

Dead soldier

Edge

Hair of the dog

Hooch

Juice joint

Joint

Ossified

Spifflicated

Corked

Tanked

Primed

Jazzed

Owled

Plastered

Embalmed

Lit

Potted

Fried to the hat

Canned

Scrooched

Upchuck



Dead soldier = empty beer bottle

Edge = a buzz, intoxication

Hair of the dog = shot of alcohol

Hooch = bootleg liquor

Juice joint = speakeasy

Joint = club, usually sold alcohol

Ossified = a drunk person

Spifflicated, corked, tanked, primed, jazzed, owled,
plastered, embalmed, lit, potted, fried to the hat,
canned, scrooched = drunk


Upchuck = to vomit when one has drunk too much

The Prohibition Era, 1919-1933



NATIONAL
WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN
TEMPERANCE UNION

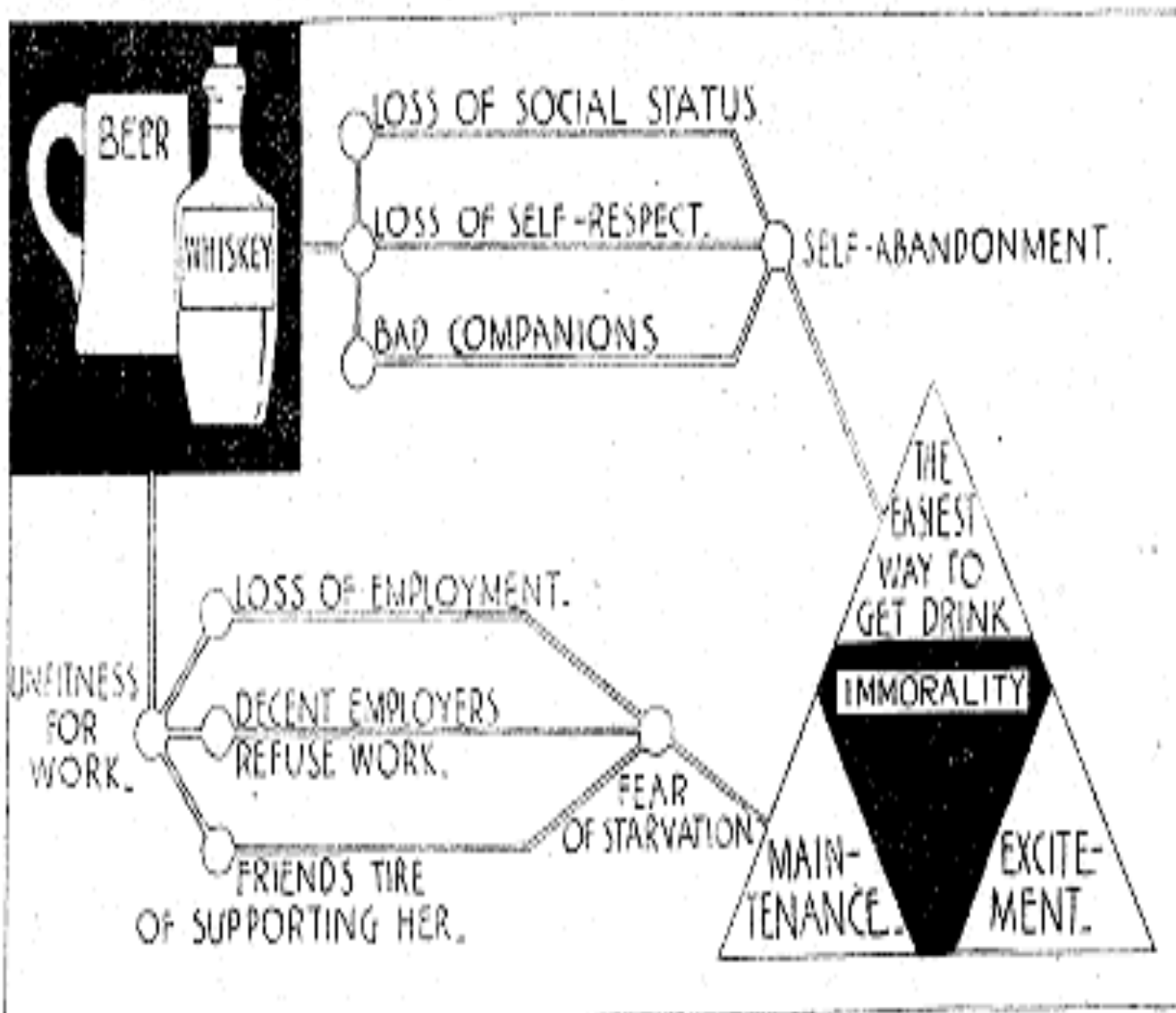
INCORPORATED 1880
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1880

HISTORY

- Temperance Movement began in the U.S. in the early 1800s but gained strength in the late 1800s during the Progressive Era.
 - By 1830, the average American over the age of 15 drank the equivalent of 88 bottles of whiskey per year!
- Temperance advocates pushed for government control of alcohol.

