

155 DRY AGENTS SEEK HOLIDAY BOOZE TRAIL

Lively Hotels and Merry Restaurants Are Particularly Watched.

RABBIS HELP DRIVE

Unwarranted Use of Sacramental Wine Permits to Be Stopped.

GIFT MOTOR IS SEIZED

Man Delivering Liquor Presents Failed to Heed Law on Transportation.

Somewhere in New York last night were 155 prohibition enforcement agents who had been sent out with instructions from their chief to watch the liveliest hotels and restaurants for illicit drinking...

Ralph A. Day, director of prohibition, had failed to define what he meant by common sense. His agents, however, made no arrests, or at least no arrests were reported at any of the police stations.

All the drinking, whether in dark corners, in hotels or in homes, was done in spite of a warning sent out by District Attorney Lewis of Brooklyn against wood alcohol.

Mr. Day announced four rabbis had volunteered their services to assist him in checking any frauds there might be in the sale of sacramental wines.

Mr. Day said for overcertifying the number of families in their congregations.

They are Chief Rabbis S. H. Joffe, A. A. Yudelovitch, B. L. Leshin and G. W. Margolis. It will be their duty to pass on the Jewish congregations seeking to withdraw wines.

Mr. Day said he found the reformed Jewish congregations withdrew very little sacramental wine.

Mr. Day made it clear yesterday he had no intention of attempting to secure the use of unattached Jews in place of wine. Suggestions that this be done came, he said, from members of various church organizations and not from his office.

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Croker, Much Improved, Hopes for Early Peace

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. URBAN, Dec. 24.—For the first time since his return to Glencair Castle in November, Richard Croker, one time Tammany chieftain, sat up in his room to-day. He has been too ill to concentrate on the present situation in Ireland and is not strong enough to talk much, but in answer to Christmas greetings, he replied through Mrs. Croker: "My greetings to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Say that I am looking forward to seeing peace here again after the New Year."

RUM DRINKING CUT; DRYS OFFER PROF

Assert Withdrawals Show 90 Per Cent. Decrease.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.

Whisky, wines and other spirituous liquors are being withdrawn from Government bonded warehouses at the rate of 1,000,000 gallons a month for non-beverage purposes, according to reports to the National Prohibition Unit.

Non-beverage purposes, under the Volstead law, includes the use of whisky as medicine. To a large extent this explains the present rate of withdrawals, officials said to-day.

Dry leaders said the present rate of withdrawals shows the consumption of spirituous liquors in the United States has been reduced 90 per cent. as a result of national prohibition.

Mr. Wallstein declared that nothing like the Meyer committee's report ever emanated from an "up-State" committee, and that the program outlined, which he predicted the Legislature is ready to adopt, will give the city the real home rule to which it is entitled.

He argued, however, that the city government is not now in position to take full advantage of such a step, and said that for that reason the reorganization of the Board of Estimate into an elective board of control, with power to appropriate only, and the provision for consolidation of departments was recommended.

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WALLSTEIN DEFENDS CHARTER PROPOSALS

Cites List of Cities That Have Abandoned Commission Plan.

CRITICISM ANSWERED

Commission Plan Not Opposed and Cities That Have Changed Are Cited.

CENTERS RESPONSIBILITY

Proposed Board of Finance Would Receive Powers Taken From Legislature.

Leonard Wallstein, associate counsel of the Meyer committee, which last week made its first of a series of reports to the Charter Revision Committee recommending an end to mandatory legislation in local affairs and a separation of appropriating and spending powers in the city government, gave to THE NEW YORK HERALD yesterday a statement answering criticisms which have been advanced against the committee's suggestions.

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IT HAS BEEN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE PLAN WOULD DIFFUSE RESPONSIBILITY. NOT SO. ON THE ONE HAND IT WOULD WITHDRAW POWER FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND CONCENTRATE IT AND THE ACCOMPANYING RESPONSIBILITY IN THE NEW BOARD OF FINANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PLAN WOULD CONCENTRATE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY ON EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND APPROPRIATING RESPONSIBILITY ON THE BOARD OF FINANCE, WHICH ENABLES THE CITY TO HAVE ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF AN EXECUTIVE BUDGET—THAT IS, A BUDGET PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COMBINED WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF AN INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY BY OFFICIALS WHOSE METHOD OF ELECTION AND FREEDOM FROM OTHER DUTIES WOULD LEAD THEM TO ACT UPON THE FINANCIAL PROGRAM SOLELY FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE WHOLE CITY'S NEED AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY.

