

VERMONT ROADS SLICED BY ILLICIT LIQUOR

Routes Through State Are Apportioned to Accredited Runners.

BLIND TIGERS APLENTY State Labeled With Decoctions Mixed Across Canadian Border.

AGENTS HALT FEW CARS Federal Enforcement Officers Too Few to Cope With the Tricks of Smugglers.

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald. BURLINGTON, Vt., Nov. 7.—It is the complaint all through Vermont of those city and rural magistrates who deal at first hand with minor offenders against the law that more charges of intoxication are brought before them than ever before and that in most instances the person charged with overindulgence is more sick than drunk.

This, they explain, is because the men the police pick up are almost invariably found senseless in city streets upon country roads, and when revived express surprise at having been found in the condition they were in, and insist that they could not have been intoxicated as they had had so little to drink. It is the quality, not the quantity, which mows them down like grain, for Vermont is full of Canadian liquor, which in many instances is little better than outright poison.

State a Runway for Traffic.

Since prohibition became a fact, and particularly since the thaws of last springtime broke the ice and cleared the snow from the surface of all roads leading from Vermont into Canada, this State has become a runway for traffickers in illicit whiskey. In the main the runners who make their way back from Canada through Vermont are on their way to the manufacturing towns of Massachusetts, where their cargoes are always in demand and where by efficient arrangement they are disposed of as they stand to middlemen and distributors. But enough of the traveling liquor stays in Vermont to afford its populace all that it requires and enough over to put by, and there is every chance that the State where drink can not be had to the full extent of the purchaser's capacity to pay.

The State has few considerable cities in it, but up to a very short time ago it had almost any one in almost any of them. There were no saloon keepers selling in an institution in Vermont, local option for the most part having throttled and killed it long ago. But because men will drink and are prepared to pay well for the privilege all sorts of small shop keepers have become retail rum sellers to such extent as their neighborhoods support them, and since Vermont is in the State of communities and neighborhoods where every one knows every one the men who are in the illegal liquor trade run little chance of detection.

A Typical Raid.

A haul by prohibition enforcement agents in West Rutland on a recent Saturday night will illustrate how the average Vermont citizen obtains the drink he wants. The officers took the field early in the evening. West Rutland is not an extensive place, but the officers penetrated its environs as well as its core and did not bring in their full catch until after midnight. But by morning they had brought in no prisoners, only the names of five men whose names and addresses were the striking facts in connection with them. They were Valent Kempt, a shoe maker; Domenico Michel, proprietor of a pool hall; John Melandri, who conducts a "bar" for soft drinks; T. M. Nobart, who has a cigar and stationary store, and Thomas Coats, a retail dealer in fruit. The officers reported to their chief that they had searched the places of business of the five and had found "something which may prove valuable as evidence" in each one of them.

It is doubtful if any of the men will ever be charged with a violation of the law. Half the "evidence" that is secured in Vermont turns out to be evidence only of the existence of the drink in the hands of the part of somebodys. In most sections of the State there is indulgence in much quiet hilarity upon the scores of enforcement, it being generally agreed that the Green Mountains furnish such ideal cover for whiskey runners that the enforcement boys find it impossible to catch many of them.

Upon the same evening that bottles of evidence were traced and seized in West Rutland a certain number of the citizens of the town, it went early to their night's rest upon the evidence. Recovering by the next morning and upon arraignment in a courtroom they quickly exonerated any fellow townsman of theirs of having given them the liquid that laid them low. One of them who still had the drops of a pint on his hip informed the court that they had arrested a man in an automobile and asked him for a ride. The man answered quickly that he was not going their way and handed one of them a paper. Upon the explanation being given him that the automobile had been made in sincerity and that they who had stopped him were not enforcement officers, the man had expressed his appreciation of their liberality by giving them a quart of the whiskey with which his car, apparently, was filled.

Undoubtedly the man meant kindly. But it is unlikely that before taking on his cargo in Canada he had swallowed a sample of it. For what he gave away in pure hospitality was consumed under the scant guard between them, and it is thought they were seasoned drinkers it knocked the four men cold.

