor is to have the dulled instrument charged with electricity, and the sensation produced when it touches the skin is apt to result in nervousness, to say the least.

WHY WATTS IS NOT BURIED

Insurance Paid to Heirs, Who Should Have Cared for Body.

On behalf of the Woodmen of the World, Head Consul F. A. Falkenburg denies that the organization is responsible for the neglect to provide funds for the burial of Charles Watts, who died in Dawson 22 months ago, and whose body has since remained in an undertaker's storeroom in that city. Watts was well known in Oregon. He was the son of J. W. Watts, of Yamhill; he resided at Salem and Albany, and belonged to the Woodmen's lodge in the latter city. In explaining why the body has not been brought out or buried in Dawson, Mr. Falkenburg said:

"Watts died in midwinter, at a time when it was impossible to bring out the body. He carried an insurance policy payable to his family, with whom I understand he had had some differences before he went to Alaska. The heirs asked that payment be made upon the report of his death in Dawson, and I waived the formality of the body being returned, paid the money, and understood and believed that the family would see that the body was given respectable interment. The obligation of the Woodmen ceased when the insurance was paid. We do not contract to conduct funerals, but where the family requests we arrange for the erection of a monument over the grave of a deceased member. Knowingly, however, we would not allow a dead member to remain uncared for. When I go to Albany I shall take up the matter with the local lodge and arrange for burial of the body, if the family refuses to care for it."

Mr. Falkenburg leaves today for Salem. "I want to thank the people of Portland for their generous reception," said the head consul yesterday. "Not only did the members of the Woodmen give me a splendid welcome, but I found the same spirit of cordiality from citizens, newspapers and the city generally. Believe me, I appreciate it, and shall always remember Portland and its hospitable people."

GOOD SHOW FOR FIREBOAT

Committee of Board of Trade Makes Satisfactory Progress.

The fireboat committee of the Board of Trade, composed of Samuel Connell and C. W. Nottingham, is making good progress with its work. It will probably make its report at the next meeting of the Board of Trade. Yesterday the committee was in conference with underwriters as to the reductions in insurance that would follow a fireboat. It was demonstrated that a fireboat would cause a saving of insurance much greater than the cost of the fireboat. The boat can be built at a figure much less than was first thought, Mr. Connell said yesterday. He hopes to have data together within three weeks which will convince everybody of the economy of a fireboat.

The transport committee, composed of Messrs. Nottingham, Yerex and Cruthers, has sent a communication to the traffic manager of the O. R. & N., asking for more perfect commercial connections between Portland and the Orient. The committee is deliberating upon a proposal to hold a mass meeting of citizens, to set the needs of this port in the way of transportation before the railroad authorities.

Secretary Moore, of the Board of Trade, who holds the same office in the Oregon and Columbia River Board of Trade, has received the following response to a letter sent to La Grande, urging the importance of the latter organization. The letter is written by J. W. Scriber, cashier of the Farmers' Bank:

On February 11 the directors of our local commercial organization will meet, when I shall take pleasure in presenting your letter and get favorable action thereon. I am confident that much good can be accomplished by proper united action along lines mentioned by you.

The American Cigar.
Good as the name. Buy the best.

WAR OVER CREDIT SYSTEM

RETAIL GROCERS CLASH WITH WHOLESALE MERCHANTS.

In New Scheme of Quick Payments Small Dealers All Attempt to Increase Trade Profits.

Retail grocers do not like the new credit system proposed by wholesale produce merchants at all. They see in it a scheme to browbeat them out of the privilege of fair trade, they say. They declare, however, they will not take up with the reform system. They threaten to get along without wholesalers, if it comes to a show-down, to a degree that will cause opening of eyes. It is not their purpose to surrender nor "go 'way back and sit down," or to get up on their hind legs and claw the air. They are going to saw wood and work hard.

Several days ago the association of retail grocers held a meeting, at which the proposed credit system was discussed to a fine point. Within a week the retailers will be out with a proclamation in the shape of a circular letter, addressed to wholesalers, and to whomever it may concern. It has been rumored since that meeting that the retail grocers were contemplating a plan whereby they might enter the wholesale produce business themselves, and do business without the agency of the merchants who have signed the new credit agreement. It has been reported that the retailers would try to raise a stock fund of $20,000 wherewith to carry on the business.

D. C. Burns, president of the Retail Grocers' Association, denied this yesterday, but hinted that his fellow dealers had a few tricks of their own, which they would play in due season. This organization was formed about two years ago. Its other officers are Daniel Kellaher, vice-president; Gibson Burns, treasurer; and E. V. Russ, secretary.