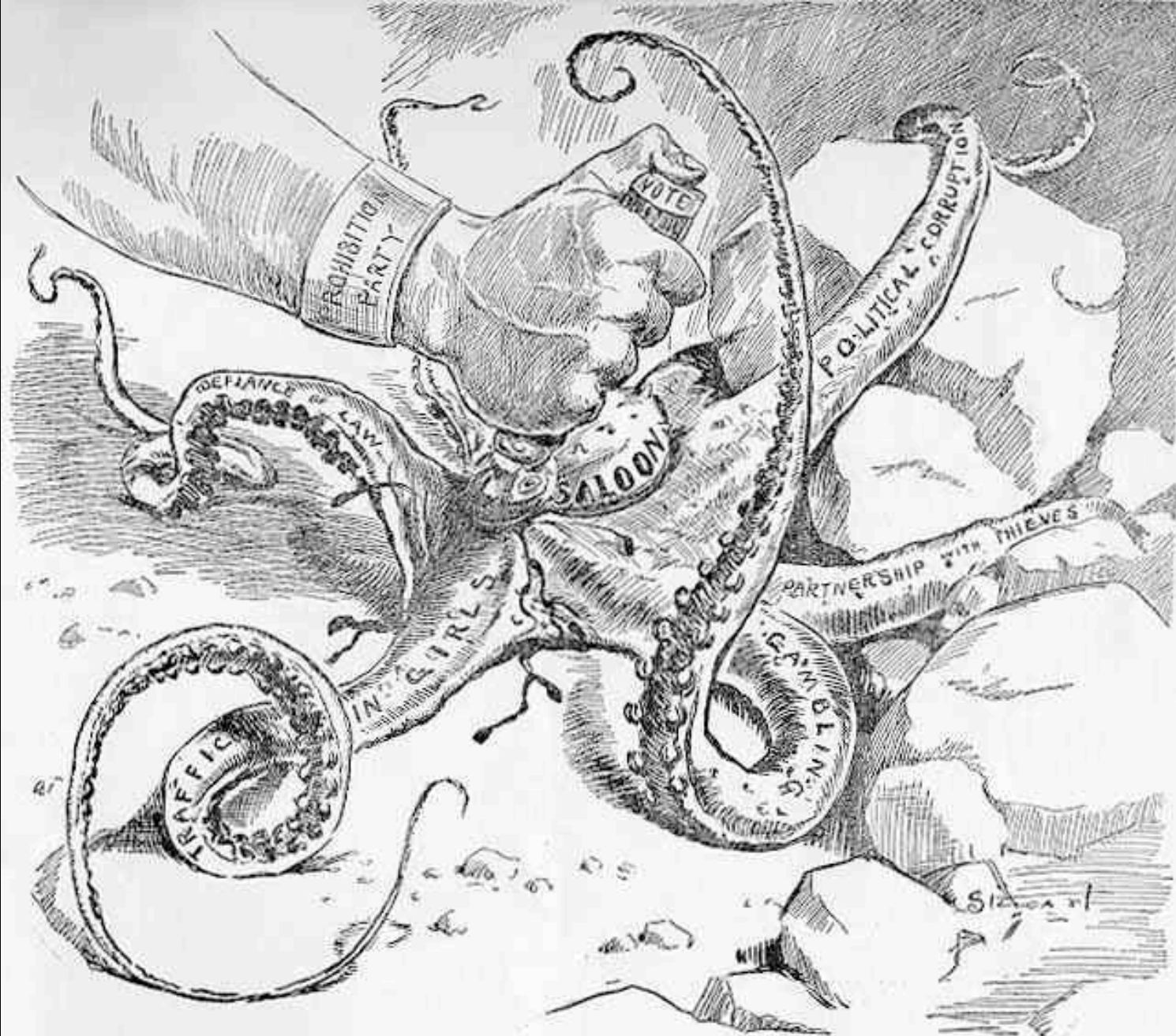


Why did people want to ban alcohol?



Why did people want to ban alcohol?

