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Sweet Land of Volstead—No. 4

## EXTRA! FIRST DRY LAW PINCH!

Brooklyn Saloonkeeper Nabbed Soon After Lid Fell

Forrest Davis presents today the fourth of six articles on the amazing twelve-year Volstead era, and the factors leading up to it—a subject of increased interest with the present clash of the lame duck session of congress.

BY FORREST DAVIS  
Times Staff Writer  
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A FEW minutes past the midnight, on Jan. 17, 1920, a policeman—whether conscientiously or from mere malice, does not appear on the record—arrested Mike Minden in his saloon, at Howard avenue and Monroe street, Brooklyn, for selling a glass of brandy.

Minden, spoken of in the press of the day as a "well-known dramseller," thus became the first prisoner in the great war; a conflict of mass will against authority, which would perplex the land for twelve years and longer.

Fifteen minutes before the policeman collared Minden, it had been no crime to pass a hooker of brandy across the bar. Now, through the metaphysics of certain ponderous phrases engrossed on congressional records at Washington and numerous state capitals, the act had become an offense against that revered instrument, the Constitution of the United States.

The almost comical disparity between Minden's petty trafficking and the august eminence of the fundamental charter of the people's liberties appeared not to strike observers in 1920.

So, with the arrest of an obscure rum-runner in Brooklyn, the issue actually was joined.

Would the American people, spirited and touchy about their rights in earlier times, observe an ordinance which so drastically altered ages-old habits and customs?

Could the use of alcoholic beverages—as natural to many races and to countless individuals as swallowing tea or coffee, eating, or talking—be eradicated from the land, from New York City, by a fiat hysterically arrived at?

THE dry crusaders in January, 1920, expressed a naive faith in the ability of the law arbitrarily to amend manners, rob bowlers of their thirst and stamp out ancient mental attitudes.

It has been suggested that the childlike reliance of American reformers on the statutes stems from their evangelical upbringing. Mr. Daniels, and the prelatinal wing led by Bishop Cannon, believed almost pathetically that rum would vanish as by magic.

But, instead of a dry republic, the abracadabra of the eighteenth amendment and Mr. Volstead's definitive straightjacket, brought us in the incredible 1920's, the Speakeasy Age; hip flasks, Rum Row, all but universal cocktails, an army of bootleggers incessantly corrupting enforcement officers, "disrespect for law," and in the end, the most ferocious clash of propaganda witnessed since the slavery issue merged into the Civil war.

Moreover, the attempt to correct a nation's habits as a severe parent does a child's, revived the cult of the titillating, which had been waning steadily.

The drinking of spirits had decreased steadily from 1850 to 1913, by, roughly, 40 percent per capita. Beer consumption had advanced during that period from 4.08 gallons per capita to 22.30 gallons. The use of wines had doubled.

In the early years of this century, the country seemed progressively to be sobering up. The Yankee, in his earlier stages, a spirits drinker similarly to his north European forbears, had turned to milder brews.

But prohibition reversed the process. Gin, hitherto regarded with contempt by the stalwart, who relished honest bourbon and rye; treated with disdain by the fastidious; held by many to be no beverage at all, but merely a degraded tipple—gin promptly became the national drink.

The reason is obvious. Sound, imported liquors were expensive; beer too bulky for profitable transport. Alcohol, distilled in the thousands of illicit laboratories that sprang up everywhere, easily could be turned into a passable gin by the city house-



Drawing from New York Evening World of Jan. 16, 1920, mourning the fact that, with the coming of the Volstead era, the pocket flask, hangover, corkscrew, etc., would be no more. Above, Deputy Police Commissioner John A. Leach (right) watches agents pour liquor in sewer following a raid in June, 1921.

holder. He had only to add "drops" and glycerine.

ASIDE from the mechanics of drinking in "dry America," what of the sociological effect?

The first three years witnessed a slow unfolding of the stubborn resistance which was, in 1920, to find convincing political expression.

