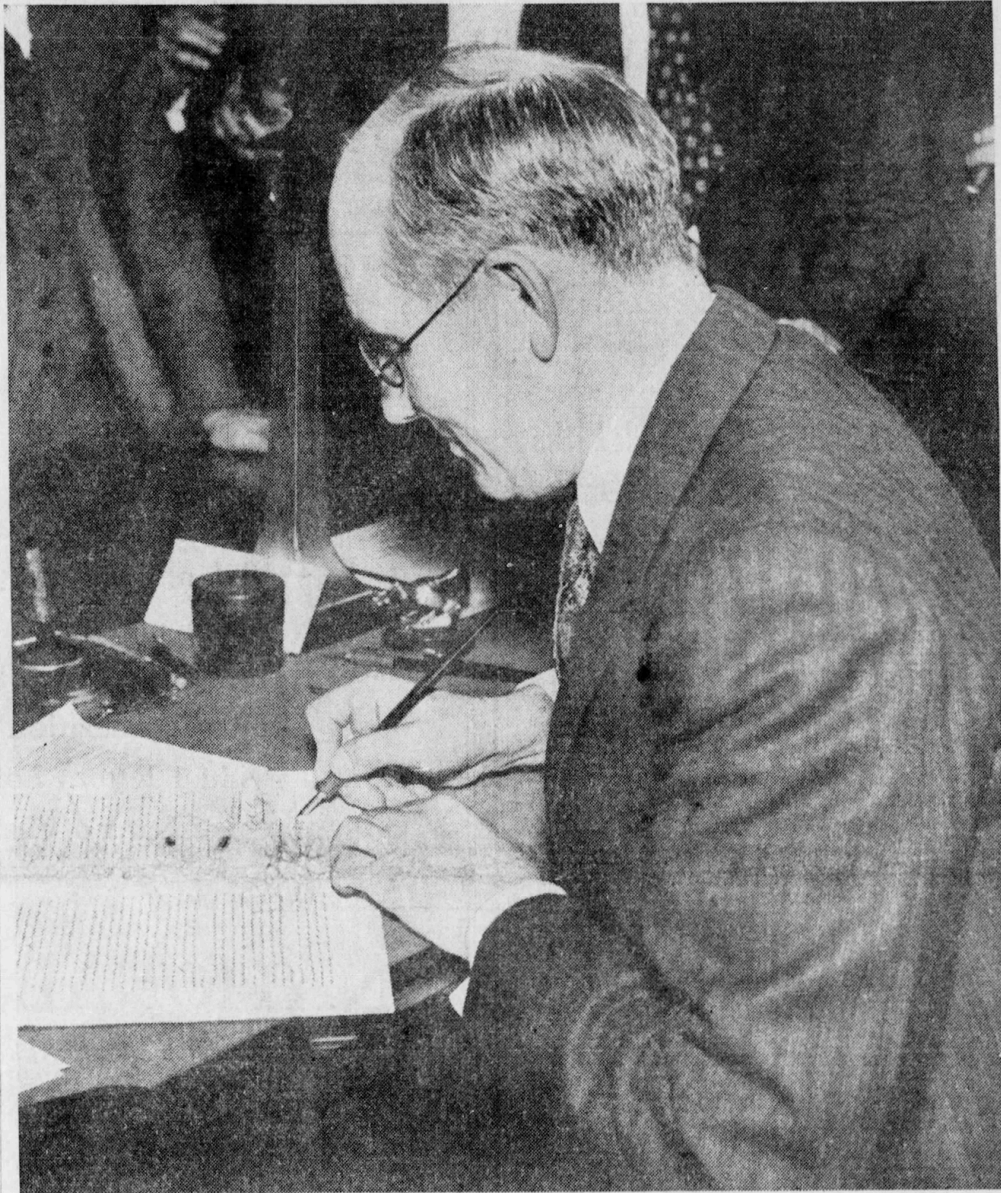


State Gets Beer as Comstock Signs; Sales in Detroit Likely Within Week

A Momentous Scratch of the Pen



Steps to Set Up Machinery Are Taken at Once

*Temporary Licenses
Are Considered
Probable*

**Governor Has Drink
After Approving Act**

By Hub M. George

LANSING, April 27.—Prohibition's fifteen-year reign in Michigan came to an end Thursday afternoon, when Gov. William A. Comstock signed the Beer Bill, making 3.2 a legal beverage. His signature was attached to the enrolled act at 3:05 o'clock.