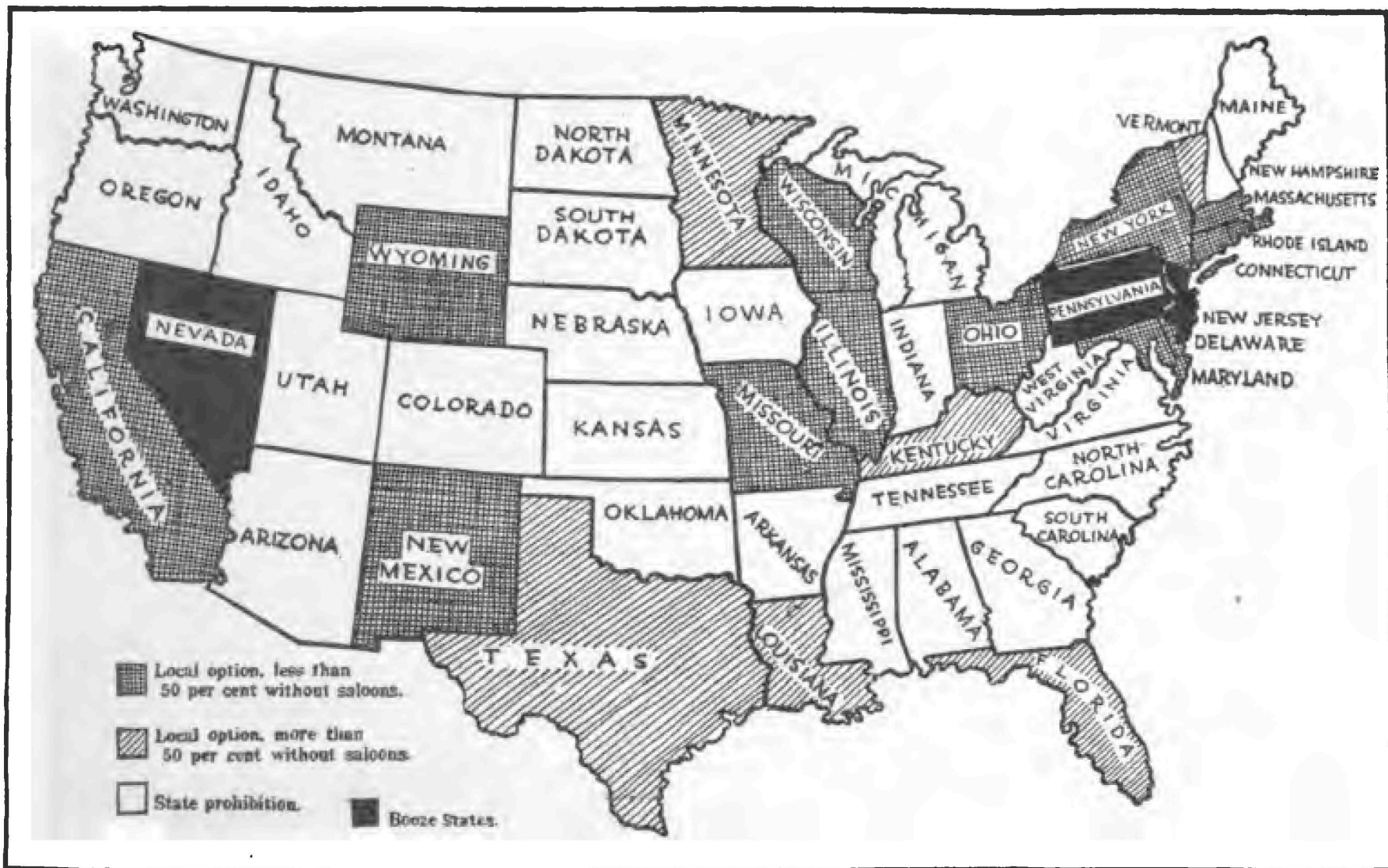
- Moral reasons: led to immoral behavior, especially among the nation's poor.
- Religious reasons: it went against God's will
- Medical reasons:
 - In the words of NY's Health Commissioner, "Alcohol hurts the tone of the muscles and lessens the product of laborers...hurts the memory, increases industrial accidents, causes disease..."
 - Belief that high blood alcohol content in "habitual drunkards" could lead someone to spontaneously combust and burn to death from the inside.
 - Parents who drank gave birth to small children with a "yen for alcohol so strong that the mere sight of a bottle shaped like a whiskey flask brought them whining for a nip."
 - Argued that inhaling alcohol vapors might lead to defective offspring for at least 3 generations.
 - Alcohol was poison.



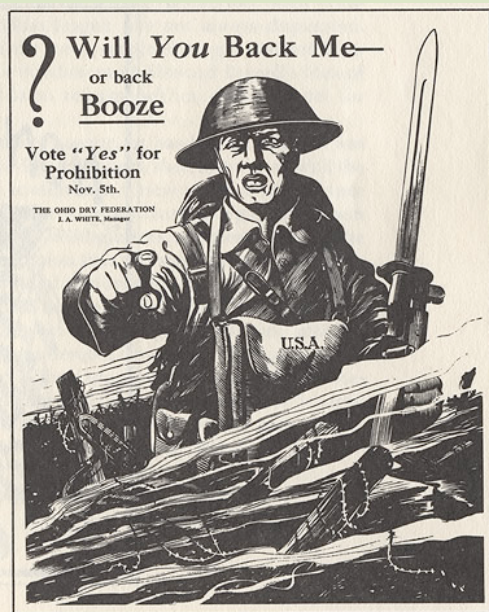
The Modern Devil Fish

"The tentacles of the Devil Fish cannot be destroyed unless the HEAD, the source of their sustaining power, is destroyed."—Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea."

