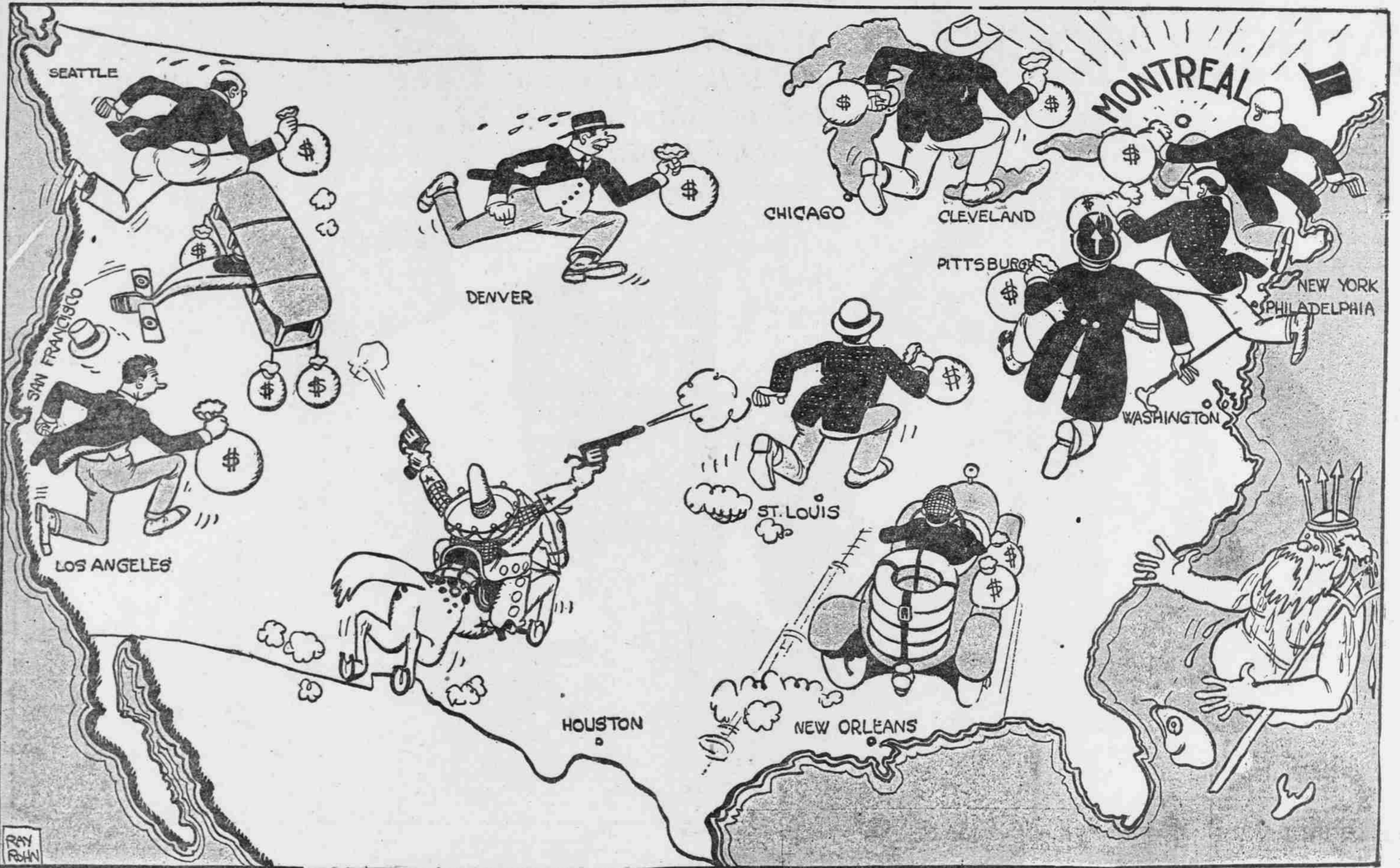


THE THIRSTY MEET IN MONTREAL, CAPITAL OF BOOZE

The One Wet Spot Between the Arctic Circle and the Mexican Border Where the Law Is Liberally Interpreted; but Watch Out! The Spotter's on the Job—By W. N. Burkhardt



MONTREAL IS THE ONLY OASIS IN THE PROHIBITION DESERT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AND THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS HAVE BEEN OVERTAXED SINCE JULY THE FIRST.