Football Diners in Rum Raid at Boston Hotels

BOSTON, Nov. 7.—Prohibition Enforcement Officer McCarthy raided Boston downtown hotels in the midst of the dinner following the Harvard and Princeton football game late Saturday and arrested L. C. Prior, manager of the Lenox and Brunswick hotels; Ernest B. Spracklin, assistant manager of the Copley Square Hotel, and J. J. Delawrence, assistant manager of the Hotel Crofton. They were all released in \$500 bail.

At the Lenox the officers took in charge John J. Kelleher, head waiter, known all over the city as "Highball John." Kelleher probably is one of the best known hotel waiters in the East. At the Brunswick the officers seized three quarts of liquor from a group of Princeton students who were celebrating the tie game with Harvard. Two men were arrested after they had sold three quarts of liquor to Federal officials in front of the Hotel Brewster. All the hotel managers were charged with violation of the prohibition act in that they allowed the possession and use of liquor in their dining rooms.

liver in and on them that brought them into conflict with the law. They had obtained liquor to the full extent of their capital and credit here in Burlington and with it had gone to a spot adjacent to property operated by a supply station by the Texas Oil Company. There hunger had descended upon them and while one of them went to the store for food the two others made up a fire with which to cook it. The cold heart of the Texas Oil Company has no place in it for a man or men who would build a fire near a refinery. The police were notified and interrupted. Souderson, Dohney and Meddie at his revels. A duck was upon the spit and another was in the process of plucking, and liquor was all about around. In court the next day the men said they had gotten their liquor "out of town," but were surprised to learn that they had been roasting duck and had must have inspired them to go find it.

Following their arraignment the court gave its attention to one Frederick Cormier, who had been found in possession of a bottle of liquor in a power boat on Lake Champlain. "There seems to have been a general attempt on the part of many men in Vermont to drown their sorrows over the recent week end," said the Judge upon the bench. "I would recommend to such as contemplate emulation of their example that they keep away from Lake Champlain lest they drown their corporeal bodies also."

Roads Traveled Nightly.

It might be expected that Lake Champlain, extending more than half way down the western border of the State, would be of great service to the rum runners, affording them a waterway for their freights easy to travel by fast motor boats and safe for their cargo since a man with an illegal cargo may always pass it overboard when pursuit is hot. But the runners seem to disdain it. Whiskey carried by motor transport has to be handled four times between starting point and destination—packed in an automobile at the border, thence to a boat, thence to another car and unloaded finally at its destination. The runners have discovered that there is no need of all this handling, expense, exposure and delay. The roadways of the State not only afford speedier transportation than water travel, but the runners have become convinced by experience that few cars are halted and fewer detained by Government agents. It is denied on all sides that anybody is paying tribute or receiving it, but none the less the roads are travelled by the booze cars almost openly night after night.

It is an open secret that any individual citizen, if he is not in the booze business and merely desires a little liquor for the day's trip or for household supply can go on up into Canada on any bright day and get what he wants and not be molested.

Hundreds of cars cross the line every Saturday and Sunday. A case of whiskey is not regarded as an unreasonable private gentleman's supply by certain enforcing agents, and countless cars have been stopped on the road, and their drivers, after the discovery has been made that there are only a dozen or less than a dozen bottles on board, directed to proceed on their way. Some of the agents justify this. They maintain, in the first place, that there are no few of them for the task in hand that they

cannot waste their time on small fry. In the second place, they insist they are tricked too often when prohibition was young by runners who used to send "pilot fish" with inconsiderable cargoes out ahead of valuable cargoes in order to give the enforcement agents something to arrest and thus get them off the road.

Track of the Dummy Truck.

In the beginning, too, there was the device of the car—or truck as it used to be then—with its lights out and an air of mystery about it, and which used to be sent on ahead when worthwhile truckload was about to take the road. The dummy truck, with several dozen wooden cases upon it would roll into a town, turn suddenly on its main street and go out of it again. The forces of the law, new at their business, would pursue it into the open country and bring it to a standstill there, and its driver, holding them off as long as he could by talk, would finally get away with the truck and its contents. Sometimes the truck would be found to be laden with fruit or other country produce, sometimes only with empty boxes. In the meantime, not very far away, another truck with plenty of whiskey on it would be speeding on its illicit way.