- By 1918, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of people in the U.S. lived in dry states or counties.



- During WWI temperance supporters said that Prohibition was a sign of patriotism.
 - Banning alcohol would boost supplies of grain.
 - Some felt that it was wrong of to enjoy alcohol while the country's young men were off fighting a war.
 - Americans bought a lot of alcohol from Germany at a time when we were fighting Germany on the battlefield. Seemed wrong to put money in their pockets by buying their alcohol (they could then use the money to fund the war effort against the Americans.)



"We have German enemies across the water, we have German enemies in this country too. And the worst of all our German enemies, the most treacherous, the most menacing are Pabst, Schlitz, Blatz and Miller."



The Prohibition Era, 1919-1933

- In June 1919, the 36th state ratified the **18th Amendment**, which prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transport of intoxicating liquors. (However, the country had, for all practical purposes, been dry since 1917.)





"Yes, it's a noble experiment."

JANUARY 16, 1920

- PROHIBITION!

ALCOHOL BANNED IN U.S. -



This Detroit scene was repeated across the nation, January, 16, 1920, as shoppers stocked up on the last day before Prohibition took effect.

Some towns sold their jails on the eve of Prohibition because they were so convinced that alcohol was the cause of virtually all crime!



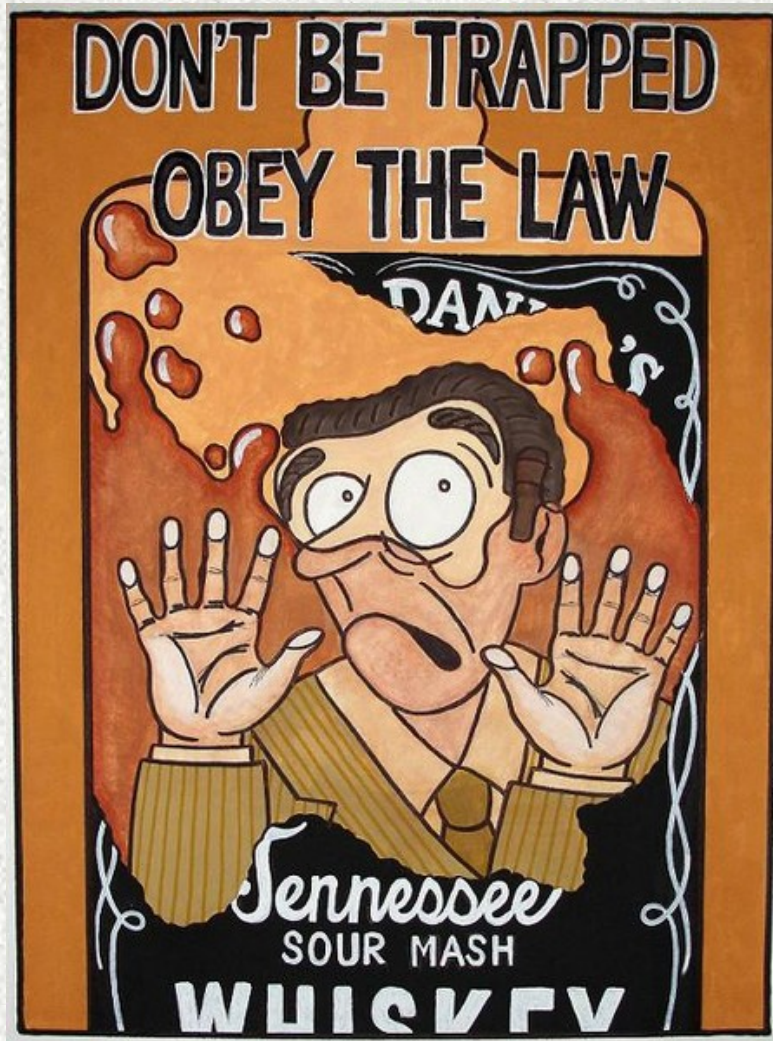


Positive Outcomes of Prohibition

- Prohibition reduced the total amount of alcohol being consumed, especially in rural areas and urban working-class neighborhoods (where they didn't have access to booze or couldn't afford to buy illegally.)
- The amount of money being put into savings accounts and put towards family necessities increased (as opposed to being spent on booze.)
- There was a sharp decline in alcoholism-related hospital admissions, alcohol-related psychoses, and other drinking-related conditions.
- There were fewer arrests for drunkenness, and the national cost of incarcerating drunks declined.
- There was a dramatic decline in the national death rate from alcoholism.