Citizens boasted in the early 1920's of a reliable bootlegger. For several years it was considered smart to know your bootlegger socially.

The youth of the land, in whose name the protective shield of Volsteadism had been raised, discovered the zestful, if punitive, delights of getting pickled, boiled, fried, etc.

It was in this time, likewise, that the capricious conduct of the youngsters when lickered-up most attracted the horror of the older generation.

The gals of debutante age shed their corsets at dances; and old gentlemen in clubs and elderly ladies around the auction bridge tables wet their lips as they repeated the titillating gossip.

Boys, it was said, were not welcome escorts unless the manfully bore capacious flasks of gin. Brave fathers and mothers took to sup-

plying late teen-age daughters with flasks from their own tested stores in order, as they fondly thought, to preserve the darlings from poisoned potables.

Gradually, the donkey-like refusal of the people to do without their liquor showed itself, alarming by 1923, even the most fatuous of the Anti-Saloon League's optimists.

THE wets, as we have seen, were caught flatfooted by nationwide prohibition. Nor did they rally for many a year. It was the fashion in the first third of the 1920s to accept the conviction of the dries that "prohibition is here to stay" as gospel.

Few hoped that the eighteenth amendment could be dislodged, at least in their lifetimes.

Drinking, therefore, took on an added quality. It was not only amusing to indulge moderately in forbidden fruit; it was more than a gallant social gesture, adding new excitements to living; it grew to be a sort of political duty.

If the sincere wet couldn't expect to set aside the law, he could, gaily and with a clear conscience, thumb his nose at it and at the hatefully restrictive philosophy it embodied.

And presently the Anti-Saloon League zealots were striking back

at the "good citizens" who so shockingly ignored the law.

Dr. Charles W. Eliot, at Harvard, as early as May 24, 1920, detected an informal conspiracy on the part of "these so-called people" to nullify the law.

But the sincere wets, buying liquor "just off the boats," dining by choice in Italian table d'hotes where one openly could enjoy the civilized pleasure of wine with food, took their stand with Dr. Arthur Twining Hadley, president-emeritus of Yale, rather than with Dr. Eliot.

Dr. Hadley viewed nullification of the dry laws with no dread, but rather as a "safety valve" which helps a self-governing community avoid the alternative between tyranny and revolution."

THE first three years of the experiment "noble in motive" were not, however, primarily years of agitation. The dry, well pleased with their triumph, rested on the oars.

The wets, unorganized politically, finding shelter in neither party, pretty thoroughly were persuaded that they had no political recourse.

They had the underworld yet grown unbelievably prosperous on the new liquor traffic's profits. The Capones, Dwyers, Maddens et al had not yet emerged as troublesome phenomena.

These were the rather bewildering years when brewers sought to cultivate a public taste for "cereal beverages," when saloonkeepers hoped to keep running as sandwich shop proprietors; when candy makers widely advertised sweets as a substitute for whisky; when presumably reformed sots were advised to eat an apple whenever that dreadful thirst stole upon them.

The middle period of the Volsteadian age brought tentative efforts at modification and repeal—and the grim organization of the illicit liquor trade into a social menace. That phase will be taken up in the next article.

Three rabbis will take Part in Ezes Achim Celebration.

The twentieth birthday anniversary jubilee of the Ezes Achim Hebrew congregation, Norwood and South Meridian streets, will be held at 6:30 p. m. Sunday.

Three rabbis, Morris M. Feuerlicht, Milton Steinberg, and Abraham Lazar, in addition to the congregation's rabbi, Israel Horowitz, will speak at the anniversary.

State Senator Jacob Weiss, Indianapolis attorney, will be another speaker.

Cantors J. Berman and Sam Levin will chant.

Other entertainment includes songs by Leonora Wolf and Esther Liskin, and Solly Maurer; violin selections by Louis Casey and a piano recital by Ruth Smulyan.

