

FIGHT TO RULE VICE RACKET IS BARED IN PROBE

Tearoom Raid Is Laid to
Muscle-In Effort
by Gangsters.

By United Press
BLADENBURG, Md., Nov. 24.—Attempts of Philadelphia gangsters to "muscle in" on a Maryland vice racket were blamed today by police for a shooting early Monday in a roadhouse there. One man was killed and six other persons seriously wounded. Two may die.

According to reliable information given police, the holdup and subsequent shooting of employees and patrons against a kitchen wall was the work of vice racketeers from the city of Brotherly Love. They were believed to be desirous of sharing in the profits of the Old Colonial tea house, and acting under orders from Philadelphia gang leaders.

According to reports, the vice operates out of South Philadelphia and supplies girls to roadhouses in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The girls, under the cloak of entertainers, move every two weeks, it is said.

Evidence of gang activities multiplied as police today investigated the shooting. "John Joseph Bartlett," one of the wounded, turned out to be Felix Bocchicchio, alias "Man O' War," of Stratford, N. J., wanted in Pennsylvania on a murder charge. He is under guard in casualty hospital here. Others involved have been found to have criminal records and according to police, are members of gangs. Thomas Simone, also in the hospital, is reported to be implicated in Philadelphia gang activities.

STEVENS DEPLORES REDUCED DEFENSE

U. S. Must Not Be Caught
Napping, Commander of
Legion Asserts.

The American Legion program of the auxiliaries is not militaristic organizations, but we never must be placed in the position that we were immediately prior to the declaration of the last war," Henry L. Stevens Jr., American Legion national commander, declared at a conference of auxiliary department presidents and secretaries Monday in Legion nation headquarters.

Nabbed With Rum in Borrowed Car
Arrested while driving a borrowed car, A. J. M. McDermott, Barton hotel, Monday night, was charged with blind tiger and transporting liquor. Police said ten pints of booze were found in the automobile.

We have heard a great deal lately about economy. This year, I am afraid it is being misconstrued into false economy in the matter of national defense when, in the Pacific, we have the beginning of what may be serious trouble.

Steven asserted that the first line of defense has been pushed back from the regular army to the national guard.

Every disabled veteran of the World War in hospitals throughout the United States will receive a Christmas gift from the American Legion auxiliary. Mrs. A. H. Hoffman, chairman of the organization's rehabilitation committee, said.

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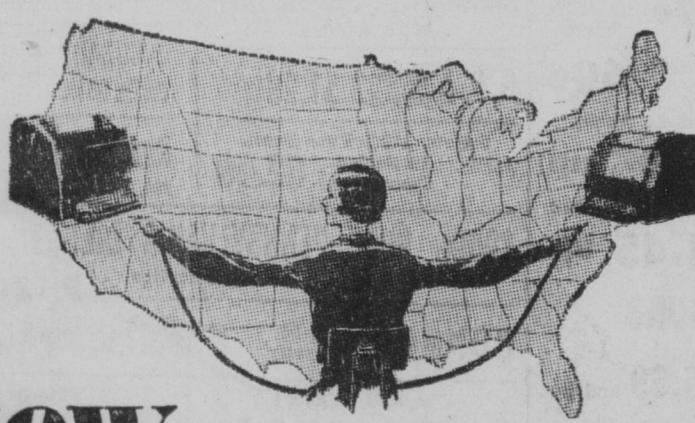


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