The new credit system proposes that city accounts shall run no longer than 10 days, and be settled every week; that outside accounts shall run no longer than one month; that there shall be no discounting of bills; that buyers who do not pay promptly shall be blacklisted, and that dealers shall report the names of such; that failure to report delinquents, or breach of the rule by any member of the Produce Merchants Association, shall be penalized by fine; that buyers or sellers outside the city who endeavor to defraud the merchants of the association shall be put on the blacklist.

The Produce Dealers Association held a meeting last Saturday. It will issue a circular letter in a few days, which will be sent to the several retail grocers of the city. It has been expected that the new plan would meet with opposition, and the wholesalers are determined to go ahead. All the large houses on Front street have joined the organization except one, which promises to come in later. Each member has made a cash deposit of $50 with the treasurer, from which fines will be deducted. The officers of the association are J. H. Page, president; Mark Levy, vice-president, and J. A. Bell, treasurer. R. T. Harrison is acting as temporary secretary.

A wholesaler said yesterday that short-time accounts are required by modern methods of business. In the produce trade, where goods soon depreciate in value, the necessity is greater than in any other business. In all the large cities of this coast, except Portland, there are associations of wholesale produce merchants to enforce quick payments. The proposed system, the dealer said, would result in much economy and greater efficiency in trade. He added that the organization had no secrets to disclose; that all its purposes were open; that it would preserve the ethics of trade, and that it aimed at the benefit of all concerned, and at the detriment of none.

A leading retail grocer said that his fellow tradesmen would raise no opposition to the new plan, if the wholesalers would allow discount of two per cent. Up to two or three years ago that discount was allowed for cash. He regarded to proposed system as an effort to make more money off the trade. He declared that retailers would retaliate by buying their goods direct from the producer. He hinted that this could be done in nearly all lines of produce, imported as well as domestic. "The credit system is not abused here," he said, "so much as wholesalers pretend. I venture to say that as few retail houses have failed or have been delinquent in this city as in any city of equal size in the country. We have to carry consumers 60 and 90 days and longer. Why can't the wholesalers wait even 30 days? Are they afraid Gabriel will blow his horn before they can collect?"

MR. MILLER AND THE FLAG

How the Canadians Didn't Fly Their Colors at Skagway.

George Melvin Miller, formerly of Eugene, an attorney at Skagway, and a brother of Joaquin Miller, the poet of the Sierras, who is in Portland on business connected with his mining interests in Alaska, was the central figure in the "flag incident" at Skagway last June, which threatened for a while to bring about a coolness between England and the United States, and result in what diplomacy calls "international complications." As Mr. Miller tells the story it is interesting, and no doubt at the time it was dramatic and exciting.

"Skagway is 20 miles from the boundary line," said Mr. Miller yesterday, "and, as every one knows, is on American territory. The Dominion customs officials had tory. The Dominion customs officials had Skagway, at the edge of town. This was done for convenience, and to be near the town, which would facilitate the transaction of business. Rumors were heard from time to time that the customs officials intended to fly the English flag from the peak of a pole to be erected in front of the building. Clearly they had no right to do this, and there was considerable suppressed excitement when the pole was put in place. One of my friends came to me and said he understood the flag was to be swung to the breeze the following day. I doubted it, and said as much. The next day I started for the steamer en route north. Sure enough, the flag was flying. There was no one in the Custom-House with whom I could lodge a protest, so I cut the halliards and the ensign fluttered down. I telephoned what had happened to friends in the city, and left. That was all there was to it."

There was more, however, and one development of the incident was a subsequent agreement between the English and American Governments that flags would not be flown over Consulates or other official offices and residences in Alaska. When the British officials protested against the flag being cut down, and proposed to hoist it again, the American citizens refused to permit it unless the banner of the United States floated above that of Britain. This compromise was rejected, the matter was referred to the Dominion Government at Ottawa, and orders issued that in the future no flags should be sent up.

Mr. Miller is endeavoring to have the troublesome boundary question in Alaska settled by the purchase on the part of the United States of the Yukon Valley. "I have taken the matter up with the President personally," said Mr. Miller yesterday, "and Senator Mitchell is also interesting himself in the subject. We propose to purchase territory so that the boundary line will run along the 130th meridian from the Portland Canal and the McKenzie River, a distance of about 1000 miles. The line is now on the 141st meridian. When peace is effected in South Africa it is more than probable that England will give particular attention to developing the rich mineral resources of the country, and will find the situation there of such vast importance that a proposal to sell the Yukon Valley will be received seriously and acted upon favorably."

CONTINUES THROUGH FEBRUARY.

The great bankrupt sale of Brownsville Woolen Mill goods will continue through February. Of the large, fine stock being manufactured when the mills failed, not more than half is yet sold, although hundreds of people in Portland and outside towns have taken advantage of the sale to lay in a good supply of pure wool Brownsville goods at about half price.