MUSCLE SHOALS VICTORY  
NOW APPEARS NEAR FOR  
NORRIS AFTER LONG FIGHT

Roosevelt's Regime Likely to Transform Old White Elephant Into Work Beast, with Steady Job Serving Public.

## RUHR IN AMERICA IS VISIONED

Battle Against Powerful Corporations Appears Near Climax, With Victory for Doughty Nebraska Senator.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The fight of a kindly old man against two administrations, and the dogged hosts of rich and powerful corporations is about to culminate in victory as part of the Rooseveltian new deal.

For the first time in more than twelve years, it now appears certain that the old white elephant, Muscle Shoals, may be transformed into a good, gray, work-a-day beast that will labor in the valley of the Tennessee and, perhaps, develop another Ruhr in America.

30-HOUR WORK  
WEEK BACKED

Federation of Labor Chief Cites Surprising Figures on Night Shifts.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Surprising figures to show that some industries still are working long hours and engaged in night shift operations were presented to a senate subcommittee Thursday by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, in expressing whole-hearted support for the bill by Senator Black (Dem., Ala.) to establish the thirty-hour week in industry.

Green asserted vehemently that the shorter work week is the only answer to unemployment and the problem of stabilizing industry. The mechanization of industry, he declared, has injured almost wholly to the benefit of the employer and to the detriment of labor.

With 11,800,000 persons out of work today, according to the latest tabulation, he asserted, little more than half of them could be absorbed back into employment under the present system, even were the peak prosperity of 1929 restored overnight.

Department of labor statistics for 1932, he said, show that in the cotton goods trade, the fifty-five-hour week predominated. Out of 154 firms, he pointed out, 68 per cent worked the fifty-five-hour week and 66 per cent were on night shifts. In woolen goods, the average full-time work week was more than fifty hours, and in hosiery, the full-time standard was a work week of a fraction more than 51½ hours.

SENATOR WILL SPEAK

Sermon Will Be Given at Meeting of Hebrew Congregation.

Sermon on an unannounced subject will be given by Leonard A. Strauss, president of the Jewish Community Center Association, at regular service to-night of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation at 10 n. T. and Delaware streets, to be conducted by the local Mase chapter of Hai Resh fraternity, national Jewish fraternity.

The service will be held in conjunction with national Hai Resh night, with every chapter in the national participation.

Following explanation of the event by Richard E. Frymson, president of the local chapter, Richard K. Munter, former national president, will assume charge.

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State Senator Jacob Weiss, Indianapolis attorney, will be another speaker.

Cantors J. Berman and Sam Levin will chant.

Other entertainment includes songs by Leonora Wolf and Esther Liskin, and Solly Maurer; violin selections by Louis Casey and a piano recital by Ruth Smulyan.

Sam Kaplan is president of the Congregation. Aaron Cohen is chairman of the anniversary program committee.

The women's committee in charge of arrangements for the anniversary composes Mrs. Samuel Schampain, president of the ladies' auxiliary; Mrs. A. Brody, Mrs. Fred Zukerman and Mrs. Aaron Cohen.

The men's committee is com-

Full Leased Wire Service of  
the United Press AssociationINTEREST EATS  
BIG SHARE OF  
SCHOOL FUNDS

\$102,460 Paid on Library Bond Issue, With None of Principal Retired.

## 'PAY AS YOU GO' URGED

A. B. Good, Business Director, Gives Figures to Show Argument Is Right.

BY LOWELL NUSSBAUM

Back in 1911, the citizenry of Indianapolis deemed it advisable to build a new public library, and the school board obliged by purchasing a site at Meridian and St. Clair streets, paying for it by issuing \$125,000 in bonds.

Today, the school city still owns the site, on which a handsome structure has been built, but it also owes the entire \$125,000 bond issue, despite the fact \$102,460 in interest has been paid. The bonds will not mature until 1946.

