

# Sale of Liquor to Be Delayed

## Bootleggers to Serve Christmas Trade

By Frank G. Morris

LANSING, Dec. 20—In spite of repeal, Michigan's thirsty will be compelled to turn to bootleggers, friendly physicians and the Ontario Government for their Christmas liquor.

After struggling four days to open State-owned dispensaries by Saturday morning, the Liquor Control Commission Wednesday discovered that the attempt would fail and announced that not until next week will whisky be available under the new system of Government control.

About 15,000 cases of blended American whisky will arrive in Detroit Thursday and Friday, but Frank A. Picard, chairman of the Commission, said that it will be impossible to equip stores, organize personnel, stamp each bottle and place the liquor on sale for Christmas shoppers. Four stores probably will be opened in Detroit Tuesday and 22 others will follow in other parts of the State prior to New Year's Eve, he said.

The failure to organize the control system within a week after the Legislature formally ended the prohibition era, leaves only three sources for those who would make the holiday period wet. Whisky can be obtained legally from drug stores, if the buyer has a prescription. The State law prohibits importation from Canada, but the Commission has agreed to overlook violations. The third, and probably the most popular source, will be bootleggers.

Besides Detroit, the cities chosen for warehouses that will be used temporarily for retail dispensaries are Monroe, Port Huron, Lansing, Jackson, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Flint, Saginaw, West Branch, Mt. Pleasant, Cadillac, Petoskey, Alpena, Newberry, Sault Ste. Marie, Escanaba, Marquette, Houghton, Ironwood and Iron River.

While the temporary system is in use, residents of other communities can order by mail from the nearest store.

Hundreds of applications from restaurants and hotels for "liquor by the drink" permits have been received.

At the suggestion of Picard, the members of the Commission are considering a proposal to limit "grog shops" in Detroit to one for each 1,500 population. The limitation set up in the law is one for every 750 population.

"The limitation in the law will be successful in most cities, but I do not think it will be wise in Detroit," Picard said. "If Detroit is allowed one license to sell whisky by the drink for every 750 of population, there would be 2,093 places. There were only about 1,200 saloons there before prohibition.

Action on the recommendation will be taken next week. At that time the Commission also will discuss a proposal, approved by Gov. Comstock, to ask the Detroit Council to recommend applicants for licenses. The Council's recommendations would not be absolute, but the plan would give Detroit authorities at least some jurisdiction.

# THE IRONWOOD TIMES

C. E. BENNETT, Publisher  
Times Bldg., Suffolk and Vaughn Sts.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
Per Year (In Advance) .....\$1.00  
Per Year (If Not In Advance) ..\$2.00

Entered at the postoffice at Ironwood, Mich., for transmission through the mails as second class mail matter.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1933

## IRONWOOD WILL HAVE LIQUOR FOR CHRISTMAS

EXPECT TEMPORARY STORE TO  
BE OPENED TOMORROW

Liquor Being Shipped Direct From  
Place of Purchase by State  
to U. P. Liquor Stores

From information received here this morning it appears extremely doubtful that the state will be able to have the liquor store opened at the time expected, delays in shipments from distilleries being given as the cause. However, assurance is given that the store will be in operation some time next week.

Ironwood is one of seven cities in the upper peninsula in which the state liquor control commission expects to have temporary quarters opened up by tomorrow night for the sale of hard liquor, and assurance has been sent out from Lansing that it will be sold at a price ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per quart for blended whiskies.

These temporary stores will be conducted for the present by inspector of the state liquor control commission or authorized deputies until such time as the permanent system is in effect, this plan being devised only to make available liquor for the holiday supply to those who may wish same. The price as guaranteed by the state liquor commission is about one-half that which is being charged across the creek by Hurley dealers, who even at their high prices, have been reaping a rich harvest from residents of Ironwood and places nearby in this state. Other places where stores will be established tomorrow are Marquette, Escanaba, Sault Ste. Marie, Newberry, Iron Mountain and Hancock.