MONTREAL in the province of Quebec, Canada, is now the boom city of the continent. Its hotels hang out S. R. O. signs every night in the week; rooming houses are turning away prospective lodgers; cafes and restaurants never were so busy; incoming trains carrying extra coaches are filled to capacity. Montreal, he it known, is now the Boozing Capital. It's the one wet spot between the Arctic Circle and the Mexican border in the prohibition desert of the United States and Canada.

Thousands of thirsty pilgrims from American and Canadian cities within a radius of 1000 miles journey to it, some every week; it is the hiding place of the golden fleece for hundreds of dry-throated Jasons who were caught short when July 1 overtook them, or who have dissipated their hoards since.

More than a year ago, when all the rest of Canada went dry, Montreal began to appear attractive to Canadians. Since July 1, when America crossed the divide, it has become the most popular resort in the hemisphere.

From Philadelphia and Pittsburgh; from Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit and Chicago; from Ottawa and Toronto; from Boston, New York, Albany and Buffalo, go disciples of Bacchus to add to the worries of the hotel clerks and increase the congestion in the guzzle parlors.

While men predominate, the crowds

from the United States are not by any means recruited entirely from the male population. Mixed parties, without number, especially at the week-ends, flock to the only city in two countries where liquid exhilaration still can be purchased and consumed openly in restaurants and cabarets.

On paper, Montreal is near-dry. By the vote of its citizens last spring, under the provincial local option law, it became a beer and wine license city on May 1. But when the mayor and the council, almost to a man, are "liberals," under the provincial legislation is only slightly dry, what's a law more or less? Maderic Martin, mayor of the Canadian metropolis so long that Montreal has forgotten it ever had any other chief magistrate, expresses the official view: "If the people want bone-dry prohibition they can have it; they had a chance and they didn't vote for it. This is what the people want."

The only changes noticed by the bar-room habitués when the old liquor license was taken from its frame and the newly-printed beer-and-wine permit, that looks like a high school diploma, was put in its place, were that the hard stuff had been removed from the shelves; that the eye-opener was poured into a glass under the bar instead of with a flourish on top of the mahogany; and that one had to pay 35 cents for it instead of the usual 15.

Every barroom, every cabaret, every

cafe that was in operation before May 1 is still in business and getting more trade in a day than it used to get in two days of a week. And, in addition, there are 14 more places where intoxicants can be bought than there were ever before. These are the legal vendors, appointed and authorized by the provincial government to dispense "for medicinal purposes" everything from creme de menthe to rum.

Theoretically, that is, legally, the 14 government agents are the only vendors who may sell anything stronger than beer or wine and then only to persons who present prescriptions signed by duly licensed physicians. But there are hundreds of Americans who could testify that if liquor is sold only by government vendors the number of them is nearer 1400 than 14.

In reality Montreal is "wide open." Anyone who has the price can buy any kind of liquor in any reasonable quantity in any barroom, hotel or "wet" restaurant. He or she can consume it on the spot, have it delivered anywhere inside the city limits or have it wrapped and carry it away.

No winking or winking, no slipping around to back doors, no covering up of any kind is necessary. In some places regular patrons use a kind of password, such as "number one" for straight whisky or "number two" for a Scotch highball; but none who is ignorant of the cablistic signs is allowed to depart unslaked provided he has the price.

If a man wants a drink at a bar all he has to do to get it is to walk up to the mahogany, wait until he can capture the attention of the busy white-aproned person behind it, then ask for it quickly before another customer has time to put in his order. In most of the bar-rooms the hard stuff is kept out of sight, but within easy reach of the tenders; in some of them, particularly the hotels, all the varieties of strong drink that man has imprisoned in attractive bottles are lined upon the shelves to be seen by any one who has eyes to see.