There appears to be also some apportionment of territory and of transportation routes by the runners who use Vermont as their sluceway. They do not care for newcomers into their domain and take various means to discourage them. Undesired runners have been beaten up, their car tires cut and their presence disclosed to the authorities and their cargoes seized. Two adventurers from Ohio brought their talents into Vermont about the middle of last month, but are unlikely to try the field again. One of them had money, the other, or so he imagined, brains. They spent a week in a good hotel while the first of the two went about and made acquaintanceships according to his lights. Finally arrangement was made by which liquor costing \$10,000 in Canada was to be sent on its way into Ohio in a freight car, concealed under layers of apples. The Ohioans, sure that they had the home end covered, paid \$10,000 spot cash and wrote the number of a freight car in a memorandum book. About a week later word was sent them that the car containing their liquor had been seized. It had, but the consignees learned considerably later that the liquor in it was slight in quantity and of small alcoholic content. And they believe with an abiding faith that the same men who short weighted them had duly informed the law to cover their tracks. Probably they are right, but they have no redress in the world and their \$10,000 is gone.

Little Fry Driven Out.

Of late there has been considerable activity in Vermont and in New Hampshire adjoining it in the way of suppressing retail selling in small towns and running down humble distillers who have been making moon whiskey in the hills. This custom makes desirable commotion in neighborhoods, discloses the law and is a nuisance to the State. The law is in the hands of local officials. We have got to stop having laws superimposed upon us. We must begin at the bottom and work up in all such matters.

Judge Miller said he was misunderstood when it was taken that he had said Federal prohibition agents could be kept out of the State. "Now, of course," said he, "the State cannot prevent an army of Federal agents from coming into the State and enforcing the acts of Congress. My idea is simply that if there is an honest enforcement of the law it will make the presence of Federal agents unnecessary. Being unnecessary, it would not be expected that they would be employed in the State."

He said that the United States Supreme Court had held that concurrent power to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment laid in both the State and Federal governments.

Power of Congress Supreme.

"The State power, however," he added, "is subject to the rule prescribed by the Constitution. In other words, a State cannot transcend an act of Congress. When Congress says that one-half of one per cent is the limit the State cannot say that it is 1 per cent."

Judge Miller said it would be necessary to have an act passed declaring it to be unlawful to make, transport or sell intoxicating beverages and prescribing a heavy penalty.

"I shall recommend the passage of such a law in my first annual message," said the Governor-elect, "the passage of a law that would place upon the local police officers in each locality the enforcement of the act."

Mr. Miller was told some people understood he had in mind building up an expensive State machine for the enforcement of this law, one that would be a source of patronage to the organization. "I wouldn't appoint a single extra man," he declared with emphasis. "Why shouldn't each community enforce such a law the same as it does all other laws?" There followed a discussion of the

MILLER'S FIRST MESSAGE TO ASK STATE 'DRY' LAW

Intends to Compel Local Officials to Enforce Prohibition Act.

UP TO REGULAR POLICE Governor-Elect Would Rely on Power of Removal to Force Obedience.

WON'T CREATE 'MACHINE' No New Jobs to Be Authorized and No Additional Cost to Taxpayers.

There is probably nothing upon which Nathan L. Miller, Governor-elect, has clearer ideas than upon his course in regard to the enforcement of the prohibition amendment in New York State. He knows just what he thinks should be done and just how he intends to do it. As this is going to be one of his problems which will attract a great deal of attention from all people in the State, a representative of THE NEW YORK HERALD asked him to tell the public just what he had in his mind and why.

In the first place, Judge Miller believes that the State should handle the enforcement problem as a matter of right governmental procedure.

"We have a certain form of government," he declared, "and in order to preserve it we have got to be consistent. One thing in this connection I hold to be of the utmost importance. It is that we should have our enforcement of prohibition in the hands of local officials. We have got to stop having laws superimposed upon us. We must begin at the bottom and work up in all such matters."

