

THIRTEEN YEARS, AND PROHIBITION COMES TO FINISH

1 THE SALOON AND NATIONAL PROHIBITION were alike in that each destroyed itself—the first by evil reputation and nefarious partnership with politics, the second by fanaticism, intolerance, and stupendous cost. Abolished as the result of overwhelming votes by more than three-fourths of the states, national prohibition, which cost the nation billions, now has taken up its abode in the limbo, along with the pre-prohibition saloon (right) and other, worthless and foolish things. Reborn today in all the broad land neither the old-time saloon nor nationwide prohibition, but only the somewhat vague understanding that those who wish to drink may do so legally and that the sour-smelling saloon—the kind that flourished in the days before the prohibition era—shall never be allowed to return.



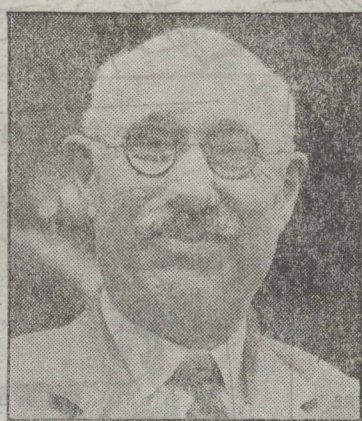
(Acme photo.)

"... shall never be allowed to return."



(Acme photo.)
180-pound hatchet woman

2 PROHIBITION SNEAKED INTO AMERICA masquerading as Temperance 125 years ago. So long as it was merely Temperance it seemed to obtain honest results. But there were the militant ones among the reformers who refused to depend longer upon the persuasiveness of "Ten Nights in a Barroom" and "Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine." They wanted action; they wanted to regulate the private lives of the people by law. Thousands of sincere citizens aided and abetted them in that. As the enemies of the Demon Rum became bolder there appeared upon the scene among scores of others the saloon-smashing Carrie Nation (left), 180-pound hatchet woman, and later a man who bore the smile of the cat that swallowed the canary, one W. E. "Pussyfoot" Johnson (right). Each typified a particular period in the onward march of prohibition.



(Paul Thompson photo.)

"... swallowed the canary ..."



"... uncompromising stalwart ..."

3 THEN THE WORLD WAR and a national mental lapse, which found the country saddled with prohibition. In the tag end of 1917 the senate concurred in the action of the house, voting to submit the prohibition amendment to the states—the amendment which was born of a resolution by Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas (right), an uncompromising stalwart of the dries. Soon after prohibition became a fact on Jan. 16, 1920, a 180-gallon moonshine still was found in operation on Senator Sheppard's farm five miles north of Austin, Tex.



"Moses of the dries ..."

4 PROHIBITION NEEDED TEETH to bite those who flouted it—those inclined to balk at legislative regulation of their private lives. So solemn, walrus-mustached Andrew J. Volstead (left), congressman from Minnesota, became the Moses of the dries, inscribing the sacred "thou shalt not" tablets, on which were set forth the dire fate in store for those who trafficked in outlawed grog. The national prohibition act (unpopularly known as the Volstead law) was passed by the house on July 22, 1919, and by the senate on the following Sept. 4. In October President Wilson vetoed the act, astonishing both congress and the Anti-Saloon league, an organization obsessed with the idea of imposing its will upon the people. Both houses rose in their righteousness and buried the President's veto under a pile of votes.

5 BOTH SORROW AND JOY were manifest upon the day that national prohibition became effective. There had been looked forward to a gap between the end of war-time prohibition and the beginning of constitutional prohibition, but the first ran right smack into the other, leaving no period of unresisting settling up one's affairs before launching upon the long, dry trek across the burning sands of prohibition. The dries throughout the land celebrated in undignified glee, as did thousands of others who then believed in prohibition. Little boys and girls in the public schools marched and sang praises to the noble conquerors of spirituous and malt beverages. In the big hotels and private clubs (example below) "good fellows" got together upon the eve of the burial of John Barleycorn to drink deep their last cups over the form of the deceased. In Norfolk, Va., the celebration took a vengeful aspect, when the revivalist, Billy Sunday, preached a soul-stirring funeral oration over the 20-foot casket in which was laid out the corpse of Corn Whisky.

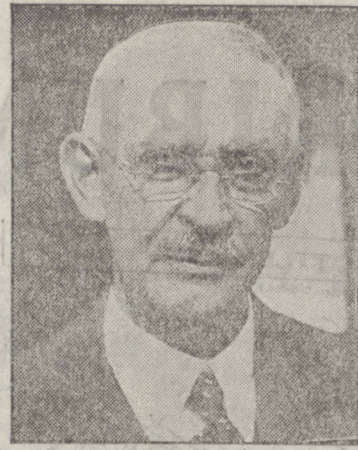


"... last cups over the form of the deceased ..."



(Acme photo.)

"... clever lobbyist ..."