This incident, together with many similar ones, shown in a report compiled today by A. B. Good, schools' business director, provides a strong argument for backers of the "pay-as-you-go" plan.

Since 1872, when the first Indianapolis school bonds were sold, the school city has issued a total of \$15,674,300 in bonds. It still owes \$10,644,000 of that total.

Cost Is Enormous

Bond totaling only \$5,930,300 have been paid off in that 60-year period, but the staggering sum of \$7,053,688 has been required thus far for the privilege of keeping up with the building needs of a growing school population, and passing the bills on to posterity.

The practice of issuing bonds was started by the school city in 1872, when \$100,000 bonds were sold. At that time the board was informed by its attorney, school records reveal, that the law permitted it to assume an indebtedness no greater than that sum, and required that the bonds be retired within five years.

To this retirement provision, the board refunded the issue four times, until the bonding power was enlarged in the 'nineties.

After that, issuance of bonds to meet cost of constructing school buildings and acquiring sites became a regular practice, but no extensive issues were sold until 1919, when the board issued \$1,300,000 for a unit at Tech, for repairs and real estate.

Amount Keeps Increasing

In 1920 issues sold totaled \$4,236,000, while in 1921 an even greater amount of bonds, \$4,736,000 were issued.

Nearly \$12,000,000 of the total amount of bonds issued in the sixty year period was sold in the last thirteen years.

Thirty years ago, in 1903, an issue of \$200,000 was sold. Of this amount, \$72,000 still is outstanding and will not be retired until 1934 and 1935. Interest thus far has totaled \$183,365. These are the oldest bonds still outstanding.

The following year, the board floated an issue of \$150,000 on which \$140,962 interest has been paid and \$112,000 of the bonds still are outstanding.

Although the main library site was acquired in 1911 bonds for the library building were not authorized until 1915, when a \$500,000 issue was sold, the entire issue to mature in 1955.

Only One Bond Retired

Only one \$1,000 bond has been retired, leaving \$499,000 outstanding, and the school city paying out \$21,000 interest annually on the issue. Thus far, interest on the library building has totaled \$361,228.

Thus the library site and building bonds totaled \$625,000, of which only \$1,000 has been paid, and on which interest already has amounted to \$501,290, and which at their maturity, will total \$1,055,290, which is \$490,000 more than the bonds.

Many other amazing facts are shown by Good's summary of the schools' bonded debt. In 1920 the school city sold a \$60,000 issue, which has been paid off, but which cost \$62,100 in interest.

An issue of \$1,645,000 for building the Tech shop and power house and Schools 22 and 26 was sold in 1920. These bonds will not mature until 1940, but the board has bought up and retired \$202,000. Interest on this issue has cost \$947,952 thus far, and by 1940 will have cost \$1,496,202.

Interest Equals Principal

Considering the fact that the bonds were sold at a discount of nearly \$200,000, the interest in twenty years will equal the principal.

The present school board, Good pointed out, has retired more bonds than it has issued.

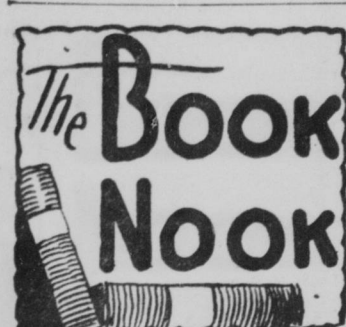
Since Jan. 1, 1930, when the present board took office, the bonds totaling only \$700,000 have been issued, while other bonds totaling \$1,247,000 have been retired, a net reduction in the bonded debt of \$547,000.

NEW STUTZ MODELS  
DISPLAYED AT SHOW

Large Crowd of Notables Looks on at New York Exhibit.

Before the largest crowd of financial and social notables seen in New York's automobile row in years, new models of the Stutz Motor Car Company of Indianapolis formally were presented to the public Thursday by Charles M. Schwab, financier and stockholder of the company.

