

BOOZE IS ISSUED IN MIAMI AS LEGAL TENDER

Traded In as Farmers Trade in Corn and Cotton Belts.

BIMINI THE SOURCE Warehouse on Island Has Million Dollars' Worth Awaiting Shipment.

OPEN TRAFFIC WINKED AT Vast Amount of Liquor Has Been Poured Into Florida for Months.

Herewith is published the concluding article setting forth the results of an investigation of wholesale liquor smuggling across the border, made by a staff correspondent of The New York Herald, who travelled along both the Canadian and Mexican borders and to Florida for the purpose of making this investigation.

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald. MIAMI, Fla., Nov. 13.—About one hour's run from Miami in a fast boat, and much less when one travels by air, is a little island that until a few years ago had not broken prominently into the prints or held great space in stories or in conversations, but which is now much in the limelight of publicity.

Of course the fishing in that vicinity, in common with the whole lower Florida coast, is excellent, many varieties of fish abound there, but it is not the fishing that has attracted attention to this small island, which is only seven miles long and two wide.

Bimini is its name. It is the nearest to the United States of all the Bahama Islands, and these are British territory.

"But what has that to do with prohibition?" one uninitiated might well ask.

The Isle of Delight. Merely that Bimini, Isle of Delight, is not "dry" and the United States is, or would be were it not for a few Biminites around its skirts.

Bimini is a sort of Olympian outpost from which flows a continuous and ever increasing stream of the purest nectar, the kind that makes prohibitionists run round in circles and brings joy and gladness into the midst of the ordinary man who has a drink when he hasn't had a drink in a long time.

Residents of Miami know this nectar variously by the names Irish, American, Canadian, Scotch, cognac, and there is, of course, a sprinkling of rum and gin, just about as it was in the good old days before the dregs slipped that amendment thing over the Constitution of the United States for the good of the constitutions of its citizens, as they said.

But there is one great difference between the nectar one drinks nowadays and that of the good old days: there is no brass railing, and there is none of the good fellowship that prevailed in those days. One has to be nervous or less of a sneak to obtain a drink, although there is so much of it in Miami that it has almost become legal tender.

And, too, the price is a shining example to profiteers of what they might do if they only were stony hearted and forced the traffic in other things to carry all it would bear. But even high as it is, whiskey is cheaper than it was before the illicit dealers began putting things in it and before the supply equalled the demand.

Prices Are Dropping. Time was, and not so very long since, when dealers were demanding (and getting) from \$30 to \$120 a case for the best goods, but with the increase of the fleets which operate between Miami and Bimini the price is now considerably less than this, although very much higher than in antebellum times.

Nowadays one sometimes hears his telephone tinkle and answers only to be asked if he would like a case of rare old Irish, and a member of the bootlegging fraternity frequently stops on the street to ask about the chances for a sale, quoting rock bottom figures.

The other day a business man had a telephone conversation with a bootlegger, one of the larger fry and perhaps entitled to a more distinguished title than "bootlegger," for he deals in wholesale lots.

"Say, John," he called, "I've got eighty-five cases of old Irish—imperial quarts—and thought I would give you a chance at it before I look elsewhere. How about it?"

John demurred; said he couldn't handle it and might get caught trying. It wasn't safe to fool with it when there are so many Federal officials, State and county officers, vying with each other.

"Oh, that's all right," responded the knowing one. "You are in danger only when you are on the outside. Everything's fixed for this stuff to slide along smoothly."

Said John afterward: "What do you know about that? Calling a business man up on the telephone to sell him whiskey. Next thing we know they'll be sending their salesmen around with samples."

group, and it was good whiskey, too, as whiskey goes. Smooth, old Irish. And the price? Just \$1 a quart, and the bottles were imperial quarts, which hold considerably more than the American standard.

One day some twelve or fourteen years ago a profiteer, with a shrivelled soul, raised the price to \$1.25 a quart, and the howl that went up might have been heard in Nassau. The supply was limited in those days and the risk not inconsiderable. One brought it over generally in a gunnysack and when the customs inspectors were about to go on board his vessel, he dropped the bag overboard until they left. Of course there was a string tied to the bag and made fast to some convenient and stable article.