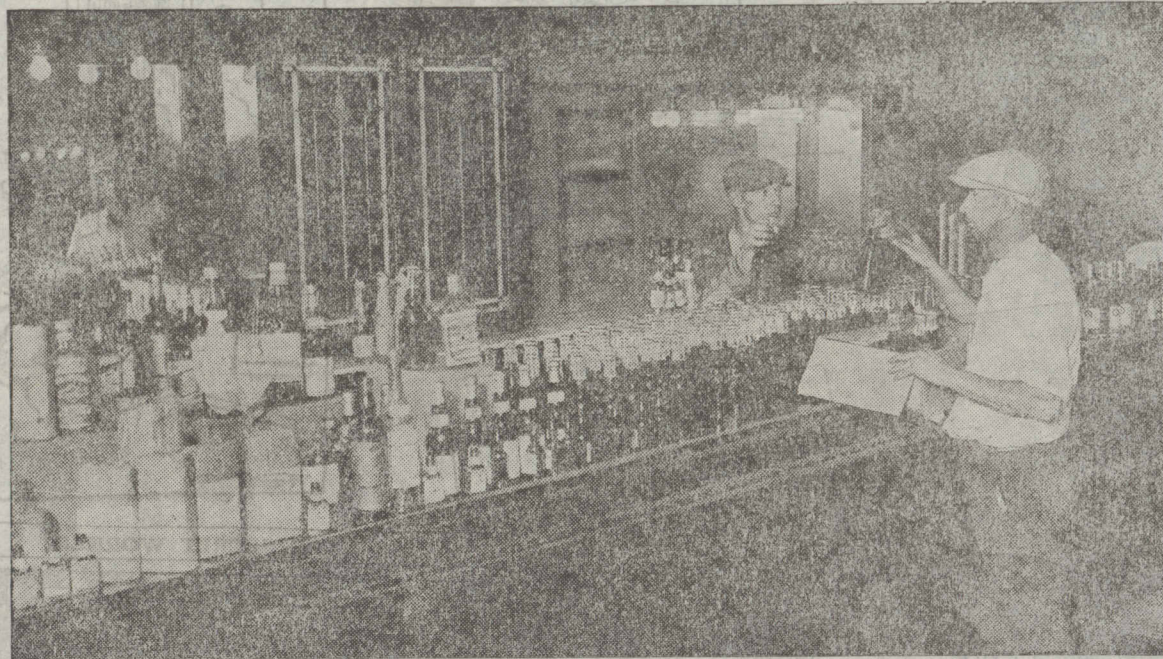
(Acme photo.)

"... moral dictator ..."



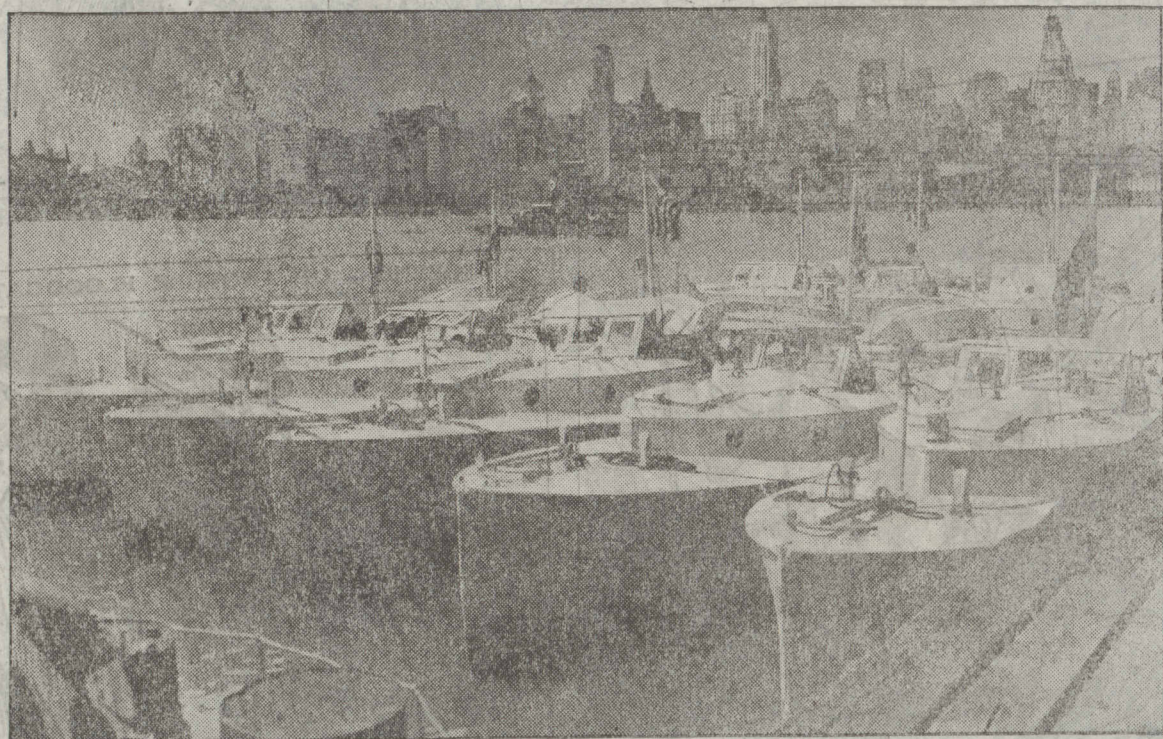
"... hailed from Westerville ..."

