

WHERE DOES THE BOOTLEGGER OBTAIN HIS BOOZE? RUM-RUNNERS USE DARING RUSES TO EVADE LAW

Ingenuity, Nerve and Persistence Demanded in Ring That Covers Whole Country—Treachery, Murder and the "Double-cross" Mark Dealings

BOATS, STEAMSHIPS, TRUCKS, AUTOS AND RAILWAYS USED IN BIG SMUGGLING SYSTEM

Liquor Disguised as Fruit Is Shipped From Florida in Iced Refrigerator Cars. Six Routes Keep Supply Moving From New York—Canada Shipments Less

WITH bootleggers on every hand, plying their trade in almost every nook and corner and selling liquor in any quantity from a drink or half pint to hundred-barrel or thousand-case lots, Mr. Average Citizen, even if a surreptitious consumer himself, is puzzled to know "How do they do it?"

The bootleggers enthusiastically favor prohibition. They hope it will last forever. Modification of the law, letting down the bars for light wines and beers, is the last thing they want to see. For their trade would then be gone.

With an amendment to the United States Constitution in effect and with national and State enforcement laws in theoretical operation to prevent the manufacture, transport and sale of liquor, there is small wonder that folk are unable to comprehend how bootleggers can thrive.

Clergymen, law and order organizations, Judges and even the judges and enforcement officers marred at the quantities of alleged liquor available. Every raid and seizure noted in the newspapers is merely fragmentary evidence of fortunes made and making.

The explanation of this wholesale violation of the prohibition laws, not only in Pennsylvania, which is one of the great liquor States of the East, but throughout the Nation, lies in the enormous profits earned by bootleggers. If this were eliminated real prohibition would become largely effective at once. This is the opinion of Federal officers in close touch with every phase of the bootlegging industry.

Nicholas T. Brooks, a Treasury agent at Philadelphia, whose special concern is to catch smugglers of real liquor, said:

"Bootleggers of all descriptions, and there are scores of varieties, are in the business simply to make a lot of 'easy' money. Even the smaller fry are making more money, with a comparatively small degree of effort, than they ever made before.

"As far as the Government is concerned, the evils of bootlegging, especially when it takes the form of smuggling liquor into the country, go far outside of rum itself. Conscientious revenue officers are more than eager to stamp out whisky smuggling from the West Indies, Mexico, Canada and Europe for other reasons than mere prohibition enforcement.

Smugglers of Rum Turn to Smuggling of Gins

"The truth is that successful smugglers of liquor are rapidly learning how to smuggle other articles, such as diamonds, opium and fine silks, so you can readily see what successful rum-running means eventually to our Government.

"Bootleggers are in the game for money, and for nothing else. Many of the king-pins would never think of touching a drop of even the genuine liquor which they handle. They are business men. They do business with bankers and other 'respectable' men of affairs. If they find they can make as much or more money smuggling something else, they will tackle the something else. That is what we have to guard against, and I do not mind saying that it is a big problem."

The bootleggers form a great clan spreading from one end of the country to the other. A junction of the trade has sprung into existence by which one bootlegger may be known to another. While they work together, the most elaborate precautions are taken against "double-crossing."

Many men in the trade, especially the underlings and go-betweens in "big deals," are aliens with small knowledge of or respect for American law. Others are known to the police as gunmen or "rat mob," who go constantly armed and who do not hesitate to kill.

Knowing they are engaged in a traffic outside the law, and that they have no redress in case they are swindled, these desperate men take the law into their own hands.

The sources of supply of liquor distributed in Philadelphia are still numerous, although smuggling over the New Jersey line and by rum-running fleets that formerly boldly operated in the Delaware bay have been largely reduced by United States revenue officers.

Smuggling could be effectively curbed at Philadelphia, it is stated, if there were an adequate inspection force and if fast power boats were available. Good Scotch whisky still comes in by freighters and tramp vessels that buy the best brands in England or Scotland for \$1.50

a quart and sell it alongside ship for many times that amount.

"Smugglers," some of whom have their yards and motor craft, have in many instances given up the buying of rum and whisky, except in just sufficient quantity to cover the loads of whisky they carry to dark possessors behind wharves.

