

**Comment--and
Discomment**

Alliance is not the only city in the country where bootleggers abound, if all these daily newspapers tell the truth—about bootlegging. Now and then one of them may fake a little stuff on gamblers, or circulation—but the bootlegger is a common enemy. We doubt if there are many reporters low enough to accept so much as a single free drink from a peddler of illicit rum, and we don't know of any whose salary would permit him to pay the prices they are asking now—but there are reporters and reporters, just as there are different varieties of other folks.

The last wave of crime seems to be concerned with booze. Those who believe that the whole pesky business would be done away with with the coming of national prohibition seem to have met up with cruel disappointment. A couple of weeks ago, there were a series of robberies of private stocks laid away against a lifetime drouth, and precious wines and more precious whisky were stolen sufficient to total a staggering sum. One Omaha man estimated his lost whisky worth several thousand dollars. Probably he was too enthusiastic—but it may have been worth that to him.

The latest and most popular crime against the peace and dignity of the boozehounds seems to be the operation of private stills. Chicago newspapers, a day or so ago, came out with a story describing how government revenue men had picked up nearly two hundred private stills in

raids in that city, and these same stills had no less than 175 gallons of whiskey still in them. It wouldn't be safe to leave the average Chicago cop in the company of illicit whisky or any other kind, but maybe federal officers are made of sterner stuff.

From 'way down in Dallas, Texas, comes the news of some sacrilegious janitor who erected one of these stills in the very basement of a large church, and had built up a most profitable business before the officers located him. Reminds us of the happy days when we were police reporting and Night Captain John Dee, Patrol Driver Art Shrupp and yours truly ran across another instance of villainous skulduggery right within the portals of a Lincoln church—but that's another story.

In time, of course, these private stills will get their comeuppance, just as the booze runners are getting theirs, one by one. The government has made it illegal, for instance, to sell recipes for making wines and other tempting liquors within the sacred confines of one's home at a fraction of what those vicious bootleggers would charge for them. A number of newspapers have been carrying the advertisement of an eastern publishing house, which gives all this information for the small sum of one dollar.

The Herald, by the way, had an opportunity to run this same advertisement, but we resisted the temptation, even though the money we received from it might have enabled us to struggle on an hour or two after the time limit set for us by our generous competitor. It was one of those name-your-own-price ads, which mails electrotype and check to cover cost in advance. It described a book which gave full directions for making wine and beer at home, and the reading matter was cunningly worded so as to make the mouth of any reformed sinner fairly water. To quote from the advertisement:

"A neatly compiled book of simple formula for the making of the best French, American, German, English and Italian Wines, Beers and Whiskies. Strictly reliable information. Price \$1 postpaid. Order Quick."

We threw the letter into the wastebasket, along with a lot of stuff that ten or fifteen government bureaus wanted printed and had labeled: "Rush news—don't delay." Along about a week or two later we received another letter from the publishers, urging us to hasten to tell what money was needed for us to run that advertisement, and assuring us that they were wild to write a check payable to us. This time we replied, and that is what we told 'em. We addressed the publisher in a friendly way, using his first name in order to put him at his ease:

"My Dear Ezra: We have your second communication relative to publishing in The Herald a two-inch, double column advertisement which same is for the purpose of urging our subscribers to purchase Howard Williams' interesting book, 'Home-made Wine and Beer'.

"Our rate for this particular advertisement will be about \$17.63 per inch, in advance. Did not the laws of the country frown upon such procedure, we might be induced to take the amount out in trade in some of that Italian wine made according to one of those neatly compiled formulas. We have an aunt, my dear Ezra, who suffers from sciatica—or is it arterio-sclerosis? No matter; she suffers.

"If you know of any good recipe to make Scotch whisky at a cost of not to exceed 13 cents per gallon, let us in on it.

"Believe us, my dear Ezra, thirstily yours."

And, do you know, to this day we haven't received a single word from Ezra in reply to that friendly letter. We can't understand it. It may be that the authorities beat our letter to his joint, or it may be that he didn't like our style. Possibly he may have thought the rate too high—but we'll gamble that he'd have made money, even at that rate. Despite his cold silence, we harbor no ill feelings toward him.

And, while we refused the advertisement, we still owe a duty to Herald readers, some of whom may even now be suffering due to a lack of the information that Ezra's little book contains. If you have an ingrown thirst—one of those thirsts that lemon extract cannot satisfy—sneak into our sanctum any day but Sunday and we'll be as liberal as a certain Alliance man was with coal—only we'll keep dark about our generous impulses. Our right hand is deaf, anyhow. It's possible that it is already too late—we don't know how soon that new ruling about such literature goes into effect—but if you feel strong enough to suffer possible disappointment, our information will be as free as the air you breathe or the water you drink.

—We have a distinctive line of Christmas cards and gift books, which we will be glad to show you. A good assortment still on hand. Mann Music & Art Co. 5

—For Sale—Two six room houses on Sweetwater. Modern except heat. Price and terms right. See Nebraska Land Company.



Warm Friends

There's no chance for chance chills at baby's bath-time or any other time with a Perfection Oil Heater around.

Gives the extra heat you want—where you want it—in a jiffy. Warms ten hours on a gallon of kerosene oil—portable heat for every room. Saves coal too. 4,000,000 in use.

Your Perfection is ready now.

PERFECTION Oil Heaters

We were entirely out of these Oil Heaters, but received another shipment, so can supply your wants.

George D. Darling

115-117 West 3rd Street

Alliance, Nebr.

**Rhein Hardware Co.
Offers as Gifts**

For Mother or Wife

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Beautiful Ranges | Electric Irons |
| Electric and Power Washers | Carving Sets |
| Pyrex Baking Dishes | Percolators |
| | Thermos Bottles |
| | Flashlights |

For Father or Husband

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Army Saddle | Saddles |
| Blankets | Flashlights |
| Guns | Pocket Knives |
| Electric Razors | Thermos Bottles |

For Boys and Girls

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| Sleds | Skates |
| Tricycle | B. B. Guns |
| Ball Bearing | Rifles |
| Coaster Wagons | Flashlights |
| Knives | Horscycles |
| | Kiddie Cars |

Quality Goods Always Shown



**Our Best
Salesmen**

Are our Satisfied Customers. Ask people who have their work done here—particular persons, too—and let them tell you why we do their work. And then—try our excellent Dry Cleaning and Pressing service.

Have your Suit or Overcoat Cleaned for Xmas

Keep-U-Neat



---for your
Christmas Dinner

Fowls of every kind for your Christmas Dinner are here in abundance. We suggest that you place your order early and so secure a better choice. Even though we try to have an ample supply to meet the demand, those who wait may be disappointed. Present prices, too, are an added advantage as prices Christmas week are almost certain to be higher than now.

At all times we invite you to compare our prices on

Meats and Groceries

Whatever you may need for your Christmas Dinner in the line of Groceries, you will find here articles of superior quality. We emphasize the importance of sanitation in handling all our merchandise. We stock only the best goods that can be purchased.

Christmas Trees

Give the Children the joy of an early Christmas morning surprise. Picture their surprise and delight when they first catch sight of the glistening, sparkling tree. Their presents are increased in enjoyment a hundred-fold. We have a good supply of Trees in desirable sizes, together with the decorations.

Duncan & Son

Phone 32

City Meat Market

Groceries