If a bon vivant strolls into a government vendor's place, by mistake or otherwise, he has no more difficulty in getting a bottle or a case of his favorite brand than he would have in a bar.

"I want three bottles of Scotch, two of gin and one of Jamaica rum," he may say to the gentlemanly clerk behind the counter.

"Where is your prescription?" the clerk will ask.

"Here, doc, sign this," the clerk sings out.

A seedy individual shuffles in from the rear room, scrawls something that looks like a name on the "prescription" the clerk has scribbled, then shuffles back again, while the nimble clerk assembles the order, wraps it and exchanges it for a small wad of bills.

Some of the vendors do not have a

"doc." The clerks sign the prescription themselves or they remain unsigned.

Since Montreal became so popular as a summer resort for Americans the vendors have been doing a land-office business. The one-sighted ones have locations near the hotels and railway stations and employ clerks, who are adept at wrapping packages so it looks as though it contains a brick or anything except a bottle.

"How'm I going to get this stuff across the line?" about three out of every five customers ask after they have made their purchase.

They are told that the best way to smuggle a few bottles past the American customs officials at the border is to choose a train that crosses the boundary during the night and to conceal them in a berth, under the mattress.

"Does it work?" a vendor in a Bieury street shop was asked by one timid smuggler, who was far from sure of himself.

"It sure does. There's a guy from Philadelphia who comes over every two weeks and takes back three dozen bottles every time. He must have a lot of friends. Anyway, he gets away with it, and that's the way he does it."

Within the last two weeks special agents of the United States customs department have appeared in Montreal, for the purpose of spotting Americans who purchase package goods in the vendors' places and trailing them to the trains. When several heavily-

laden pilgrims, homeward bound, board one train the "spotter" sometimes gets on with them and accompanies them to the border to point them out to uniformed customs inspectors. The usual method, however, is for the spotter to telegraph descriptions of the carriers to the inspectors.

This will explain to one Philadelphia sportsman, who tried a few days ago to smuggle home a dozen bottles of Scotch for a stag party, and to several other Philadelphians the extraordinary persistence of the inspectors who examined their baggage and confiscated their precious freight.

Since this "spotter" system was instituted the number of liquor confiscations at the border has increased tenfold, it is reported, and the amount smuggled into the United States has decreased proportionally.

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and bunking some patrons on billiard tables and that a large proportion of their guests are Americans; whereas, in normal times their registers show about equal numbers of Canadians and Americans. The largest hotels, the Windsor, the Ritz-Carlton and the Place Vagier, are turning away applicants for rooms every day. Reservations for week-end accommodations must be made from one to three weeks in advance.

"Most of our guests," says Herbert Quick, manager of the Ritz-Carlton, "come from New York. It is only a night's ride, you know. Almost every incoming train, I understand, is carrying extra coaches, the traffic is so heavy."

One notable feature of the Montreal situation, to which the anti-prohibitionist points with pride, is the fact that there appears to be no bootleggers in the city. To a person who has traveled in Canada or the United States since the dry wave hit the countries, bootleggers in Montreal are conspicuous by their absence.

Another feature is that the boom has attracted to Montreal hundreds of liquor dealers from all parts of the country. As an example, it is known that seventeen men who were in the business in Winnipeg before that city went dry have "trekked" to Montreal and established wholesale or retail dispensaries or have become associated with established Montreal dealers.

ORCHESTRA CONDUCTORS FACE NOVELTY STORAGE

Great Chance Seen for American Composer, Despite Unlikelihood of Getting Together Because of Almost Prohibitive Rights Prices.

EMILIE FRANCES BAUER.

NEW YORK, Sept. 6.—(Special.)—Orchestra springing up in all parts of the country are evidence enough of the manner in which music is expanding. It is significant to note that they are all of the very first-class and their aims are of the highest. It will not be easy sailing by any means as there are many things to be considered, not the least pressing of which is repertory.

Conductors are spending their entire summer planning for the programme. All are agreed upon the fact that there never was so great a shortage in the way of novelties. Walter Rothwell who has just accepted the post of conductor of an orchestra of 90 men in Los Angeles broke into his vacation to organize the orchestra and to obtain a library.