The fish-shippers of tramps have piled considerable trade in rum. Scotch liquor through these junkies. By pre-arrangement, and sometimes through wire-connections, they advise in advance of their "loads" they have to sell. The junkies, besides always, the cargo is dumped down in boxes into the launch, which is hoisted over the water. Then the ship comes on up for health and customs inspection and gets a clean bill of health.

"Scotch" Seized on Ship Gets to Hospital as Sea Water

A particularly diligent inspector recently seized two quart bottles bearing a standard brand of Scotch that he found in a cabin on the Customs House. Later a hospital in Philadelphia made provision for some liquor and received the two bottles of Scotch.

When the bottles, with the English stamps on the bottles, were taken in on board, "Well, here is where we have a regular Scotch light," one of the officers, who was in a cabin, a regular Scotch and another for a regular Scotch and another for a regular Scotch.

When the work was pulled and a bottle poured, the bottles, it was found, contained sea water. The man, who was in a cabin, a regular Scotch and another for a regular Scotch.

In bootlegging circles it is conceded that every steamer brings in from ten to a hundred cases of whisky. With the present Government force here, it is difficult to be successful in such a venture. At Chester there is one case of whisky, one case of Scotch and one case of Scotch.

The usual method of appearing in possession of a bottle of Scotch is to have a bottle of Scotch in a bag, and to have a bottle of Scotch in a bag, and to have a bottle of Scotch in a bag.

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"For all this, had I a half-gallon of Scotch, I would be glad to get it. I don't mind the price, just feel as though I had some Scotch."

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He is a shrewd judge of human nature and if he makes a mistake it usually is on the side of conservatism.

These expert bootmen make ideal rum-runners and operate almost without a possibility of interference. Controlling them is almost beyond human enterprise in view of the natural obstacles.



Revenue agents unloading liquor seized in a Philadelphia raid

capacity when it is good liquor, sufficiently good.

A good deal of the Florida liquor has been making its way into Philadelphia in refrigerator cars, mostly for fruit and vegetables. Such a carload was seized by the Federal authorities only a few weeks ago.

The system is to ship such a cargo with all charges collect, including freight. As the bootleggers are supposed to be highly perishable goods, the consignee is promptly notified of the arrival of the car, and the charges are collected and the contents delivered. The car is then returned to about 2000 miles.

Usually a certain percentage of fruit and vegetables accompanies the liquor, being placed in the car doors. The liquor is usually packed in wooden cases in great boxes. How much of it comes into Philadelphia in this manner is conjectural, as the prohibition enforcement officers have no available figures, but a great many refrigerated fruit cars constantly arrive at the Philadelphia terminals, and it is difficult to watch the unloading of every one of them.

Prohibition and other forms in Connecticut along the sound are favorite hideouts for rum-runners dealing in liquor from England and the West. Industries of this kind have been started by American distilling interests in the North West Indies. From time to time a fine is sent back to the United States in schooners and small sailing craft, which transfer it to large boats or lighters.

Wonderful ingenuity, nerve and persistence have been displayed by rum-runners in the last eighteen months. The profits are big and the risks are more with the people with whom they do business—the bootleggers—than with the law. Double-crossing and stealing have become so common that the bootleggers usually reject with automatic repugnance any having death traps for their bootleggers.

Many a raid has been frustrated by a bootlegger to "get even" with some one who has "done" him. So with many an unexplained murder.

Five Liquor Routes Between New York and Philadelphia

Liquor from Connecticut and New York still is brought down through New Jersey or New York by five routes into Philadelphia in touring cars and motor trucks, although the truck traffic has been greatly diminished through the activities of revenue agents. Liquor is carried in touring cars in sacks. It is difficult, however, to handle more than eight or ten cases at a time in this manner.

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The Grace and Edna, captured by the "hoop destroyer" Hahn. The sloop was said to have 2000 cases of liquor, valued at \$200,000, aboard when taken into New York by the former submarine chaser

The touring car bootlegger usually is accompanied by one or two women and a child, to make it look like a pleasure outing, and they are infrequently detected.

Practically all "imported" foreign liquor, from whatever source, is "smuggled" depending upon the facilities and aversion of the individual wholesale bootlegger.