Suggested Enforcement Efforts



- Govt. distribution of poisoned alcoholic beverages through bootleggers (acknowledged that several hundred thousand would die as a result, but cost was believed to be worth it.)
- Suggested punishments for drinking:
 - Hung by the tongue beneath an airplane and flown over the country
 - Excluded from any and all churches
 - Forbidden to marry
 - Tortured
 - Branded
 - Whipped
 - Sterilized
 - Tattooed
 - Placed in bottle-shaped cages in public squares
 - Executed, as well as their offspring

Negative Outcomes of Prohibition

- The law and the resistance to it showed the government how hard it is to use a law to promote morality. People who wanted to drink found a way.



Negative Outcomes of Prohibition (cont.)



- Speakeasies replaced saloons, people consumed bathtub gin, home brews, and many strange, dangerous concoctions.
- Bartenders invented the cocktail in an effort to disguise the poor quality of liquor.
 - Popular drinks of the day included the Sidecar, the Highball, the French 75, and the Bees Knees (which included a spoonful of honey, lemon, and a splash of orange juice to mask the flavor of bathtub gin.)

Champagnes.

Ayala 1923 Brut	....	qt.	\$5.00
Ayala 1923 Brut	....	pt.	2.50
Lanson 1921 Dry England	....	qt.	6.00
Lanson 1921 Dry England	....	pt.	3.00
Lemoine 1921 Cuvee Royale	....	qt.	6.00
Lemoine 1923 Cuvee Royale	....	qt.	5.00
Lemoine 1923 Cuvee Royale	....	pt.	2.50
Dirty Dick's Cuvee Special 1923	....	qt.	4.00

Sparkling Burgundy.

Red Cap	....	qt.	\$3.00
Red Cap	....	pt.	1.50

Liqueurs and Cordials. 25c.

Ports and Sherries. 25c.

(Gonzalez, Byass & Co.)

Vat 69 Scotch	....	....	.25
Vat 250	....	....	.25
Dirty Dick's ***** Scotch	....	....	.25
Antique 12 years old	....	....	.25
Paddy Irish	....	....	.25
American Whiskey	....	....	.35
Jamaica Rum	....	....	.25
Bacardi Rum	....	....	.25
Gin, Seagers Old Matured	....	....	.25
Gin, Hedges & Butler "Club"	....	....	.25
Brandy	....	....	.25
Canadian Club Rye	....	....	.25
Seagrams V.O. & 83 Rye	....	....	.25

With Soda 10c. extra.

Cocktails.

Short Drinks.

