

The Wet Party

By W. E. Hill

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The sweet song. The man who likes to beat time and the boys who dearly love a good old rousing songfest are making the welkin ring right merrily with "Button Up Your Overcoat." Bootleg hooch is a great excitant to whisky tenors.



The cute menace. Lois is a scream on a party. You never can tell what she's going to do next with a little gin or Scotch inside her. Lois' best stunt is calling up people on the telephone and making them guess who it is. Then she will kid the life out of them. Sometimes she will call up perfect strangers, like the mayor or chief of police. Lois will make them look pretty cheap before she's finished with them.



The unhappily married couple. Bootleg liquor seems to unlock all the latent inhibitions and for the time being people are free and untrammled. Roscoe and Betty can spend whole evenings at friends' houses insulting each other after the second round of cocktails and still have a few insults left for the ride home.

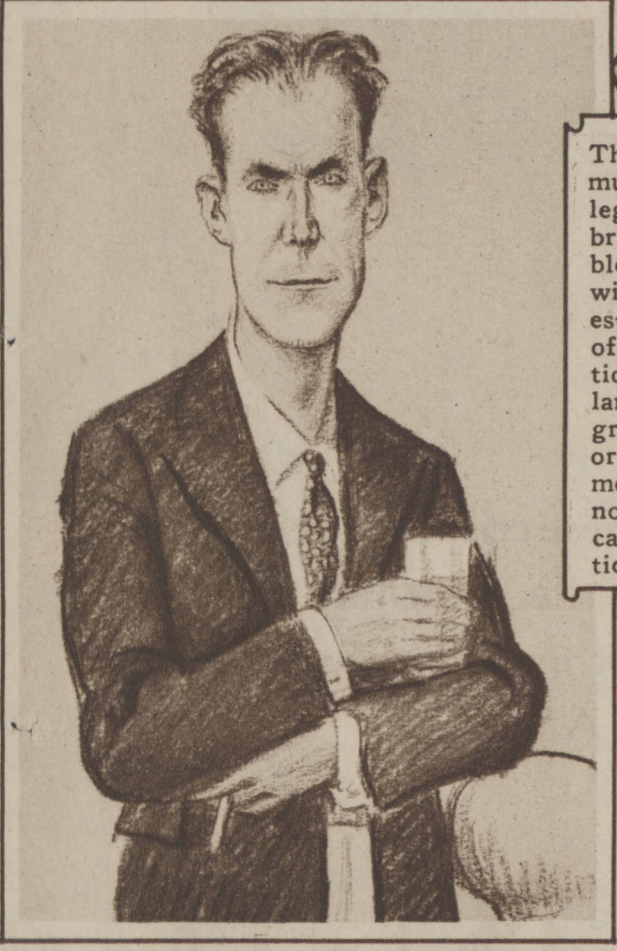


The fighting blood. A minimum amount of liquor, bootleg or even prescription, brings all of Louis' fighting blood to the surface, and he will up and at 'em at the slightest provocation. A difference of opinion anent the population of Hagerstown, Maryland, an insult to his great grandmother's memory, plain or fancy misstatements, or merely a face that Louis does not like will rouse his ire and cause him to demand reparation.

The telephone postmortem. "My dear, you should have stuck around. Harry and Mae got fighting again and Mae called Harry terrible things and Harry threw gin on her gown, and the Holmes boy passed out, and then somebody said oh, lets go somewhere and dance, etc., etc. We didn't get home till four-thirty, and I'm a wreck today!"



The crying out loud. The cup that cheers seems to have the opposite effect on some drinkers. The longer Richard sits sipping highballs the gloomier he gets. Sobs shake him and big tears roll down his cheeks, what with thinking how nobody loves him for himself alone.



The entertaining man. While the evening is yet young, Roger will liven the assembled drinkers with anecdotes about southern troops in the war. Roger comes from Oswego, N. Y., and has the southern dialect down to a T. Later, about the time when some one returns with more liquor and the party gets its second wind, Roger will go French Canadian and recite "Leetle Batiste" (which most people think means "The Little Baptist"). Roger is very genial and will call you "big boy" if you promise to call him "Rog."



The good sport. Helene is one of those unfortunate girls who can't take even so little as twelve or fourteen rickeys or a like number of cocktails without passing out of the picture. When this happens, her hostess takes Helene upstairs and as soon as she is brought to, Helene comes down and begins all over again. The boys and girls in her set all think very highly of Helene and admire her for being a good sport. On some parties Helene will pass out six or eight times of an evening, so you can see how courageous and sporting she is.



The loosened tongue. Just one highball will start Mrs. Winkley telling a few things that her friends would be just as pleased if she didn't. One or two more and she will relate secrets and scandals that would cause her family to writhe in horror. Just now she is all set to tell us what provision Uncle Ned made for his second wife's children in the will.