6 NO SOONER WAS PROHIBITION IN EFFECT than it was discovered that it was unpopular with a large proportion of the citizenry and in a large measure a helpless institution. It needed champions badly right from the start; champions to busy themselves in the corridors about the legislative halls, champions to preach its glories to a growing army of doubters, champions who if need be could be downright hard and vicious in the name of reform. Where could prohibition have found three more devoted leaders and defenders than the general counsel of the Anti-Saloon league, Wayne B. Wheeler (left, above); Francis Scott McBride (right, above), general superintendent of the same organization, and Bishop James Cannon Jr., (center, above), moral dictator of the Methodist Church, South, and would-be moral dictator of the nation? Four years after the beginning of prohibition Wheeler, in pointing to its wealth of virtues, said "the saving of human life since prohibition reduced the death rate is equivalent to a million lives." Wheeler was the mouthpiece of prohibition, an extremely clever lobbyist. McBride, who hailed from Westerville, O., dry capital of the nation, six years after the beginning of prohibition admitted in a speech in Pittsburgh that there were more grog shops in Chicago under prohibition than there were before. Cannon, a modest player of the stock market, and recently involved in federal prosecution, still preaches prohibition.



"... the 'blind pig' flourished everywhere ..."

7 THE LEGALIZED SALOON VANISHED with the advent of prohibition, but in its stead appeared the speakeasy, more than 4,000 of which THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE found in a survey of Chicago alone. That survey was made prior to November, 1921. A fairly recent nation-wide survey, carried out through the help of police departments, placed the total number of under-cover retail rum shops at more than 219,000. Though thousands of these speakeasies (Chicago example above) were raided in the more than 13 years of prohibition, and three billion dollars' worth of property padlocked as a result, the "blind pig" flourished everywhere. The national capital was dotted with secret booze shops, a number being discovered upon property owned by the government. In connection with raids during the first twelve years of prohibition nearly 600,000 alleged prohibition violators were prosecuted in the federal courts alone.



"... cost the country in excess of 34 billion ..."

8 RAIDS AND PROSECUTIONS merely revealed the futility of trying to enforce the laws of prohibition, an experiment which, according to a report issued in December, 1932, by the Crusaders, a nationwide anti-prohibition organization, up to that time had cost the country in excess of 34 billion dollars and more than 2,600 lives. Included in that cost was \$152,503,400 appropriated for enforcement by the coast guards, who in swift but too few craft (above) harried smugglers along thousands of miles of coast line. Five years before the Crusader report Prof. Irving Fisher said the country was six billion dollars richer because of prohibition—but that was before the depression bobbed up to wipe out savings accounts.



(Acme photo.)

"... resorted to old standby ..."

9 THOUGH THE GOING WAS GETTING HARDER all the time for prohibition, the Woman's Christian Temperance union (founded 1874), through Dr. Ella A. Boole (left), and other leaders, continued to sing of the widespread benefits of the costly war on rum. The W. C. T. U., in meeting arguments aimed at the principles of prohibition, resorted to its old standby: "Alcohol is a habit-forming drug which, taken in small quantities, has the power to create the appetite for more alcohol."

10 MORE ELOQUENT THAN THE W. C. T. U. LADIES was the great chautauquan, William Jennings Bryan (right), thrice candidate for President, declaimer of "The Prince of Peace," and disbeliever in kinship to the anthropoid apes. Bryan was a preacher of temperance. But his temperance had to do with things alcoholic, for when it came to eating he could put to shame the hungriest plow-hand. After the famous evolution trial at Dayton, Tenn., he ate a dinner extremely heavy even for him, then died.

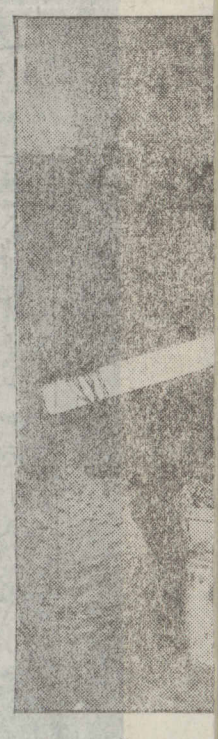


(© Harris & Ewing photo.)

"... preacher of temperance ..."

11 PRE-PROHIBITION peak year of the liquor smuggled liquor coaction everywhere, the annual total of a certain amount of contraband (above) years of prohibition

12 APPROXIMATELY 12 MILLION gallons of federal enforcement of the prohibition era to the million coast guard and at the millions appropriated by separate states. The output of illicit still of operations estimated at between a million gallons, and in the land in the national beer syndicate both the paid pro and the amateur worked for glory fronted by impossible hundred thousand seized and amount of hard fought thousands of (right), they admitted only a small if guilty of violating.



"... possessed a ..."



"... possessed a ..."



Sunday, Novem