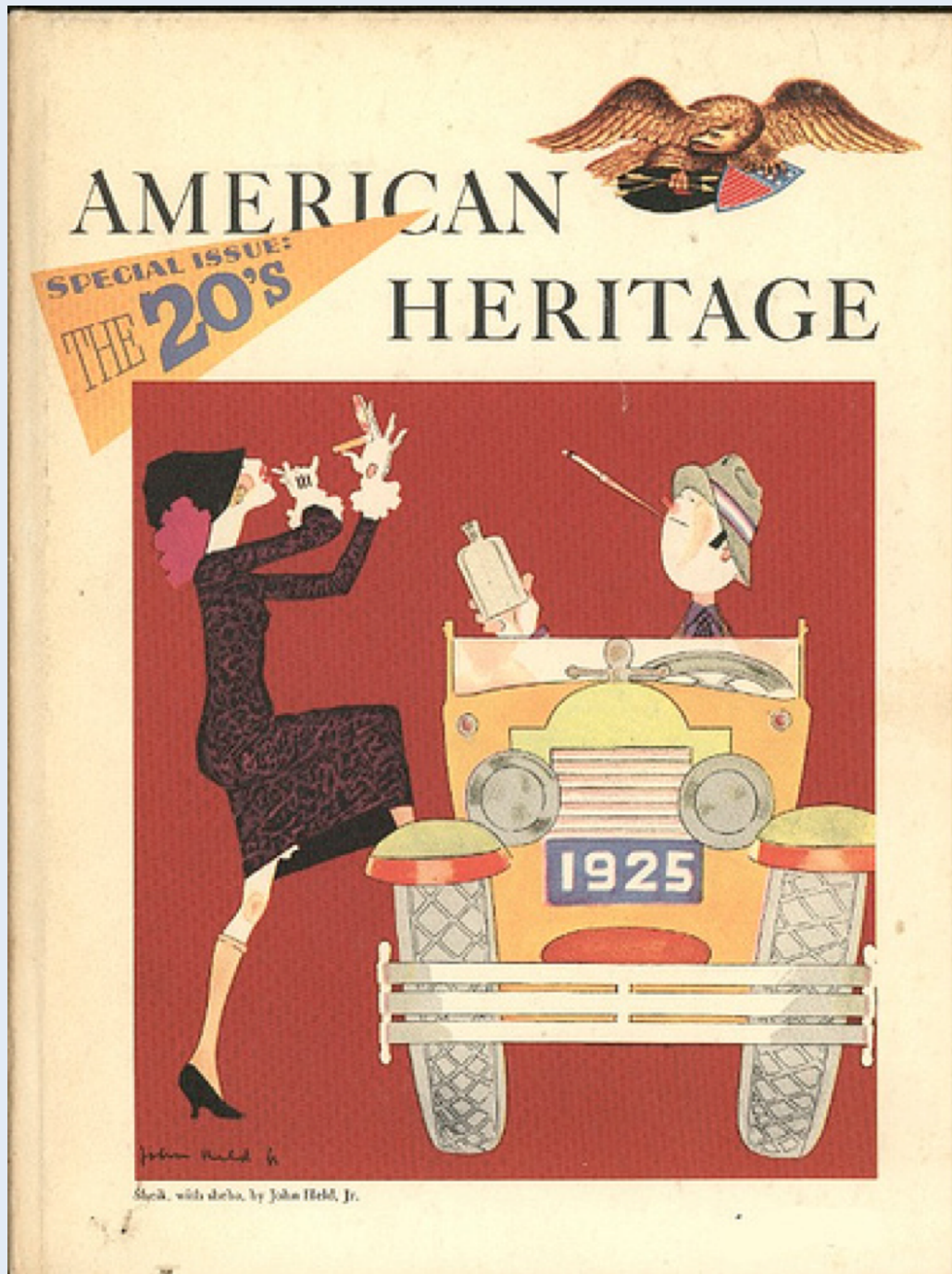
Dirty Dick's Special	....	....	.35
Prince of Wales	....	....	.35
Maidens Prayer	....	....	.35
Corpse Reviver	....	....	.35
Depth Charge	....	....	.35
Self Starter	....	....	.35
Hoot Mon.	....	....	.35
Old Etonian	....	....	.35
Manhattan	....	....	.35
Dry Martin	....	....	.35
Bronx.	....	....	.35
Bacardi Blossom	....	....	.35
Daguerre	....	....	.35
Pickwick	....	....	.35
Orange Blossom	....	....	.35
Miami Special	....	....	.35
Paris Side Car	....	....	.35
Swedish Punch	....	....	.35
Absinthe Frappe	....	....	.50
Old Fashioned Carolina	....	....	.50
Jamaica Rum Daisy	....	....	.50
Prince of Wales	....	....	.50
Stinger	....	....	.50
Alexandra	....	....	.60
Pink Lady	....	....	.60
Champagne Cocktail	....	....	.75

Long Drinks.

Gin Fizz	....	....	.35
Gin Rickey	....	....	.35
Ginger Wine and Soda	....	....	.35
Tom Collins	....	....	.35
John Collins	....	....	.35
Orange Fizz	....	....	.35
Gin and Tonic	....	....	.35
Lemon Gin and Soda	....	....	.35
Planters Punch	....	....	.50
Bacardi Sunrise	....	....	.50
Bacardi Sunset	....	....	.50
Jamaica Rum Punch	....	....	.50
Jamaica Rum Sour	....	....	.50
Silver Fizz	....	....	.50
Golden Fizz	....	....	.50
Dirty Dick's Flip	....	....	.60
Sherry Flip	....	....	.60
Port Flip	....	....	.60
Brandy Egg Nogg	....	....	.60

Beer and Mineral Waters.

Barclay's Lager Light & Dark	pt.	.25
Bull Dog Lager	....	.25
Golden Ship German Pilsener	....	.25
Tennants Scotch Pilsener	....	.25
Bass Ale	....	.35
Guinness Stout	....	.35
Ginger Beer Old Fashioned	....	.25
Stone Jug	....	.25
Ginger Ale	....	.25
Tonic Water	....	.25



Women (middle and upper class women) began to drink in public for the first time.