The Boats Laden Fleet. But now there are boats, and many of them, which do nothing but bring booze from Bimini. Fishing boats reaching from Bimini, or an ostensible search for whale or what not and slipping into some little bight along the shore under cover of darkness. An automobile or truck, an organization including one transferring the load, and both boat and automobile leave, one to chug-chug unconcernedly to a wharf and the other to deliver the goods.

Miami is not the only point along the Florida coast receiving booze from Bimini, nor is Bimini the only place from which it is being sent to Miami or elsewhere along the lower peninsula. But these two towns, one of a population of about 500, mostly in the traffic, and the other a city of 10,000, are the principal centers of activity.

When one approaches Bimini he sees first the imposing clubhouse erected this year by the Bimini Bay Rod and Gun Club, an organization including on its roster some of the wealthiest and most influential men in the United States. Then he sees a long, low building near the shore and a few cottages scattered here and there.

There are also tarpaulins and tents near the long, low building, and it is here that the boats are being loaded with long, low buildings is a warehouse, and in it is whiskey and other intoxicants. It is full to the rafters and overflows into the tents and beneath the tarpaulins. All these thousands of crates of liquor are intended for shipment to the United States, and much of it will find its way through Miami.

Million Dollars Worth. Probably there is some one who knows the value of the stuff stored in that warehouse. But he isn't talking. Speculation runs all the way from thousands to millions of dollars, and it seems to even the conservative but knowing persons that millions are more nearly correct than even hundreds of thousands.

One man, an employee of the United States Department of Justice, who had a good look at that warehouse and its contents estimated it to contain about one million dollars worth of liquor, at Nassau prices, which, considering the rate of exchange and the selling price on this side of the Gulf Stream, means that this liquor is worth retail in Miami several millions of dollars.

In the good old days when old Irish retailed in Miami for \$1 and \$1.25 a "long" or imperial quart, the self-same quarts sold in Nassau for 25 cents. There was a comparatively small amount of this liquor in evidence in Miami then, for that was in the days of the brass railing and the free lunch—the days before the prohibitionists fastened their so-called prohibition on the country.

The price now, according to report, is not much greater in Nassau than it was then, certainly it is no higher in proportion than other articles have risen since. H. C. L. became so effective in reducing the well fed middle classes to poverty and made a bum out of the salaried man.

Supply Regulates the Price. Prices on this side of the water are something to make a prohibitionist of a bartender. And even these high prices vary. Sometimes they are merely high, and again they are higher. Forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty and ninety dollars a case, depending on the brand, quality and on whether the market happens to be glutted. When the commodity is scarce up goes the price and when several bottlers find their way to the ultimate destination of all good booze, down slides the price. There seems to be no combine, and the law of supply and demand is in full and unchecked force.

Options differ as to the amount of liquor coming in weekly from the Bahama Islands, but a conservative estimate places it at 1,000 cases of twelve quarts each. The average price is probably

Cognac Is Identified.

Cognac comes in in fairly large quantities and there is some run and a little gin. The cognac comes from Cuba and sometimes comes direct or is landed on the lower keys and transhipped to Miami, but the greater part of it comes by way of Bimini. Much of the American whiskey seen here comes by way of Cuba and is sometimes relayed to Bimini.

The average price of Irish and Scotch whiskeys in \$10 a quart retail. American whiskey sells for \$6 to \$8 and cognac for \$8, all subject, however, to the law of supply and demand. Wholesale obtain \$40 to \$45 for cognac; American whiskeys about the same and Scotch and Irish are around \$30 nowadays.

Preparations are being made by the whiskey runners for a big winter business when the tourists arrive, and it is said that one man contemplates operating five additional boats. Of course, when the tourist season reaches its height many times 1,000 cases will be shipped in weekly.

Palatial efforts are made to stop this traffic and occasional arrests are made, principally of the local manufacturers, who are jailed and their stills seized. These are mostly negroes, who make nearly all Bimini "moonshine" whiskey, which is about 90 per cent. of the entire supply.

Traffic Is Winked At. The price of raisins has not materially increased and there is no unusual demand for them, nor is there a greatly increased sale of yeast. There is no occasion for the cultivation of the home brewing habit, with boats, trucks and pleasure cars devoted to the traffic and hundreds of persons engaged in it.

