

MICHAEL O'NEILL

Michael O'Neill, - age 48, born in Boston of Irish parentage; education, first year High School; occupation, machinist: civil condition, single: religion, Roman Catholic.

Michael O'Neill has been twice in this institution. His first commitment was in 1912 and he was released in 1916 as "improved". He was committed a second time in 1921 and he has remained here ever since. He is 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighs 130 lbs. The physical findings are negative. Intellectually he rates high, having an I. Q. of 115. The onset has been gradual. The symptoms first became marked in 1909. There has never been any pronounced upheaval or disturbance. Outwardly he has been self-controlled. Delusions of persecution and ideas of reference have been outstanding features.

The scanty early history indicates that he received a fair education, going through the first year of High School. He then became a machinist and continued at this trade until his twentieth year. He then became a civil engineer.

The symptoms became marked in 1909. He began at the time to talk of being interfered with in his work and of having vile accusations made against him. "He was the victim of dirty work". All this was because he was getting ahead. If he had justice he is positive he could prove his statements, but lawyers accept retainers and do nothing and even the district attorneys are part of the system. He made many complaints to lawyers to obtain their assistance in bringing his persecutors to justice. He finally put his case before the District Attorney and this led to his commitment.

In the hospital the same ideas have dominated throughout. Vile reports are circulated about him both in the male and on the female side and all his energies are bent on getting released so that he may bring his persecutors into court. For a number of years he showed himself a good worker, and then morose and seclusive, he was fairly co-operative. For the last three years he has refused to do any work at all and he spends all his time upon his "paper work," which consists of letters to the Governor. He is watchful for the slightest evidences of injustice and persecution. He carefully measures each slice of bread and weighs each slice of meat given him at his meals and compares his portions with those of other patients. The figures are recorded in his letters to the Governor.

HIS OWN STORY IS IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

"I went to New York early in May, 1909. I had worked with building work for different concerns. I lost several jobs and had to take anything I could get. About October I didn't have any business. I have never been so much on chumming round with men. I didn't want to get acquainted with people. It seemed as the people tried to get acquainted, although I tried to keep them off. When I first came to New York, there was two fellows who kept talking filthy. They used a name I had never heard on the street before. They used it sort of ambiguous. What was the name? sodomist. It was the first time I had ever paid any attention to it. In February 1910 I came back to Worchester. Two weeks after I came back, my brother came home one night intoxicated and looking for trouble. He invited me out for a little excitement and called, "You ..... D....." and other vile names. He said I was these things and other people knew it. He called it to me then and at other times, both ambiguously and directly. Then I went to Portsmouth, N. H. I got a job as time keeper, but noticed as I came around a lot of Italian kongo. It seemed to be meant for me. They seemed to be making remarks of the same nature all the time. So I went to see a couple of parties about it. Then I went to Boston and there I heard this thing. One time in Cambridge it came on sudden in the night. I got worrying

over this thing. I wanted to see if it couldn't be stopped. I came home and went to see a lawyer, a fellow I used to go to school with. He told me to hold up the thing. He took me to the office of a certain man. He didn't seem to pay any attention to it. He said I imagined it. But I believed it was the only way to clear things up. It doesn't take much for a man on the job to hurt another."

A LETTER TO HIS FATHER:

DEAR FATHER:

I want to see C. G. at once and ask him to take step to stop the dirty work that is being put over me. Ask him to go to the Governor or to the State Board of Insanity. You will recall how I told you about the patients being set on to accuse me publicly of masturbation. Well the same thing is being done now.

Last spring the story that I was a sodomist not only with men but with women was spread through this rotten holl. Dr. A. and the supervisor were chiefly to blame for it. It was done deliberately.

The story about my being a masturbator has been spread everywhere. You see it is revenge for going to the trustees. It has been told to male and female. Last Saturday the Frenchman who was kept in from work some time ago for committing masturbation before everybody. Since then every time he gets talking with me it is nothing but masturbation and sodary. This morning he yelled it out from a window where a lot of women were working accusing me of masturbation. He is doing this upon orders.