SEPARATION OF EXECUTIVE.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN SAID THAT THE PLAN FOLLOWS A "BACK TRACK" IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY THE "MAYOR AND COUNCIL" FORM. SUCH A CRITICISM CAN COME ONLY FROM THOSE WHOSE NEWEST NOTIONS OF MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN CLASSIFIED AS AMONG THINGS OBSOLETE BY CLOSE STUDENTS OF THE SUBJECT. WHEN THE COMMISSION FORM OF CITY GOVERNMENT WAS AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS VOGUE IT WAS CLAIMED FOR NEW YORK THAT WE HAD LONG HAD SUBSTANTIALLY THAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE CLAIM WAS AND IS CORRECT, FOR THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF THE COMMISSION PLAN IS THE EXERCISE OF THE APPROPRIATING FUNCTION BY THE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE THE EXECUTIVE POWERS. BUT EXPERIENCE HAS DEMONSTRATED THE SAME OBJECTIONS TO THIS SCHEME THAT THE MEYER COMMITTEE FINDS

IN THE NEW YORK ORGANIZATION, THE VERY OBJECTION, INDEED, WHICH POLITICAL SCIENTISTS FROM THE FIRST ADVANCED AGAINST THE COMMISSION SCHEME.

THE RESULT HAS BEEN THAT MOST OF THE CHIEF SUPPORTERS OF THE COMMISSION PLAN IN ITS EARLY DAYS HAVE ABANDONED IT. THEY HAVE COME TO SEE THE NECESSITY OF A SEPARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE FROM THE APPROPRIATING POWER AND NOWADAYS THEY ADVOCATE THE CITY MANAGER TYPE FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF MEETING THAT NECESSITY. FORTY CITIES HAVE CHANGED FROM THE COMMISSION PLAN TO THE CITY MANAGER FORM.

"NOBODY HAS SAID THAT THIS CITY, LIKE CLEVELAND, IS READY FOR A CITY MANAGER, AND OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT. BUT FALLING THAT, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL SCHEME IS SUPERIOR TO THE STRAIGHT COMMISSION FORM. THAT IS THE VIEW—THE UP TO DATE VIEW—OF THOSE WHO HAVE CLOSELY STUDIED THE SUBJECT. LOWELL, MASS., HAS RECENTLY ABANDONED THE COMMISSION PLAN FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PLAN. ST. PAUL, MINN., NOW HAS BEFORE THE PEOPLE A MAYOR AND COUNCIL PLAN. PHILADELPHIA IN 1919, DETROIT IN 1918 AND DENVER IN 1917, WITH THE COMMISSION PLAN DOUBTLESS UP FOR CONSIDERATION, ADOPTED CHARTERS UPON THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

PLAN. WHERE THEN IS THE "BACK TRACK" RATHER IN REFERENCE TO THE COMMISSION PLAN IN SPITE OF EXPERIENCE THAN IN THE SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE BOARD OF TAXES. "SO OFTEN HAS AN ADMINISTRATION BEEN ENABLED TO HIT ITSELF BY ITS BOOT STRAPS IN THE INFLATION OF TAX VALUATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE CITY'S TAXING AND ITS BORROWING CAPACITY THAT THE BOARD OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS—WHICH DOUBTLESS SHOULD BE REDUCED IN NUMBER—SHOULD NOT BE MERE PUPPETS OF THE MAYOR. THEIR DUTIES ARE SO CLOSELY RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT CONFIRMATION OF THEIR APPOINTMENT BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE IS A WISE PROPOSAL.

"THE POLICE COMMISSIONER IS NOW SUBJECT TO REMOVAL BY THE GOVERNOR. THE POWER IS LARGELY INTERWOVEN AND SELDOM EXERCISED—PERHAPS, NOT OFTEN ENOUGH. HOME RULERS OBJECT TO IT. BUT MUST AN OPINIONATED MAYOR, TO SATISFY A THEORY, BE PERMITTED INDEFINITELY TO RETAIN A COMMISSIONER OF DEMONSTRATED INCOMPETENCE OR CORRUPTION? IF NOT, THE COMMITTEE'S PLAN OF VESTING THE POWER OF REMOVAL IN THE BOARD OF FINANCE BY A TWO-THIRDS

IF THE COMMITTEE'S PLAN IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER EXISTING CONDITIONS, THE SOONER IT IS ADOPTED THE BETTER. IF, HOWEVER, THE ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD IN 1923 APPEARS TO FAVOR OF RIPPER LEGISLATION, LET SUCH ELECTION BE POSTPONED TO 1925. THAT IS A MORE DETAILED.

THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION HAS PREPARED A DIGEST OF THE PRESENT CITY CHARTER WITH A TABLE OF EXPENDITURES SHOWING THE COST OF CITY GOVERNMENT FOR 1916, 1917, 1918 AND 1921. APPENDED TO THE DIGEST IS THE REPORT OF THE ILLINOIS NEW YORK CHARTER COMMISSION OF 1909. THE COMPLETE BOOK HAS 143 PAGES.

COPIES OF THE "SYNOPSIS," AS IT IS TITLED, HAVE BEEN SENT TO FRANCIS M. SCOTT, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, URGING THAT THEY BE USED AT THE COMMISSION'S SESSIONS. THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION ASKS TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE CALENDAR OF MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION IN ORDER THAT THE ASSOCIATION MAY GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES.

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