Here are a few of the bargains offered: Silver gray blankets, pure wool, extra large, sizes 66x84, regular $7 60, now are being sold for $3 85. E. & W. linen collars, 5 cents each. Wool underwear, either knit or flannel, at 65c to $1 25 per garment. Three hundred pairs of pants, Brownsville goods, $1 50 to $3 00, regular prices $2 50 to $6.

The new location is Washington street between First and Second streets.

SECURE A HOME

By paying $6.45 per month on each $1000 contract. A large club making small payments into a Home Fund secures each one a home in turn. A strictly business proposition for rent payers or those who wish to release a mortgage.

AGENTS WANTED.

Pacific Homebuilders Ass'n

225-26 Abington Bldg.

Phone Main 969.

Geo. McGowan, Treas.

"Food Fair" Our Second Annual "Food Fair" commences Saturday morning at 10 o'clock and continues throughout the month. The world's famous products will be demonstrated—Thousands of sample packages to be given away—An instructing and pleasing exhibition of great interest to all. (3d floor).

Meier & Frank Co. | Meier & Frank Co.

Some rare Rummage Bargains in Men's Furnishing Goods and Clothing. Remnants of Dress Goods, Silks and Laces at very low prices. Great bargains in Remnants of Table Linens and Cottons.

Tomorrow Our 652d Friday Surprise Sale

Great Skirt Sale

Tomorrow we resume our popular Friday Surprise Sale—with an offering of Ladies' Dress Skirts, the equal of which we have never seen—Some 160 Skirts in the entire lot—the product of a very prominent manufacturer whose Skirts we have sold for many years with the utmost satisfaction. Our cloak chief hadn't been in New York twelve hours before this opportunity presented itself—Fine black Venetian Dress Skirts—entirely tucked—flounce trimmed with silk straps—well made throughout—all sizes and remarkable value—while they last $3.48

(See Window Display) (Second Floor)

The Rummage Sale

should continue to attract throngs of economical shoppers—There's additions to the remnant ranks today from every department—Useful ends of Table Linen, Toweling, Flannels, Cottons, Dress Goods, Silks, Laces, Embroideries, Ribbons, Curtain Materials, etc., at wonderfully low prices—Odds and ends of Hosiery, Gloves, Shoes, Muslin Underwear, Waists, Suits, Lace Curtains, Underwear, Men's Furnishings, etc., at prices we know will interest you. Two more immense lots of Table Linen remnants go on sale today, also one big lot of odd Napkins.

Meier & Frank Co. | Meier & Frank Co.

OLDS, WORTMAN & KING

TODAY WE BEGIN

A Three Days' Remnant Sale

During this sale not only remnants but ALL ODDS AND ENDS AND SMALL LINES of goods that have been accumulating during the five weeks of our clearance sale will be given

DEEP-CUT PRICES

A stroll through the store will disclose many choice things you can buy now to a splendid advantage, and the fact that they're remnants prove them to be some of our most popular sellers.

REMEMBER, FIRST CHOOSERS GET BEST SELECTIONS.

NEW VEILINGS

Chiffon Veilings ..... 35c, 50c, 65c yard
Wash Veilings ..... 50c, 85c yard
Complexion Veilings ..... 25c, 35c, 50c, 65c, $1.00 yard

Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

All the rage. On sale today—
KEISER TURN-OVER COLLARETTES
Embroidered on Linen 50c

Novelty Wash Fabrics

SPIDER-WEB GRENADINE
White and black and colored stripes, per yard 60c

PERSIAN STRIPE GRENADINES
White and tinted grounds, per yard 70c

SILK EMBROIDERED LINEN BATISTE
Only one dress to a design, per yard $1.75

BASKET-WEAVE CANVAS CLOTH
Solid colors—silk finish, per yard 50c

SILK-SPOT ALBATROSS
Solid colors—new shades, per yard 50c

Also 5000 yards
MERCERIZED CHAMBRAY
In plain colors and stripe effects, per yard 25c

BY EXPRESS—Basket Oxford, Silk Pique and Grass Linen

SHIRTWAISTS

In the Gibson and Maxine Model styles.

New Spring Silks, Dress Goods, Cotton and Cotton and Silk Wash Fabrics, Embroideries, Kid Gloves, Fancy Hosiery, Veilings, Waisting Flannels, European Novelties in Drapery and Upholstery Materials, Lace Curtains.

Great Half Price Sale

We now turn your attention to some of the greatest values in Cloaks and Suits ever placed before the Portland public. WE WILL SELL, commencing tomorrow, all CLOAKS, SUITS, SILK WAISTS and UNDERSKIRTS at just

½ Price

We have determined to begin the Spring season with clean shelves, hence this extraordinary offer. Now is the time to buy.

Inspection Invited. Look at Our Windows.

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MARRY A PLAIN GIRL IF SHE USES

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