One quart of Scotch, or a fifth of a gallon bottle, is made into two, three or even four times the quantity by the

After being thus adulterated, it still tastes like Scotch, but has a peculiarly "raw" flavor, which the bootlegger explains by saying:

"Well, this lot is not quite so old as the last. We have to take what we can get. You ought to be glad you can get this for the stuff is getting mighty scarce."

Liquor is always scarce with a bootlegger and it is with the air of doing you a distinct favor that he "lets you in on anything."

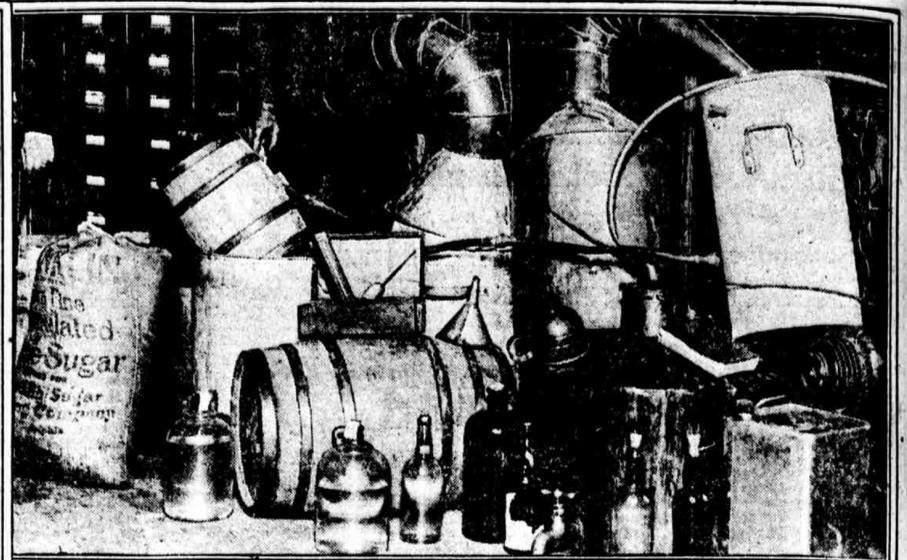
If one insists upon the old, honest-to-goodness "pre-war stuff" the bootlegger will possibly agree to supply a few bottles but at a price to make one gasp. The liquor even then may have been diluted. One really has to have a friendly "pull" with one of the big bootleggers to get sinned pure pre-war liquor from overseas.

If it is difficult to get good Scotch or Irish, it is almost hopeless to try to obtain genuine aged-in-the-wood rye or bourbon whisky. True, some of it is released for "medicinal" purposes, but not one drinker in ten thousand can obtain a steady supply.

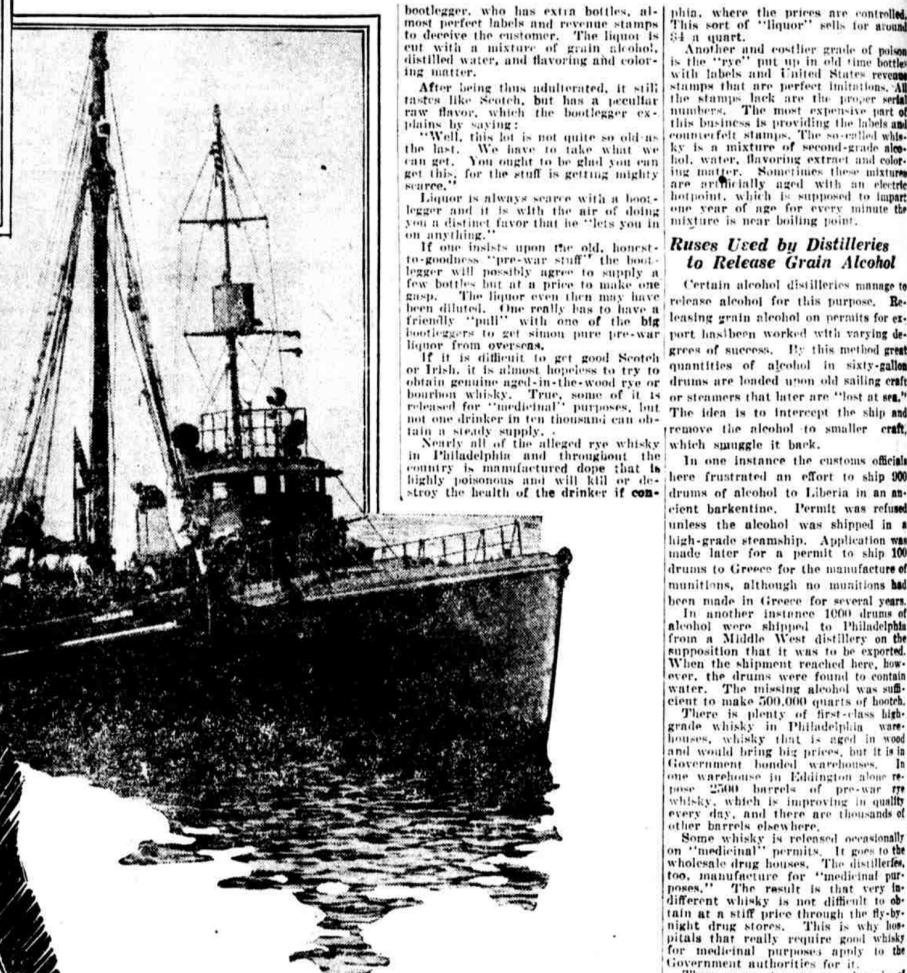
Nearly all of the alleged rye whisky in Philadelphia and throughout the country is manufactured and sold in highly poisonous and will kill or destroy the health of the drinker if con-

