

ACTUAL SWORN TESTIMONY BEFORE FEDERAL JUDGES

This is the fourteenth installment of a new series on the billion dollar liquor industry, whose activities today infiltrate our national life.

(Copyright by The Boston Evening Post.) By NORMAN KLEIN.

The liquor business is now so well organized that crooked Federal officials have been educated beyond the point where a complimentary case of Haig & Haig whisky, a \$10 bill or even unlimited entry to the cargo below decks will suffice official winking of rum running.

Some of the Coast Guard skippers insist—as you will see in a moment—on a systematized payment per case.

They also use their ships, supposedly in the service of the United States Government to carry liquor and to give whatever maritime aid possible to the enemy.

Captain Nicholas Brown now deposes and says: "Yes, I admit I accepted bribes from the rum ring while I was commanding a United States Coast Guard vessel.

"I was skipper on patrol boat 126. I slipped some of the money to high-ups in the Coast Guard service.

"I paid \$1,000 to Executive Officer Samuel Briggs of the New London, Conn., base, where I docked my boat the first installment being \$500.

"I had the rest of the money in my pocket but I didn't want Briggs to have so much money at one time. So I hid it in a powder magazine aboard the 126, and gave it to him later.

"I helped the rum runners in various ways. For instance, I gave fake directions to naval destroyers which were trying to capture small fishing boats transporting loads from the rum fleet thirty miles out at sea.

"I saved a rum schooner from capture by one of the destroyers, which I saw approaching through my binoculars.

"So I grabbed a signal flag and warned the schooner and several fishing boats that were taking off booze alongside. They beat it; I went out to the destroyer and sent it on a false trail.

"Later—no, that was the same day—I drew alongside the schooner and took off 350 cases of whisky. I carried the stuff in the patrol boat to shore.

"We drank a lot of the stuff while en route. I got pretty well drunk, I guess, but I didn't pass out until I reached the buoy at Monk Point.

"The next morning I awoke at 9:30 in my cabin. I had a terrible headache and felt pretty low generally, although the booze I drank was fine stuff.

"Philip J. Coffey (later placed on trial) came aboard my boat. He was pretty sore at me.

"You're a fool to bring in liquor," he said, "because if you're going to drink up the cargo and get oiled you'll get into a lot of trouble and spoil the game for the rest of the Coast Guard and us."

"Then he paid me \$1,108. A few days later he went to New London, where I'd gone with the patrol boat. He paid me \$2,700 more. Yes; it was bribe money, I guess you'd call it.

"Well, I'll explain the system. It was customary for the Coast Guardsmen to collect \$2 a case on all liquor taken from the rum fleet which the patrol boats picketed.

"That was our share. If they didn't play fair we gave them a lot of worry.

"I was arrested in Boston and released on bail. While out on bail some of the agents of A. Bruce Bielaski, 'under cover' chief for the Government, seized me and shanghaied me aboard the Coast Guard 'mother ship,' the destroyer Seneca.

"It put out to sea. I was manacled hand and foot to a stanchion in the Seneca's hold.

"I was a madhouse. They fed me on rotten meat and water and never told me why I had been seized.

"At the end of a week Mr. Bielaski sent a radio message to the ship, saying if I would confess everything I'd be released. I told the man who delivered Bielaski's message that I would.

"Then Seneca then put back to port. I was turned over to Bielaski's agents at the dock in Boston.

"I was taken to Mr. Bielaski. He asked me questions. I told him in detail of my connection with the rum syndicate.

"You can be very useful to us," he said. "I have a good job for you. You can be one of my under-cover men."

"He wanted me to consent to be put aboard another Coast Guard patrol boat as a 'prisoner.' It was a ship suspected of rum deals. My job was to spy on the activities of the boat's crew.

"No, I'll not spy on shipmates," I told Bielaski. "You can do what you want to me, but I won't do that."

"So the chief agent allowed me to return to my home and warned me to be on hand to testify against the ringleaders of the rum ring."