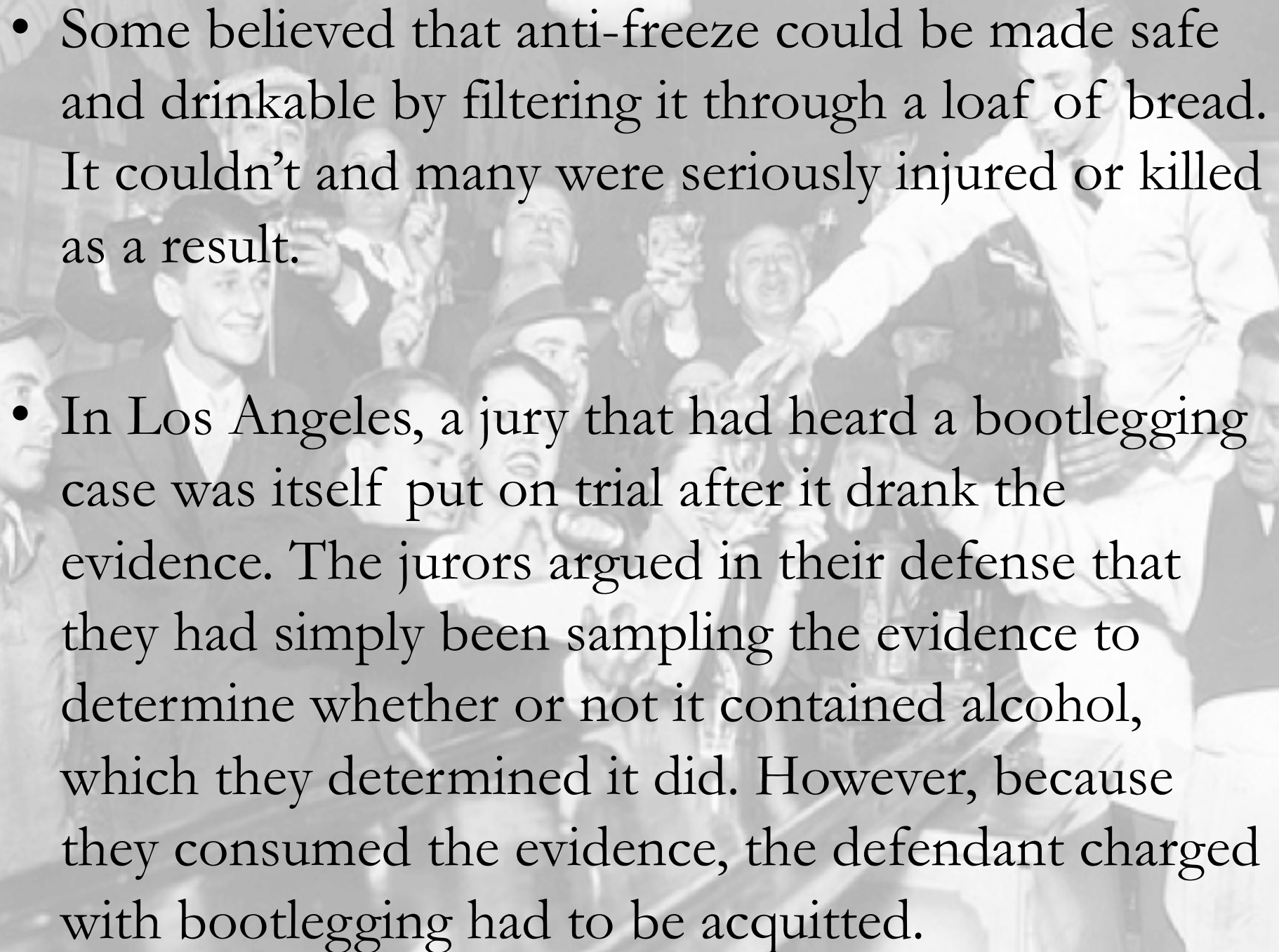
People found clever ways to evade Prohibition agents. They carried hip flasks, hollowed canes, false books, etc..



Homemade liquor still, 1920

Many Americans experimented with homemade stills to make alcohol for home consumption or to sell illegally during Prohibition.

Thousands of citizens were killed, blinded, paralyzed as a result of drinking contaminated bootleg alcohol.

- 
- Some believed that anti-freeze could be made safe and drinkable by filtering it through a loaf of bread. It couldn't and many were seriously injured or killed as a result.
 - In Los Angeles, a jury that had heard a bootlegging case was itself put on trial after it drank the evidence. The jurors argued in their defense that they had simply been sampling the evidence to determine whether or not it contained alcohol, which they determined it did. However, because they consumed the evidence, the defendant charged with bootlegging had to be acquitted.

- To enforce the 18th Amendment, a **Prohibition Bureau** was created to enforce the law. Their jobs was to patrol the borders, track down illegal alcohol stills, monitor highways for truckloads of illegal alcohol, and oversee all businesses that legally used alcohol to make sure that none were being used for illegal purposes.

- The Prohibition Bureau employed 1,500 federal agents and local police, creating a major enforcement challenge.
- Most enforcement agents were poorly paid and therefore easy to bribe.