Immediate steps were taken to set up the machinery which the Legislature has provided for regulation of the manufacture and sale of beer, but with the prospect that a week or 10 days will elapse before the spigots are turned on generally throughout the State.

Gov. Comstock announced that Frank A. Picard, of Saginaw, an

attorney and member of the Advisory Council which drafted the Beer Bill, will be chairman of the Liquor Control Commission. Three other members had been agreed upon. Leo Wilkowski, of Detroit, brother of State Senator A. J. Wilkowski, will represent the First Congressional District, and V. F. Gormley, of Newberry, the Eleventh. Mrs. Thomas J. McAllister, Grand Rapids Democrat, is the fourth member named. Tentative decisions have been made on several others of the 16 who will make up the control body, however, and Gov. Comstock expected to have the entire membership ready to submit to the Senate for confirmation before the week-end adjournment Friday.

Legal beer must wait for the organization of this commission, its decision on bonds, the naming of an executive salaried group of three and a managing director, who will direct the actual administration, and for the issuance of licenses for warehouses and for retail vendors.

Detroiters Move Up

Because of the exception which denied home rule to Wayne County, Wayne applicants alone will not have to wait for the approval of the local governmental bodies before asking Lansing permits, and for this reason thirsty Detroiters moved to the front of the waiting line.

It is probable that temporary permits will be provided for establishments about which there is no question, so that some legal beer will be available by late next week.

Signing of the beer bill has elevated home brew of not more than 3.2 alcoholic content, and not intended for sale, as the only legal beer in Michigan at the moment. The mysterious beverage which originated in Michigan cellars in volume, and which has established a thriving business in malt, is no longer an outlaw product. The Wiley Act's prohibitions have been removed. Gov. Comstock himself quaffed a bottle a few minutes after he signed the bill—the gift of a friend. No special test was applied to determine the alcoholic content, but the Executive attested to its quality.

Possibly the first commercial beer available in Michigan will be at the American Legion patriotic gathering at Convention Hall, Detroit, Monday, May 1. James (Pat) O'Dea and Rex Humphrey, of the arrangements committee, were in

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Machinery Set Up at Once; Governor Samples a Bottle

Temporary Licenses Considered Probable; Wiley Act's Provisions Removed

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conference with Gov. Comstock over a permit for that occasion.

Gov. Comstock used no fewer than eight pens in attaching his sixteen-letter signature to the Beer Bill. Standing room was at a premium in the executive office for the historic happening, the end of a long, long fight for repeal by irreconcilable Wets. Senator A. J. Wilkowski's pen made the "W." Rep. Frank Berka's continued, followed in turn by souvenir pens which went to William G. Lewis, secretary of the Crusaders, to the Liquor Committee of the House of Representatives, to the Current Club at Sault Ste. Marie, to Rep. Joseph Brzostowski, "baby" of the House, and others.

After the act of signing, the Governor was kept busy for half an hour, signing souvenir copies of the enrolled act.

Gov. Comstock concentrated on the selection of his Control Commission and expected its early completion. There will be five women members, he has revealed. He expected the list would be ready for

the Senate's consideration Friday.