The presentation was made in a display displaying fifteen of the new Stutz models, including the utility Pak-Age-Car, following a tea in charge of an official of Good House-keeping Institute.



Guy de Pourtales

Having written the lives of Liszt and Chopin, it is not surprising that Guy de Pourtales, famous French author, turns to another great musician. This time, the author is interested in Richard Wagner. His biography of Wagner has recently been published by Harper & Brothers.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

YEARS before I made my first trip to New York I had the nutty idea that I wouldn't see the kindly, cruel human and interesting New York.

In other words, I wanted to get out of the beaten track and not just take a tour of the city. I was lucky because my pilots on my many trips to New York were such friends as newspaper men, actors, press agents and even song writers and piano players.

And I know I have seen quite a slice of New York life as recorded by Helen Worden in "The Real New York," just published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company and sells for \$2.50. If you have never been to the big city, get hold of this book, because the author is a newspaper woman and very wise as to the goings-on, both day and night.

It is the most human "guide book" of New York I have ever read. Quite wisely, she starts out with your stomach. I hope I am not trying to be too familiar, but she lists places to eat where food is served that "Cleopatra would call home-coming."

If you want to stop coffee with the big names on the stage as well as those that appear on the front page of the dailies, then take Miss Worden's tips and you will see the mighty duo and sip. And she lists the prices for two.

She tells you where you can get the best frog legs in New York and the two places where you can buy green cheese and she even tips you how to prepare it. My lips are watering as I write this.

Where to eat—the different places, including the "speaks" where good food is cooked while the not meaning you, of course, drains an old-fashioned and the like. The food is cheap in price, but the refreshments? Oh, what a headache.

The trip that she takes you on in the Bowery is the most human of all. And she will not let you miss Kennedy's restaurant and the One-Mile House, one of the largest flophouses in the Bowery.

This book gives you the real Chinatown of New York. And it is not so mysterious as the subject matter suggests.

And in the same chapter the author tells you where you may buy red wine and plaster saints. Quite a combination.

Whether you go to New York or not, read "The Real New York," because it is great literary theater.

Best sellers in fiction over the country includes: "Farewell, Miss Julie Logan," by James M. Barrie; "Flowering Wilderness," by John Galsworthy; "Mutiny on the Bounty," by Hall and Nordhoff; "Invitation to the Waltz," by Rosamond Lehmann; and "Bachelor's Bounty," by Grace Lippincott.

The J. B. Lippincott Company informs me that their spring collection in fiction will include "Encore the Lone Wolf," by Louis Joseph Vance. In this story, the famous Duques pearls and the Duques fortune are the prizes for which the Lone Wolf and his son and daughter-in-law engage with the denizens of the New York underworld in a series of thrilling encounters.

My mail the last few days contained a letter that made me want to shout. You recall how I loved the best children's book of the last ten years—"Funday," by Ilo Orleans.

Well, the author has written me a letter, and he is going to make me "a belated Santa Claus."

Here is the letter, which is one of the finest I have received:

"There has been very much of my desk a copy of the very delightful review of my book 'Funday' which appeared in your column of Dec. 2, 1932.

"While many reviewers, to my great amazement, indicated themselves in superlatives with regard to my very humble effort, I was particularly touched by the extent of your enthusiasm in your suggestion that if you had money, 'meaning gobs of it,' you would set up funds for a wider distribution of my book.

"I haven't 'gobs of it' either, but I can send to you a dozen copies of 'Funday' with my compliments if you know of twelve youngsters who would find some delight in its pages. Do you care to be a somewhat belated Santa Claus? Let me know, and I will see that the books are shipped out to you.

"With all good wishes for a year brimful of Funday and with deep appreciation for your kindly words of commendation, I am,

"Sincerely yours,

"ILO ORLEANS."

And I have written the author, and I am wild to be Santa Claus even in January.