"Now let us hear how a Coast Guard crew divided the bribes received from rum runners.

Frank J. Stuart was indicted.

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

RED HERRING POLICY.

Sir,—We all know that your "esteemed contemporary" is a past master in the art of diverting attention from the question at issue. When nothing can be stated or set forth on behalf of the position taken by the Liberal Party The Patriot never fails to direct public attention away from the two parties. The point of difference just now is between the maintenance of a prohibitory liquor law which does not injure in any way, and which admits of drinking and drunkenness, with out punishment, and a law according to which no youth of either sex will be permitted to buy any intoxicant and men and women must obtain "permits" or be liable to imprisonment if they drink. The question is simply whether the electors are to be deceived by a temperance law which is inefficiently enforced, or whether another temperance law which may prove to be more effective because more capable of enforcement. That is the question to be decided at the next election. But The Patriot, fearing the result in so far as the Liberal Party is concerned, calls out "rummy," declares that if the Government policy should be adopted there will be an increase of "rum shops," and drunkenness, and denounces The Guardian as false to its temperance principles, because it continues to support the Government. The Guardian, in its own defence against a false and malicious attack, issued a plain, unvarnished statement of the facts; and The Patriot retorts by picturing The Guardian "in solemn conclave with itself"—and other nonsense to the extent of more than a column.

COURAGE AND CONVICTIONS

Sir,—As there are so many now trespassing on your valuable space and airing their views on the prohibition question perhaps one more might dare to ask for room for a few words.

Why all the fuss and excitement? Unless those people are much better informed as to the intentions of the government than the most of us at West, then they do not know what they are talking about. Premier Stewart did announce at a banquet that he was going to introduce some new legislation if again returned to power, with a view to try and remedy the present liquor law, and immediately his opponents are up in arms. The press is filled with all kinds of bunk meetings called and blue ruin predicted. Why don't those people wait until they find out what this legislation is going to be when announced in detail at the proper time? Premier Stewart has stated he intended this as a remedy, and was going to substitute for the present iniquitous prohibition law something that would be better. Then I say again why not wait?

It is not my intention at the present time to either denounce the present law or say anything in favor of the so called wet plank until the matter is laid before the people, but from the manner in which our Premier has conducted the affairs of the country for the past four years, I feel assured he had the general welfare of the Province at heart when making the announcement. I am satisfied there is enough people to elect him again in our fair Island to elect him again to the honorable position of Premier with enough supporters to carry on.

More power to Premier Stewart, and what a pity we had not more men in our public life today with the courage of their convictions as he has.

I am, Sir, etc. J. M. McDONALD. (Mr. Anderson must have been misreported by Mr. Saunders or his memory is falling him. According to Mr. Saunders report in the Patriot Mr. Saunders asked Mr. Anderson if he audited the Public Accounts in 1923, and the reply given follows: "He said I did and found everything correct, and nothing improper happened."

Mr. Saunders then said he asked Mr. Anderson if he audited the books in 1926 and he reports that Mr. Anderson said: "He had gone over to the office of the Prohibition Commission for that purpose. He met the Secretary, Mr. Smith, and he declined to let him see the books or let him inspect them."

According to "The report of the Provincial Auditor of Public Accounts, dated March 1st, 1924, for the current year ending December 31st, 1923," signed by John Anderson Provincial Auditor, we find the following: "Another change I would suggest is that the checking of bills and vouchers be made in each Department and accepted by the auditor and initiated by a responsible officer of the department passing upon it. When the number of cheques issued in a year exceeds 28,000 in 1923, and the number of vouchers dealt with is correspond-

ingly large it will be seen that such work cannot be undertaken without taking up time that may be more usefully employed in further inquiring into receipts as well as payments and more important matters. For instance that the amount of business done by the Liquor Supply Store of the Prohibition Commission should be done practically without official audit. According to the chairman of the Prohibition Commission Mr. Anderson did not attempt to audit the books for 1926, but while the House was in session, he visited the Commission's Secretary and offices for the purpose of obtaining information and not for official audit.