As stated, there are arrests, but it is said that while some officials are honest and probably some of the prohibition agents and Federal spies also are, they are all tilted to overlooking the same. Instead of obeying his instructions, Sarsen said he went to Patterson and disposed of one \$100 bond in a pawnshop. He received \$53 and a .22 calibre revolver and returned to New York in a taxi cab. At the 124th street station he boarded a New York Central train and went to Albany for several days, later going to Boston. After selling his bond he went to New England, instead of obeying his instructions, Sarsen said he went to Patterson and disposed of one \$100 bond in a pawnshop.

MORE FAMILY ABUSE SINCE PROHIBITION

Increases 238 Per Cent. and Disorderly Houses 700.

CHICAGO, Nov. 13.—Statistics showing that complaints of cruelty to wives and children have increased 238 per cent. since prohibition arrived, and more rapidly in the last six months than during the first half of the year, were given in the annual report of Albert E. Wohler, superintendent of the Juvenile Protective Association, made public to-day.

The report reads, "have undergone a reaction which expresses itself in surfeit or abuse of the family."

Other classes of complaints also are shown to have increased. Juvenile delinquency has increased 46 per cent.; complaints against disorderly houses, 89 per cent., or about 700 per cent. over the war period, and complaints concerning runaway and immoral girls nearly doubled.

On the other hand it was shown that complaints of adult contribution to child delinquency on account of liquor have decreased 74 per cent. since the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect; prosecutions for non-support have decreased 29 per cent.; disorderly conduct charges have been cut in half and insanity complaints reduced 50 per cent.

ORCHESTRA FOR HARDING.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—A picked orchestra from this city will accompany President-elect Harding on his forthcoming trip to Panama. It was announced here to-day. The orchestra played for the Prince of Wales during his recent visit to Washington.

BOY THIEF IS BACK; ACT KILLED MOTHER

Disappeared in July With \$11,000 Bonds Belonging to Broadway Employers.

IS FOUND IN CANADA

Ralph Sasson Returns With Father and Is Freed in \$5,000 Bail.

Ralph Sasson, former messenger boy, 16 years old, of 68 South Ninth street, Brooklyn, who left the office of M. & J. Pisch at 111 Broadway on July 10 with \$11,000 in Liberty bonds and a check for \$75, surrendered yesterday to the police after four months of travel in New England and Eastern Canada. Not only does he return under indictment for larceny of the bonds and check, but he stands accountable for the suicide of his mother, who took her life by inhaling gas three weeks after his disappearance.

Sasson arrived from Montreal yesterday, accompanied by his father, Israel, a cotton goods jobber, with offices at 366 Broadway.

Detectives August Mayer and Grover Brown met the two at Grand Central Terminal and escorted the boy to the Criminal Courts Building, where he was arraigned before Judge Joseph P. McFadden on an indictment charging him with grand larceny. He was held in \$5,000 bail, which his father prefaced.

Sasson disappeared after the Ivesch firm had given to him the bonds and checks to deposit in the American Foreign Banking Corporation, at 22 Broadway. Instead of obeying his instructions, Sarsen said he went to Patterson and disposed of one \$100 bond in a pawnshop.

It is impossible to form an estimate of the vast amount of liquor that has poured into Florida from the Bahamas and Cuba since prohibition became effective, or even to estimate how much has come into Miami. It is known, though, that hundreds of thousands of cases have been landed in Miami alone.

GIVE UP SEARCH FOR 3 MISSING NAVY FLIERS

Officials Abandon Hope When Wreckage Is Found.

CHICAGO, Nov. 13.—All hope of finding the three missing aviators from Great Lakes Naval Training Station, lost with their seaplane since Wednesday, was abandoned to-day by Lieutenant Eugene Wilson, commander of the Aviation Mechanics School, when wreckage of the missing airship washed ashore near White Lake, Mich.

After talking with White Lake coast guards over the telephone, Great Lakes Training Station officials announced it was practically certain the three men had died. All boats which might have rescued the men when they landed on the lake last Wednesday have made port, it is said.

An army plane, sent from Chanute Field to patrol the east coast of the lake, reported to Great Lakes that it had landed a Ludington, Mich., without observing any wreckage.

FLOUR AT NEW LOW LEVEL.

Minnesota Quotations, \$9.15 to \$9.50, Record for Four Years.

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 13.—With a decline of 25 to 50 cents a barrel at the mills here to-day, flour followed the course of the wheat market yesterday by touching a new low price in four years.