The first purchase of whiskey stocks by the state this week will approximate \$1,000,000, and contracts for a like amount of wine and gin will be closed another week. The Times has been unable to ascertain the exact location of the store for Ironwood, but once opened, ventures the prediction that those seeking it will have little difficulty in gaining knowledge of its whereabouts.

# STATE STORES START INITIAL LIQUOR SALES

Lansing Must Wait as Five  
Cities Get Legal Spirits  
Before New Year's

## CEREMONIES CONDUCTED

Many citizens of Michigan Saturday celebrated the formal opening of state liquor stores.

Detroit, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Jackson, and Kalamazoo were the favored cities with liquor flowing freely from the state dispensaries.

Gov. William A. Comstock officiated at the opening of one of Detroit's four stores, Frank A. Picard, chairman of the liquor control commission, was present at the opening of the Saginaw store, Col. Dean Halford, a commission member, accepted congratulations from Kalamazoo citizens and Mrs. Thomas McAllister, a member of the former liquor commission, did the honors in Grand Rapids.

The supply of liquor was somewhat limited, however, due to difficulties encountered in importing the stock. About 15,000 cases of whisky, gin, wines, and vermouth were available. Only 25 cases of champagne out of the total 1,400 cases ordered, were distributed among the eight state stores. The commission announced that 66,250 cases of liquor and wines have been ordered, to date and it is expected that the additional amounts will be available by the first of next year.

### Glass Sales in Detroit Only

In Detroit 100 establishments, including hotels, clubs and restaurants, have been provided with temporary two-day licenses to sell drinks by the glass. These establishments have been given permission to buy their own liquor, paying the state a tax of 40 percent. A profit of about \$50,000 is anticipated.

Prices range about as follows: champagne, \$3.50 a quart; gin, \$1.55; whiskies, for blended mixtures, \$1.40 to \$3.95, and bonded, \$6.45.

It is expected that the liquor store in Lansing will be opened next week. The commission deemed it advisable to concentrate its efforts on stores located at strategic points to serve large and populous districts. Sale was limited in the stores to five gallons to one customer, an amount deemed sufficient, however, to satisfy most of the purchasers.

In Detroit more than 100 men were in line when the Warren avenue store opened and at the three other stores, clerks were busy as soon as the doors were opened.

### Woman Gets First Bottle

KALAMAZOO, Dec. 30 (P) — Mrs. Clyde W. Ketchum, head of the women's division of the Crusaders at Kalamazoo, was presented with the first bottle of whisky sold by the state liquor store here Saturday.

# Liquor Stores Jammed as Legal Sale Is Begun on Eve of New Year's

## Beverages Start Flowing at Hotels Cafes Launch 2-Day Period for Serving Holiday Drinks Officials First in Line at the Dispensaries

By William C. Richards

Michigan, surfeited for 15 years with indifferent liquor irregularly obtained, bought what it wanted over State counters Saturday in five of its large cities and said farewell to the era of speakeasies and concealment.

Four State dispensaries catered to thousands in Detroit from 9 a. m. until midnight, and a hundred hotels, restaurants and other establishments, specially licensed to supplement the package business done by the stores, began the sale of liquor by the glass at 6 p. m.

Liquor Commission officials said in the evening that the amount sold would not be known until Sunday at the earliest, and that its own telephone requests to branch managers for figures had brought the response that the staff was so busy waiting on customers there was no time for tabulation.

The crowds that jammed the liquor stores let prudence guide them in choosing from the unfamiliar brands. By 8 p. m. all pint sizes of Snug Harbor, the cheapest whisky offered, were sold out at 75 cents a bottle. A run on quart sizes at \$1.40 a bottle then developed, and the entire Snug Harbor stock was gone at 8:45.

### Imbibers Are Nonchalant

The average man returned to the liquor of his fathers with no particular hysteria. The pre-drinking hour panic of maitres d'hotel and waiters in hotels exceeded the enthusiasm of guests.

The imbibers went at their first legal drinking with the air of men and women who had regained their right to drink if they wanted to, were satisfied with their triumph, knew there was New Year's Eve ahead the next day and plenty of other drinking possibilities in the future.

