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STOLEN: \$2,275,070,857.

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THE DRINK TIDE AT FLOOD

A Study of the Enormous Liquor Consumption and the Appalling Liquor Bill of the American People—\$2,275,070,857 Lost Last Year in the Saloon's Till—A Robbery of Gigantic Proportions

NOTE.—The Prohibition writer and speaker may accept the statistical statements of this article as trustworthy and to be depended upon. They err only upon the side of over-conservativeness. It is no longer necessary to understate our case against the liquor traffic by estimating the drink bill at a billion or a billion and a quarter dollars per annum. The computations below show, beyond any reasonable question, that the drink traffic's robbery of the American people reaches not less than two and a quarter billions (two thousand two hundred and fifty millions) of dollars annually. These appalling figures should be kept before the people with all their terrific force.

No. 143. DISTILLED SPIRITS, WINES, AND MALT LIQUORS: QUANTITIES CONSUMED AND AVERAGE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA IN THE UNITED STATES, 1840 TO 1907.

Year ended June 30—	Distilled spirits consumed.				Wines consumed.			Malt liquors consumed.			Total consumption of wines and liquors.	Total consumption per capita			
	Domestic.		Imported for consumption.	Total.	Domestic.	Imported for consumption.	Total.	Domestic.	Imported for consumption.	Total.		Of distilled spirits.	Of wines.	Of malt liquors.	Of all liquors and wines.
	From fruit.	All other.													
	Proof gals.	Proof gals.	Proof gals.	Proof gals.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.		Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.
1840 ..		40,378,090	2,682,794	43,060,884	124,734	4,748,362	4,873,096	23,162,571	148,272	23,310,843	71,244,823	2.52	0.29	1.36	4.17
1850 ..		46,768,083	5,065,390	51,833,473	221,249	6,094,622	6,315,871	36,361,708	201,301	36,563,009	94,712,353	2.23	0.27	1.58	4.08
1860 ..		83,904,258	6,064,393	89,968,651	1,860,008	9,199,133	11,059,141	100,225,879	1,120,790	101,346,669	202,374,461	2.86	0.35	3.22	6.44
1870 ..	1,223,830	77,266,368	1,405,510	79,895,708	3,059,518	9,165,549	11,225,067	203,743,401	1,012,755	204,756,156	296,876,931	2.07	0.32	5.31	7.70
1880 ..	1,005,781	61,126,634	1,394,279	63,526,694	23,298,940	5,030,601	28,329,541	413,208,885	1,011,280	414,220,165	506,076,400	1.27	0.56	8.26	10.09
1890 ..	1,508,130	84,760,301	1,561,192	87,829,623	23,896,108	5,049,885	28,945,993	852,975,734	2,716,601	855,692,335	972,467,951	1.40	0.46	13.66	15.53
1896 ..	1,440,810	67,743,431	1,541,504	70,725,745	14,599,757	4,101,648	18,701,405	1,109,870,202	3,300,531	1,113,170,733	1,202,597,883	1.01	0.27	15.84	17.12
1897 ..	1,146,131	69,653,106	2,230,711	73,029,948	33,940,319	4,331,159	38,271,478	1,066,307,704	3,002,558	1,069,310,262	1,180,611,688	1.02	0.53	14.94	16.49
1898 ..	1,411,448	79,266,860	915,985	81,594,293	17,453,684	3,114,339	20,568,023	1,161,799,014	2,457,348	1,164,256,362	1,266,418,678	1.12	0.28	15.96	17.36
1899 ..	1,306,218	84,739,631	1,387,593	87,433,442	22,835,587	3,524,912	26,360,499	1,132,723,205	2,797,427	1,135,520,629	1,249,314,570	1.18	0.35	15.28	16.81
1900 ..	1,386,361	94,265,035	1,705,468	97,356,864	26,242,492	3,745,975	29,988,467	1,218,123,252	3,316,908	1,221,440,160	1,348,785,491	1.28	0.39	16.01	17.68
1901 ..	1,509,271	100,004,878	1,941,189	103,455,338	24,008,380	4,388,140	28,396,520	1,254,652,995	3,596,382	1,258,249,377	1,390,101,235	1.33	0.37	16.20	17.90
1902 ..	1,403,204	104,140,707	2,182,230	107,726,141	44,743,815	5,020,105	49,763,920	1,378,168,215	3,707,222	1,381,875,437	1,539,365,498	1.36	0.63	17.49	19.48
1903 ..	1,515,072	113,715,776	2,439,106	117,669,954	32,634,293	5,804,525	38,238,818	1,445,648,396	4,204,538	1,449,852,934	1,605,761,706	1.46	0.48	18.04	19.98
1904 ..	1,637,331	116,794,496	2,655,560	121,087,387	37,538,799	5,772,418	43,311,217	1,494,216,959	4,837,075	1,499,054,034	1,663,452,638	1.48	0.53	18.28	20.35
1905 ..	1,595,021	116,544,802	2,729,826	120,869,649	29,369,408	5,690,309	35,059,717	1,532,949,602	5,201,163	1,538,150,770	1,694,080,136	1.45	0.42	18.50	20.38
1906 ..	1,781,643	122,961,612	3,108,328	127,851,533	39,847,044	6,638,179	46,485,223	1,694,021,375	5,965,207	1,699,984,582	1,874,321,388	1.52	0.55	20.19	22.26
1907 ..	1,993,688	134,308,693	3,782,055	140,084,436	50,079,383	7,659,565	57,738,948	1,814,695,785	7,171,842	1,821,867,627	2,019,691,111	1.63	0.67	21.23	23.53