To-day's range of prices, was \$9.15 to \$9.50 a barrel for family patents and represents a reduction of \$1.95 to \$2 a barrel since the first of the month.

ALL ELECTRIC SHIP IS TESTED.

The steamship Cuba, first all electric passenger vessel, left the Morse Dry Dock, foot of Fifty-fourth street, Brooklyn, at noon yesterday on her trial trip. She was put through various tests on a spin to Scotland Lightship. Several prominent marine engineers were on board.

MANY CITIES HARD HIT BY CRIME WAVE

Continued from First Page.

DETROIT.

Dr. James W. Inches, Police Commissioner, asserts crime is decreasing here. Despite this the police records show there have been 112 homicides this year of which twenty-seven remain unsolved. Rum running has brought to Detroit criminals from all parts of the United States. When they are not running between Detroit and Canada they turn their talents to other forms of crime, not stopping at murder.

October 3 last Commissioner Inches started a drive for concealed weapons and is making a thorough sweep of the Tenderloin district. Since the drive began policemen have shot seventeen, killing six. Nine policemen were shot during the first thirty days of the drive, two of whom died.

That the drive is having a beneficial effect is shown by figures in Dr. Inches's office. September was the worst month of the year and had more crimes of violence than in any month for five years. October, as a result of the drive, was the best month in five years. November thus far is the best month yet.

There are 1,628 officers and men in the uniformed force, which cost the city \$2,329,840 this year. Commissioner Inches has asked that 500 more men be added.

CLEVELAND.

Crime is decreasing in Cleveland, according to Jacob Graul, Deputy Inspector of Police. Vice also has been reduced to a minimum as a result of the campaign instituted by Mayor Monday. During the first ten months of the year there were seventy murders, an average of seven a month. In forty-nine of these murder arrests have been made or the there have been no arrests.

There are fifteen police precincts in the city, which cost the city government \$2,474,782 to operate last year. There are a total of 1,299 policemen.

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M'GINNIS WORKS FOR SPEAKERSHIP PLUM

May Nibble at Committee Bait Held Out in Interest of Machold.

FOR A STATE G. O. P. SLATE

Lieut.-Col. Kineaid of Syracuse for Adjutant-General and Homer Sweet on List.

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald. SYRACUSE, Nov. 13.—Candidates for the Speakership of the Assembly and a few other Republican leaders met here to-night in an effort to effect a compromise whereby an open fight for Speaker Sweet's job will be averted. Toward this end Assemblyman Joseph A. McGinnis of Chautauque county received an offer of the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee if he would withdraw from the race. This place is now held by H. Edmund Machold of Jefferson county, another candidate for the Speakership.

Mr. McGinnis refused to give the leaders a definite answer, and until he does nothing will be done by the other leaders. They decided, however, to hold more conferences in this city, to which other leaders will be invited and their advice sought. To-night's session was held in the room of Theodore Roosevelt in local hotel.

Others attending the conference included Simon L. Adler of Rochester, Assembly majority leader, who called the meeting, and Assemblyman Louis M. Martin of Oneida county, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of 1920. All these except Mr. Martin have been mentioned as candidates for the place. Thaddeus C. Sweet abstained.

"We settled nothing at all; just merely went over a great many things," Mr. Adler declared.

Among the things decided upon, however, was that Lieut.-Col. J. Leslie Kineaid of Syracuse can have the Adjutant-General's job if he wants it. Will Homer Sweet, a nephew of Speaker Sweet, is favored for the place of military secretary of Gov. Miller. Two men were distinguished war records. Mr. Roosevelt declared that "his lip were sealed" about the meeting, while Mr. Machold explained he was merely "an invited attendant and an interested observer."

Assemblyman McGinnis jumped into the Speakership race a day or so after Machold and has a strong backing in the western part of the State. His supporters assert the plum should not go to Machold, as he is a northern New York man and Speaker Sweet, who held the position so long, was also a northern New Yorker.

While it is known that Roosevelt's friends have suggested him for the place, basing their claims on the fact that Senator James W. Wadsworth was elected Speaker at the beginning of his second term in the Assembly, the matter had not been taken seriously by the upstate leaders until he showed up at the conference. Adler explained this by saying that Roosevelt was representing merely the southern part of the State. And Roosevelt wanted it understood "very emphatically" that "he was not a candidate for anything."

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