Hotel guests, of course, sat down among the brilliantly gay and fresh plumings provided for the Sunday night celebration, and connoisseurs at the tables had a slightly better chance than in the Government stores of testing their palates.

While dispensary stocks were limited largely to gin and whisky, early contracts and purchases through New York importers had given hotel wine cellars a more distinguished and varied appearance than the State shelves.

Henry Pichler, manager of the Hotel Statler, saw to it that the first Martinis went to Gov. William A. Comstock and Norman M. Snider, his campaign manager. Bartender James Murphy pushed a portable cocktail bar around the place and everybody seemed to like the idea.

### Begin With Management

The first drinks in the Book-Cadillac went to Ralph Hitz, president of the company; J. M. Frawley, general manager of the hotel, and Mrs. Frawley. They took theirs in the new cocktail lounge off the Venetian dining room.

The same unexcitement prevailed in the reformed tearoom of the Fort Shelby, which has now gone cocktail lounge. Miss Evelyn Fallon had Dry Martini No. 1 and Jerry Moore, assistant manager, served it. Patrons at the Detroit-Leland Hotel and other large establishments greeted the advent of

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# Liquor Stores Are Jammed as Legalized Sale Is Begun

## Beverages Start Flowing at the Hotels and Restaurants for Holiday Period

Continued from Page One

liquor by the glass with equal equanimity.

The liquor by the glass establishments, which stopped sale at midnight, will resume selling from 12:01 to 2 a. m. Monday and after a shut-down of five hours will continue from 7 a. m. New Year's Day until 2 a. m. Tuesday.

Each State store started the day with 31,000 bottles, most gin and whisky. In the afternoon about 28,000 more bottles were divided equally among local stores. The last consignment consisted largely of wines manufactured in Michigan.

A special meeting of the Liquor Commission will be held Sunday to determine whether the stores will be kept open to meet the demands of consumers. William J. Nagel, managing director, announced Saturday night after reconsidering an earlier notification of managers of all liquor stores in the State as well as Detroit that the stores would remain closed until 8 a. m. Wednesday.

The stores will be open Tuesday instead, he said.

In the interval the stores are to balance stocks and cash and call upon the Central Warehouse for the supplies necessary to replenish their stocks.

Absence from the shelves of brandies, cordials, rum, wines and such beverages was attributed to the fact that the Commission, only recently empowered to act, did not begin buying until a little more than two weeks ago. Then it found stiff competition from other states.

As it knew, too, Continental vineyards cannot be moved across the Atlantic in a day.

In Detroit the swan song of prohibition was sung in felicitous duet by Gov. Comstock and Mayor John W. Smith. They were the purchasers of the first two bottles of liquor released here. Each bought a pint of well-aged whisky at the State dispensary at E. Jefferson Ave. and Bates St., at 9 a. m.

"I'm going to use my pint at a New Year's Eve party—and I think the party is going to be pretty good," the Governor said in making his purchase.

### After 15 Years

Newspapermen asked Mayor Smith if he thought he could recover a taste for liquor after 15 years of prohibition.

"I took a thimbleful last night to see what it was like and so this flask today wouldn't be too much of a shock," he said.

"Did you get it down without any trouble?" reporters inquired.

"Well, tears came to my eyes at first, but I managed it. Some friends of mine say it isn't at all bad when you get used to it."

Cynical persons suspected a bit of chicanery in the transaction by which the Governor and the Mayor drew the stopper which ended the long draught.

An enormous bustle prevailed when the pair arrived to do their buying. They scanned the list and the Governor asked the Mayor if he could recommend a brand.

### Pick Expensive Brand

The Mayor said to the Governor that he thought such-and-such was pretty good. It was the most expensive in stock. Each applied for a pint.

Five minutes later, a clerk drew lines through that brand on the lists of available liquor and marked "Out" after it. The officials paid \$3.25 a pint for their purchases.

To avoid any clash in rights of precedence, Russell McKenzie, manager of the branch, directed the Governor to one cashier's window and the Mayor to another, so that technically each was No. 1. The

Mayor, however, had a slight shade in adapting himself to the new system.