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way in which the Raines law had been winked at in certain localities. "Well," said the Governor-elect, "officers who do not enforce the law are subject to removal, are they not?" It was true, he continued, that it had not been possible to stop all crime, but "was that a reason why the method of enforcing laws should be changed? Communities usually get such law enforcement as they want. I would make the people of each community responsible for their own enforcement. If the law should be flagrantly violated in any section of the State there would always be a remedy. In such a case Federal agents would probably consider it an excuse to come in. We could not prevent them, but we could demand that the local officials do their duty. The people who did not enforce the law would be answerable to me."

Power of Removal a Club.

Judge Miller referred to the fact that he has the power of removal over sheriffs and police commissioners. "Of course, you can't reform the world overnight," he said, "but we could progress along the right lines." Asked if he did not think the enforcement of the excise law would make necessary the appointment by local communities of many more police officers, Mr. Miller declared that it was the duty of such communities to enforce the law and they would have to accept responsibility. He referred to the fact that all fines and penalties for violation of the enforcement act would go to the communities and would help meet what additional financial burden might be placed upon them.

Again reference was made to the fact that some places might not be over-run by the enforcement of the prohibition law. "Very likely," said the Governor-elect, "but I am willing to accept the responsibility. And, in passing, I would like to say that the people who are so anxious to have the Volstead law amended would accomplish that quicker by obeying the law than by breaking it."

MILLER AT GOLF CLUB NEAR ATLANTIC CITY

Governor-Elect and Wife Motor From Here to Seashore.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 7.—Gov.-elect Nathan L. Miller of New York, accompanied by Mrs. Miller, arrived late yesterday at the Sea View Golf Club at Absecon, eight miles from here, to rest from the rigors of the recent campaign. Judge Miller and Mrs. Miller motored from Absecon from New York. Although the Governor-elect had planned at first to take his vacation at Atlantic City, his plans were changed that he might pass two weeks in a more secluded place, away from the crowds and those desiring to discuss New York State political affairs with him. Judge Miller said to-night that he was tired and rest was imperative. He desires privacy, and despite statements to the contrary he will make no political appointments until his return to New York after his two weeks' rest. "Anything that I have to say that will interest the public will be given out when I return to New York," he said.

HOME BREWER PUT IN CRIMINAL CLASS

Kramer Says He Is Just as Bad as the Southern Moonshiner.

NO PLAN TO STOP HIM

Admits It Will Be Generation Before Liquor Entirely Disappears.

John F. Kramer, Federal Prohibition Commissioner, yesterday afternoon blasted the hopes of all makers of "home brew" who may have hoped by that means to alleviate the great drought and still remain within the pale of the law. His utterance making criminals of cellar distillers was made in the West Side Y. M. C. A., where he spoke on the subject: "What Does Prohibition Prohibit?"

At the end of his address, among the numerous questions asked by persons in his audience was the following: "How do you interpret the word 'manufacture' in the law as applying to the making of home brew for purely personal use?"

"The manufacture of home brew for personal use," replied the Commissioner, "is as much a violation of the law as making intoxicating liquor in any other way, and the man who makes home brew in his Northern home is just as much a law breaker as the illicit distiller who makes his moonshine in the mountain fastnesses of the South."

The Commissioner did not indicate how he proposed to put an end to that sort of law violation or whether prohibition agents would make an effort in that direction. He conceded readily that the law was being violated widely in other ways than by the manufacture of home brew, but said that condition did not alarm him, since Moses brought the Ten Commandments down from the mountain some 4,000 years ago and those Commandments had been violated consistently by mankind ever since. The enforcement of the prohibition law, he said, was largely a matter of time and education. He ventured the opinion that it would be a generation before the last vestige of the liquor traffic disappeared, but said he expected that within five years one would not recognize New York as the same town in so far as the accessibility of liquor was concerned. One more year, he said, was going to make things mighty dry hereabout and four years from now political parties which hesitate to write into their platforms what the people had written into the Constitution would race to sea which could beat the other to adopting a prohibition plank.

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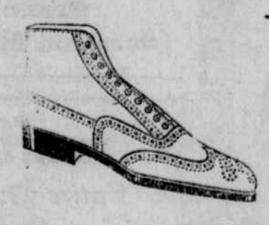
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