The Commission will be assembled in Lansing for organization Monday. First consideration probably will be given to brewers, limited to 60 under the act. Warehouses will next receive attention. Until some licenses are granted foreign beer cannot legally be shipped into Michigan for sale, and there will be no source of supply for vendors, except the two Michigan breweries which enjoy near-beer permits by the dealcoholizing process. Even they are restrained from bottling 3.2 until bottling permits, contingent upon State licenses, are granted to them by the Federal Government.

Evidence of prospective revenue is already at hand in Lansing. Representatives of one of the largest chain groceries notified state officials Thursday that their check is ready in payment for permits. The flood of applications from other directions has steadily accumulated. Within six weeks, officials were confident the deflated state treasury will be rehabilitated to the extent of at least \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

What Beer Bill Provides

(By the Associated Press)

Manufacture and sale of 3.2 beer and wine.

Control of sale by a Liquor Control Commission, comprised of 17 members, one from each congressional district, appointed by the Governor with Senate approval. Applicants for licenses outside Wayne County must obtain approval of the legislative body of their city, village or township. In Wayne County, the commission will have complete power in issuance, revocation or suspension of licenses.

A State tax of \$1.25 on every barrel of beer or wine manufactured or sold. Annual licenses fees of: Breweries, \$50 per 1,000 barrels; wholesalers, \$100; restaurants, \$150 in Wayne County, \$100 elsewhere; beer gardens, \$200; hotels, \$150 for 15 rooms, \$1 for each additional room to a maximum of \$750; clubs, \$50 to \$200; twenty-four-hour retailers licenses for clubs, fraternal societies, etc., \$2.

Forbids free lunch and a bar, but approves lunch counter sales. Not to be sold to anyone under 18. Prohibits drinking on public highways.

The city, village or township will receive 95 per cent of the retailers' fee. All other revenues go to the State.

Forbids licensing of more than 64 breweries in the State, and not more than 21 in Wayne County. Provides that every manufacturer, wholesaler or warehouse must supply a \$5,000 bond. Retailers must supply a \$1,000 bond.

Beer shipped into Michigan from other states must be warehoused and inspected before sold.

Principal agent of the liquor commission will be a fulltime managing director.

Penalties: Manufacturing, selling or retaining beer or wine without a license, first offense, fine of not more than \$1,000, imprisonment for not more than two years, or both; subsequent offense, a fine of not more than \$5,000, imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

Liquor Commissioner Here Will Advocate Nickel Beer



LEO J. WILKOWSKI

Brother of Senator Is Surprised Greatly at Appointment

Although the appointment to the Liquor Control Commission was a "great surprise" to Leo J. Wilkowski, Thursday evening, he recovered sufficiently to announce that he would advocate nickel beer "as long as it gives a fair margin of profit to the makers."

Seated in his home at 4801 Chene St., Wilkowski seemed happy over his appointment but professed to be at a loss to explain why Gov. Comstock had selected him to represent the First Congressional District.

"Of course," he said, "I've met Gov. Comstock. But it was an informal meeting some time ago. I had no idea he had me in mind for the Commission."

"I've read the beer bill," he continued, "but I'm unfamiliar with the requirements to be set up by the commission. I suppose when the commission finally is selected we'll have a meeting in Lansing."

"No doubt there will be hundreds of applications for permits to sell and handle beer and the close scrutiny we'll give each applicant perhaps will delay for a while the distribution of beer on a large scale."

Wilkowski was born in Detroit and his interest in politics, he said Thursday evening, was aroused when his brother, A. J. Wilkowski, unsuccessfully sought the Democratic seat in the State Senate two years ago. A. J. Wilkowski was elected State Senator last November.

The new Liquor Commissioner attended the Sweetest Heart of Mary Parochial School and was graduated from Northeastern High School in 1919. After a year at the University of Michigan he returned to Detroit in 1931 to enter the Wilkowski Hardware Co., which was founded by his father, the late Anton Wilkowski, in 1903. He is secretary and treasurer of the commission.



FRANK A. PICARD
(Liquor Commission Chairman)

Burglar, 26, Shot by Detroit Officer