Carl Denton, for whom the Portland, Or., Symphony orchestra has been formed, is also in the field for repertory. In this regard he said:

"The American composer should have his great chance now if ever, because it is almost impossible to obtain novelties of any kind, but there is little of the eastern libraries complain that when they send their scores away either to be agreeable or even to rent them, they come back with pages and parts missing. This dampens their desire to extend the courtesies.

There seems to be a consensus of

Origin of Common Customs Brought Down to Date.

A Few Modern Instances Not Yet Cited in Encyclopedias.

THE common custom of shaking hands, according to an encyclopedia in which we have every confidence, was introduced by the Phoenicians, who signified their agreement to a bargain by clasping hands.

The common custom of offering one's left arm to a lady originated in days when one was required to keep one's right hand on the hilt of a sword.

Which reminds us—

The common custom of treating originally in the days when a drink of whisky cost a dime, and continued more or less generally until about a month ago.

The common custom of making a bet was initiated by a man who went on the rocks in the stone age, and it has been practiced ever since.

The common custom of winking originated when the serpent first began to chat with Eve while Adam was doing the chores, and it still enjoys a considerable vogue at beaches and on excursion boats.

The common custom of swearing was invented when the first hammer hit the first thumb, and it has been undergoing constant improvement ever since.

The common custom of swearing off began the first of January of some year, but it was never really enforced until the first of July of this year.

How Rats Carry Eggs Still Unsolved Mystery.

HOW do rats carry eggs? Some time ago the query was put to the most famous of all American naturalists, John Burroughs, according to the Scientific American. He admitted that he didn't know. He had heard an explanation, current among farmers, but

RESTORATION IS REFUSED

Cancellations of Concessions by Mexican Government Will Stand.

MEXICO CITY.—Under no circumstances will the government reconsider cancellation of the concessions granted to the powerful British corporation known as the California Land company and other similar concerns whose rights have been attributed to Pastor Rouvier, secretary of agriculture, and development declared void, according to declarations by Excoislor.

The newspaper states that the secretary's declarations were made in a press interview following a visit to the department by Colonel E. J. McLean, an Englishman, representing the owners of some of the properties involved.

FASHION URGES CAUTION IN SELECTING SLIPPER BUCKLES

Not Every Woman, It Is Said, Can Wear These Ornaments Successfully. Size and Shape of Foot Declared Important Matter.

CHOSE your slipper buckles carefully. Fashion advises these sparkling buckles this summer, but not every woman can wear slipper buckles successfully. If a foot is large the buckles are apt to make it look larger, and if an apt is low, the slant or angle of the buckle emphasizes its flatness. Fashion says the bigger the buckle the smarter the effect; and this is true when the wearer has a tiny foot with a well arched instep. Oddly enough, a woman with a number three foot can wear bigger slipper buckles than the woman possessed of a number five or six pedal extremity. If you have a long, slender foot with a rather flat instep, choose rather small slipper buckles and do not have them too sparkling. If your foot is broad as well as long, do not wear buckles at all—a section of slipper showing at either side of a buckle cruce draws attention to your width C or D.

Take excellent care of cut steel slipper buckles, for once dulled or dented the buckle the smarter the effect; and this is true when the wearer has a tiny foot with a well arched instep. Oddly enough, a woman with a number three foot can wear bigger slipper buckles than the woman possessed of a number five or six pedal extremity. If you have a long, slender foot with a rather flat instep, choose rather small slipper buckles and do not have them too sparkling. If your foot is broad as well as long, do not wear buckles at all—a section of slipper showing at either side of a buckle cruce draws attention to your width C or D.

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DOYLE'S DEDUCTION.

A woman who had read 'Sherlock Holmes' applied to Conan Doyle for help in a matter that puzzled her.

"My detective powers are quite at your service, madam," said the author good naturedly. "What is the trouble?"

"Frequent and mysterious thefts have been occurring on our premises for a long time. There disappeared last week a motor horn, a box of golf balls, a left riding boot, a dictionary and a hat a dozen in plates."

"The case is perfectly clear," said Sir Arthur. "You keep a goat."

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