[From the Statistical Abstract.]

Will you imagine some monster, rapid-fire gun, bombarding the homes of the American people, throwing barrels of beer instead of shot and shell? The gun is fired twice every second of every minute of every hour of every day of the year, except Sundays. Twice every second a barrel of beer, with all its home-blight and man-scarer, crashes into American homes. And even this tremendous bombardment is not enough, for upon each of the eight great holidays of the year, to make up the brewers' full quota of ruin, the speed must be increased and *five barrels every second* must be hurled at the homes and happiness of the people.

This is the brewing business, pouring ruin upon American homes.

* * *

Can you imagine in addition to this, a mine, launched against the very foundations of American liberties, one such mine, in the shape of a whisky barrel, discharged every ten seconds, the whole year through, night and day, ceaselessly, a barrel of whisky with its power to corrupt politics, to destroy manhood, to ruin homes, discharged against the base of the fabric of American civilization?

This is the distiller's contribution to the destruction of the American republic.

* * *

Will you imagine a hand—perhaps your memory can recall the brutal, dirty hand of some saloonkeeper or bartender, as it rested in its hideousness upon the polished mahogany of his bar—can you imagine this dirty hand swooping down, seven times every second, day and night, and seizing money from the American people? Now it snatches the workman's pay envelope and leaves him penniless; now it falls on the little hoard of the housewife, takes her household money and leaves the family to face starvation; now it is in the till of the small trader, perhaps again and again and again, until he faces bankruptcy; now it has snatched the surplus of the rich so that he grows poor. For the hand takes and never gives; not one dollar of return comes to any from whom it gathers its toll. Seven times every second it seizes, ten shining dollars each time, from the American people. Each minute it robs 420 people and \$4,200 have gone to the till of the gin miller, without return. This process goes on every day and every night, with ceaseless regularity.

This is the liquor traffic robbing the American people.

*The Editor expresses his appreciation of the assistance of Mr. A. R. Heath, associate editor of the Prohibition Year Book, with whom valuable consultations have been had, and to Mr. O. P. Austin, chief of the Bureau of Statistics, for advance information from official proof sheets.

CHAPTER I: SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The sources of the statistics from which these articles upon the consumption and cost of liquor are prepared, are frequently inquired after. In answer to this question the following statements may be made:

The United States government every year publishes a book entitled, "Annual Report of the

Commissioner of Internal Revenue." From this book it is possible to obtain an exact statement of the amount of distilled spirits and of malt liquors manufactured in the United States during each fiscal year, together with the amounts exported, used for arts or otherwise employed. Their manufacture takes place under the control

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