"I'm sorry, Governor, but you have filled this out wrong," Charles Dunn, cashier, corrected him, putting a finger on what was wrong.

"I knew I'd bungle it. Give me another chance." The Chief Executive took the slip back, walked over to a desk, made out a fresh one.

Gov. Comstock said that "naturally we hope we have this Control Act nearly right."

"But how's anybody to tell until it's tried out?" he asked.

### Predicts \$11,000,000 Profit

He estimated a net profit of about \$11,000,000 the first year. The money is earmarked for schools.

"Already, unconverted drys are saying, 'Don't drink your boy through school,'" he recalled.

He characterized the challenge as the silliest and most asinine remark he had ever heard. He said he was particularly glad that State administration of liquor would provide a lot of men with work.

Among those behind the screens at the E. Jefferson dispensary are an ex-undertaker, a lawyer, a dentist and a man worth better than \$400,000 four years ago, according to the management.

When the Nation went dry, Comstock voted for it, he admitted Saturday, but in 1922 when he was managing the campaign of the late Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris, the Governor followed Ferris one night on the speakers' platform after Ferris had sung a psalm to prohibition and told the audience that he couldn't agree with Ferris' faith in the Volstead Act.

### Smith a Prohibition Foe

Smith never voted for prohibition in his life. A number of years ago, when Mayor, he appeared at a church meeting, was asked if he drank and what his stand was on prohibition.

He said yes, he drank; that he would continue to do so, that he never believed in the Volstead Act as a boon to temperance, never would believe in it, and added that it could not be enforced. No one was in doubt where he stood when he walked out of Central Methodist Church, where the meeting was held.

The E. Jefferson store worked with dispatch after the sales to the Governor and the Mayor. Pearl Stuckis, 1160 Dickerson Ave., the only woman in the early line, walked out with a quart of Scotch, posed pleasantly for photographers, wished them a Happy New Year.

Managing Director Nagel, of the Liquor Control Commission; George F. Carroll, heading the Detroit office, and a group of State senators and representatives assisted Gov. Comstock and Mayor Smith in the first-purchase formalities and also walked out with bulging overcoat pockets.

### Congressman's Bottle

Similar ceremonials marked the opening of other branches. The first bottle at the State dispensary at 1599 E. Warren Ave. went to Congressman John Dingell, while a crowd of 400 looked on. By noon this jam had doubled. Mark Cooper, manager, estimated sales the first three and one-half hours at between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Because of the cold, early arrivals were allowed inside the doors until the official hour arrived for opening transactions.

V. F. Gormely, of Newberry, vice chairman of the Control Commission, officially opened the Harbor Terminal Building store, W. Jefferson and Clark Aves., and made the first sale to Louis Chapoton, 6846 Rutland Ave., a factory employee, who stopped in with his lunch pail. A line of 150 persons when the doors opened more than trebled before noon. The dispensary is in charge of James Carey.

Around 6,000 buyers had made purchases at the retail store of the central warehouse, W. Fort and Tenth Sts., up to 3 o'clock, and potential customers were still surging in. L. D. Stanton, manager, said that several items in stock already had been exhausted. The first bottle went to State Rep. William M. Donnelly.

Police officials conferred Saturday with Commissioner John P. Smith on the procedure to be followed by the department in the matter of drinking over the New Year's holiday.

### Windsor Liquor Stores Also Report Brisk Trade Saturday

The Ontario Liquor Commission at Windsor Saturday reported its biggest business since the opening of the Government stores in 1927 and estimated that half of the purchases were going to Detroit.

Americans, Ontario officials said, were buying heavily of champagne and the better liquors, apparently because of the dearth of champagne in the Michigan liquor stores.

Col. Heinrich A. Pickert, collector of customs here, reported a steady flow of liquor from Canada and noted a rush among individuals evidently laying in supplies for New Year's. Two carloads of whisky were cleared by the customs for shipment out of Detroit, he said.

"Individuals are buying their liquor under the \$100 import limit," he explained, "and in quantities of one bottle to four cases."

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Stock of  
Suitings  
and  
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Sharply  
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