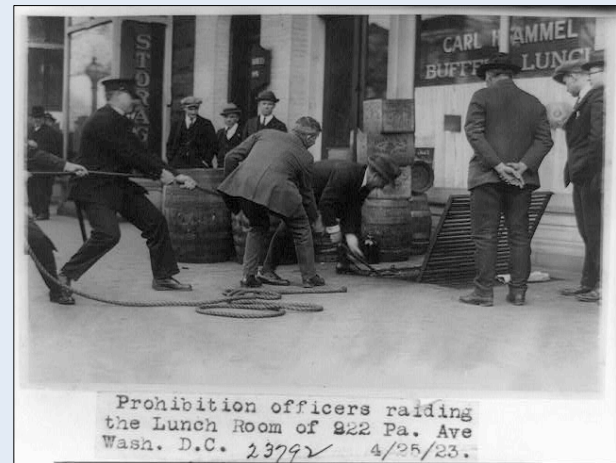


Prohibition agents examine liquor confiscated from a captured rum runner, 1924



Patrolling thousands of 18,700 miles of borders to stop smuggling was nearly impossible, as was locating and shutting down the numerous stills and speakeasies that popped up around the country.

- By 1925, in New York City alone there were anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 speakeasies!





Year	Total appropriations ¹	Total expenditures	Total unexpended
1920	² \$3, 100, 000. 00	\$2, 965, 522. 09	\$134, 477. 91
1921	7, 100, 000. 00	7, 034, 517. 87	65, 482. 13
1922	7, 500, 000. 00	7, 327, 074. 51	172, 925. 49
1923	9, 250, 000. 99	8, 994, 390. 49	255, 610. 50
1924	9, 000, 003. 83	8, 456, 606. 41	543, 397. 42
1925	11, 341, 770. 00	10, 499, 255. 50	842, 514. 50
1926	11, 050, 000. 00	10, 994, 981. 78	55, 018. 22
1927	13, 272, 445. 00	12, 464, 836. 91	807, 608. 09
1928	13, 320, 405. 00	12, 938, 622. 49	381, 782. 51
1929	13, 752, 060. 00	13, 645, 239. 17	⁴ 106, 820. 83
1930	14, 985, 744. 00	³ 14, 948, 799. 89	⁵ 36, 944. 11

¹ These figures are taken from an annual publication of the Treasury Department "Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, Balances et cetera of the United States" and represent balances of each appropriation adjusted as of June 30, 1930, except as noted.

*NOTE: 1920 appropriations is the equivalent of \$33.7 million in 2010 dollars.
1930 spending is the equivalent of \$196 million in 2010 dollars.*

PROHIBITION

Everyone has stories about how his family or friends got around the law banning alcohol that was enacted in 1919. Dominic Cali, 102, says everybody made his own beer without fear of reprisal from the 1,550 federal prohibition agents. Still, 500,000 were convicted of alcohol-related activities and paid \$75 million in fines during Prohibition. Some companies found enterprising ways to skirt the law, says Tom Lane, 101:

... You could get a cask of [prefermented juice] from California, and it came with a little leaflet that said something like, "Do not put a hose into the cask, and let it stand for one month or it will turn into wine and that is against the law." They told you just how to make it!

There were as many as 219,000 illegal saloons at the height of Prohibition. And violence became part of the liquor business. The national murder rate rose from 6 per 100,000 of population to 10 per 100,000 in 1933. Sadie Nickelson, 100, describes how violence seeped into her hometown, Thermopolis, Wyo.:

... Prohibition was the worst thing the government ever did. It made more trouble—shootings and killings. Once, there was a man who had a load of whiskey who had to cross a bridge at Gooseberry Creek. The local game warden, the only one who had the authority to stop the car and search it, approached the car. But when he looked in, the driver shot him dead.

That wasn't the only fatality. A local farmer, just as a curiosity, decided to watch from behind some trees as a shipment of whiskey came through. The fellow [who] was driving the car just shot him, even though he was innocent—wasn't a threat at all.

Negative Outcomes of Prohibition (cont.)



- Prohibition agents devoted much time and energy to the task of combating the big city gangs that grew rich and powerful off of bootlegging.
 - Bootlegging rings were tied to organized crime in many cities. Crime rings bribed mayors, police, judges, and other public officials to look the other way.
 - Al Capone (Chicago) was the most famous underworld figure – his power and wealth was tied to the sale of illegal alcohol.
 - His organization grossed an estimated \$60 million in 1927 (which is more 750 million in today's money)! (Most of the profits came from distributing beer.)
 - Estimated that during Prohibition, \$200 million worth of business was transferred from the brewing industry and bars into the pockets of bootleggers and gangsters.

- Organized crime, gang murders, and protection rackets were more common during Prohibition than when alcohol could be bought legally.
 - Nearly 800 gangsters in Chicago alone were killed in bootleg-related shootings.



Movement to Repeal the 18th Amendment



Marchers in Detroit bear signs reading, "Beer for Taxation, Jobs for Millions", 1930



Many supporters of Prohibition came to favor its repeal because it led to too much illegal activity/crime and didn't seem to be worth the costs.



The End of Prohibition (1933)

- The 21st Amendment, ratified Dec. 5, 1933, repealed the 18th Amendment and ended the Prohibition experiment.