sumed with regularity. Its cumulative effects, prohibition authorities have proved through scientific and physiological, are certain.

Tremendous quantities of raw moonshine whisky, made of improper materials in filthy stills under insanitary surroundings, have been made and sold in Philadelphia. It is a joke with these amateur distillers that they "make it in a garage and bottle it in a bathtub."



Booze-making apparatus operated by three men in the basement of 1323 Christian street. Detectives raided the place when the odor of the mash was carried to them through a drain



The Grace and Edna, captured by the "hoop destroyer" Hahn. The sloop was said to have 2000 cases of liquor, valued at \$200,000, aboard when taken into New York by the former submarine chaser

Some whisky is released occasionally on "medicinal" permits. It goes to the wholesale drug houses, the distillers, too, manufacture for "medicinal" purposes. The result is that very few different whiskeys are not difficult to obtain at a stiff price through the fly-by-night drug stores. This is why hospitals that really require good whisky for medicinal purposes apply to the Government authorities for it.

There were twenty-two barrels of really good gauged whisky moved on board into a most dilapidated downtown warehouse not long ago. The Government inspectors sauntered about to see what the liquor dealer looked like. It was found to be anything but a bargain price, as every the window was were knocked out. So the inspectors set a watch and asked that the liquor be moved to a less well-ventilated warehouse.

Even then they watched. Then they inspected the place and found twenty-two additional empty barrels, rubber hose and a siphon and passed the whole outfit in a lousy warehouse.

When a prohibition inspector these days says, good liquor is comparatively scarce in Philadelphia he is telling the truth. But there is any quantity of compound whisky, moonshine whisky and synthetic gin, and two or three varieties of hooch being fairly moderate in price. Of several evils, the synthetic gin is the least deleterious in effect.

Bootleggers' Convention Discusses Run Problems

There are a half-dozen groups of bootleggers in Philadelphia that work in various territories and classes of trade. The bigger men in the group look after the "sources of supply" and the smaller fry attend to sales negotiations and deliveries. They held a general convention not long ago at a central hotel and discussed their business problems and how to handle "the right people."

Philadelphia is in the main stream of current of national bootlegging activities. Pennsylvania was known as a great distilling State and Philadelphia was famed for the excellence of its whiskeys. Two years and a half ago a drink of fair quality rye could be had in many bars for ten cents. Exactly the same liquor today costs in wholesale quantities at least \$1 a drink.

The great bootlegging States of the country are Connecticut, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, Florida, Michigan, Illinois and Missouri. Cities of bootlegging bliss are Norfolk, Baltimore, New Orleans, Cincinnati, St. Louis, El Paso, Los Angeles and San Francisco. There is plenty of liquor of sorts sold throughout the Nation, but the above States and cities are the sources and channels for liquor.

New York State police examining liquor from a rum-running airplane that crashed at Croton, N. Y.