Since 1924 the books have been audited and certified every year by Mr. M. J. Moran one of the best accountants in the Province although it is the duty of the Provincial Auditor to do so without instruction or direction from the Government.—(Ed. G.)

PROVINCIAL AUDITOR'S MEMORY

Sir,—I saw in the Patriot where Mr. Saunders said Mr. Anderson, Provincial Auditor, told the Public Accounts Committee that he audited the Prohibition Commission's books every year under the Liberal Government but was refused permission to do so this past year. Is this correct? The public ought to know.

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Thin, Nervous Girl Gains With Vinol

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There is only one way by which the drinking of alcoholic liquors as a beverage may be stopped, and that way is by the prohibiting the manufacture and the importation of it under penalty of death. But very few, except the fanatics, are willing to go that far.

Since, then, it is impossible to prevent it, why not endeavor to formulate some arrangement whereby its consumption may be not only curtailed but handled as wisely and as sanely as possible? To do this successfully, requires government supervision under an honest government. In this lies the chief difficulty, for while you need not tell it in Gath nor publish it in the streets of Ascalon, a strictly honest government is a scarce article.

What, then, can be done? Probably, the wisest thing to do would be to give the whole structure of Prohibition a more than cursory examination for the purpose of determining, if possible, just where its weakness lie. Few of us are competent to give it a minute inspection, but the bulk of the people of

RELIEVES INDIGESTION

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Today there are certain statements unconsciously accepted as truths by the Prohibition people, and on which they build their platform, which are, and always have been, as well as always will be,arrant falsehoods.

The first, is that the seller of intoxicating liquor is more culpable than the buyer; the second, is that the man who is a moderate drinker is more blameworthy than the immoderate user; the third, is that the drinking of a glass of liquor is something of which to be ashamed.

None of these statements are true because none of them are logical. This lack of reason, is of course, to be expected, for logic is never the stronghold of any movement whose animating power is fanaticism.

If strong drink could be forever banished from the earth by simply going to the polls and voting in favor of such a course, there would be few dissenting votes. Almost everyone believes that. Most of us would prefer to see our children total abstainers, even were we sure they would never be immoderate drinkers. But we cannot deal with a material problem in an immaterial way. The liquor is here. That fact must be recognized. To make it, at times, difficult to obtain, as the Prohibition Act has done, only stops the temperate drinker. The habitual user has always got his in the form of moonshine, home brew, lemon extract, and, when hard up, has not disdained canned-heat or even shoe-polish.

For twenty-seven years, we have had Prohibition. The man who would say that drinking has not decreased in that time is a fool or is willfully lying. We know better than that. But we also know that drinking has increased during the last few years, and more, we know the reason.

For, when it became necessary for a man to feign illness in order to obtain liquor, corruption set in. In his heart he knew he was breaking the law; he knew the doctor was breaking the law; and he knew the vendor was breaking the law. Gradually, there developed within him, a silent contempt for Prohibition. He has that contempt today.

In the meantime, he has done some experimenting. He has found that if he takes molasses water, hops, yeast cake, raisins, etc., and mixes them in certain proportions, which are known to nearly every school-boy, that he can get a "kick" out of the resultant product which is something to be remembered. The unprecedented demand in this Province for empty cider in this result of this discovery.

Government control can be made an effective measure. But to do so, the liquor must be of a high standard, and it must be cheaper than it is now. Else rum-running will still be a profitable venture. If the price cannot be lowered, then the same evils which have resulted from Prohibition, will accompany Government control with this difference that they will be much worse under the latter method.

No consideration should be shown the immoderate drinker. That was the greatest fault of Prohibition, for, while it made it extremely difficult for the temperate man to obtain liquor without making himself a perjurer, the "booze-fighter" never had any trouble and he is the fellow who has always

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