

Christmas 1923

The President, Directors and Officers extend to the Customers and Friends of the Bank their Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

The Royal Bank of Canada

SMUGGLING.

HOW THEY GOT THEIR KEGS FILLED—A COOPER'S BIT UTILIZED WHICH DID THE TRICK.

(H. F. SHORTIS).

SIXTY-FOUR years ago it was an easy matter for experts in the smuggling trade to make a good haul, and nothing ever being heard of it. Of course in those days the bold smuggler could depend on his assistants, as no indictment or bribe would be sufficient to become an informer. The very name of informer was held in execration by the people generally, and through some miserable wretch who, through some sneaking act, earned that infamous title. It was handed down from generation to generation, and incredible as it may seem, a man would sooner suffer a long imprisonment than to give away the secrets of his friends or associates. It will be easily recognized that we had not all those modern improvements in Customs affairs that we have to-day for the prevention of smuggling; and I have known one occasion during my life, when a captain of a vessel got clear with thirty casks of brandy, and his chief assistant was the pilot, whose residence was situated round the point, and hidden from the eyes of the officials. But this could not be done in these days, when we have our splendid Customs' Boat, manned by that energetic and popular official Mr. Watts and his merry men, who are well versed in all the tricks which the bold smuggler puts into operation to outwit the Customs and defraud the revenue.

While little attention was paid to the smugglers in those days I am writing about, it often happened that many of them who were not past masters in the business—were overhauled, fined and their goods confiscated; but, in most cases, these were reckless individuals who courted detection, or it may be, were grasping and penurious to divide the spoils in the right quarter. But with the general public they were quite safe—they would never be dubbed informers. Notwithstanding that liquor, sixty years ago, were almost as cheap as water, the peace of the entire city of St. John's and suburbs was looked after and preserved by the presence of three or four old policemen, I say old, advisedly, because they were usually soldiers, from some of the regiments which were stationed here at various periods, and were pensioned off from the army having served the term of twenty-one years, more or less. I could name a dozen of them. If we look up the reports we find that very little crime was perpetrated in those days. Of course, there was always a challenge fight, but that was all in the day's work, and after the fight was over, the contestants retired arm in arm to some public hotel, to wash down their little dispute in a few glasses of three-penny and it was the real thing itself—moonshine or dope being unheard of. As the liquor went up in price, so it was necessary to increase the number of our police force—and the beaver hats and long coats, with silver buttons of the pensioned veterans became quite obsolete, except for funeral purposes, and the protectors of law and order were provided with a semi-military regimental uniform as we see them to-day. The excitement was not satisfied until they attained for, and carried a law that was placed on the Statute that no liquor was to be imported into Newfoundland, and to carry out the law, the police force had to be increased, and an indictment was held out to those so constituted, as to become informers—for a consideration; that is, one-third of the fine. With such an inducement men were to be found to watch the movements of their fellow-men, and, for some years, litigation was in full swing, and fines, imprisonment, and some jail sentences was the order of the day. But the enthusiasts, who did not believe in moderation, in all things, while they adopted every means to prevent the importation of rum (by the way we never hear anything about whiskey, gin, champagne, wine, etc.) they overlooked the fact that molasses was imported into this country in large quantities, that spruce buds, juniper, rose, and other fruits from which alcohol can be

manufactured, were procurable all over the country, and that any man, with a little instruction as to the how, can manufacture all the home-brew he requires, either for himself or his friends and associates. One laughable aspect of affairs I have noticed since Prohibition was carried by a minority vote, is that many people I have known to be strict teetotalers in former years are now as anxious to patronize the Controller for a bottle of the best as the regular visitor, and are never happy till they get it, while on the other hand, those who for years always spiced the main-course or wet the other eye, look a drop immediately after meals—and a night-cap before turning in—have eschewed the practice altogether, because they considered the price exorbitant, and left it to those who cannot do without it, so long as no person sees them take it, even for a tonic or to bathe their poor feet.

THE BITER BIT.

I shall now tell the story as to how a little slice was clipped off the revenue by a bold smuggler about sixty-three or sixty-four years ago, and how, to use an old and familiar expression, "the biter was bit." About the year 1858 or 1859 there was a well-known brigantine plying between Boston and St. John's, making a trip every three weeks or a month. She was called the Bloomer, but was better known as the Boston packet. She had a large B painted in her top-sail—was built of American oak—a splendid model, and was considered one of the smartest vessels that ever visited St. John's; in fact, she was a regular clipper. She was employed in supplying the trade of Newfoundland with what is familiarly known as "Yankee Notions" that is, brooms, buckets, leather, etc. It was the custom for the Bloomer to discharge her cargo at the premises of the merchant for whom she had the greatest quantity of freight, but generally, she discharged at the wharf of T. N. Molloy, who was the American Consul in Newfoundland, and whose wharf was situated where that of George Neal & Co. stands to-day in the East End of St. John's.

In the month of July, 1858 or 1859, the Bloomer arrived in St. John's on a Sunday about noon, and anchored off Alsop's premises on the South Side, now occupied by our enterprising friend, Mr. Walter Munroe. About three or four o'clock that afternoon, two or three boats from the shore commenced operations by "cartel" some goods ashore, which they landed in Rattus' fishing stage, where the dock wharf now stands—the stage running up to Water Street, immediately opposite Peter O'Mara's Drug Store. The boats were loaded with brandy, whiskey, rum, soap, brooms, buckets, leather, etc. Everything was quiet in the neighborhood, it being on the Sabbath. As was usual, the fishermen and shoremen of the West End, went down to Rattus' stage to see that their boats, gear, etc., were all right, and discovered the cache in which the smuggled goods were placed. There was a muster of the class, and after a consultation, they quietly took stock of the liquid portion of their find, consisting of rum, whiskey and brandy, and paying little attention to the hardware, which they left untouched. The services of the shoreman-cooper were utilized, and with his bit, he bored a hole in the cask of rum (which was the fishermen's favorite beverage in those days), and filled all the boats' kettles and water kegs with the rosey. They then placed their respective boats, and after inviting their chosen friends and companions to a convivial gathering, it is needless to say they spent a glorious night. About 2 o'clock the next morning the skippers went to call their crews and found them uproariously muddled—and in stentorian voices singing that well-known and popular ballad of the day, "The Loss of the Petty Harbor Bait Skiff." The following three verses will give an idea of the song they used to sing sixty years ago:

Being in the evening late;
Bound unto Conception Bay,
All for a load of bait—
The sea-gulls flying in the air,
And pitching on the shore,
But little we thought 'twould be our
To see our friends no more.

John French was our commander,
Mick Sullivan second-hand also;
And all the rest were brave young men
Reared up in Newfoundland,
Six brave young youths, to tell the truth
Were buried in the sea,
But the Lord preserved young Men-
chie's life
For to have a longer day.

There are twelve verses in the song, and of course the space at my disposal prevents me from publishing all of them. But one verse is indeed a very good poetic effusion:

We shook our reefs and trimmed our sails,
Across the bay did stand;
The sun did rise, all circled,
Like streamers o'er the land,
The clouds lay in the atmosphere
For our destruction met;
Boress blew a heavy squall—
Our boat was over-set.

John Grace, a well-known sailor of Brennan's Lane in the West End of St. John's, was the author of the ballad, and it is really remarkable what genius was displayed by many of our old sea-faring men in those days. He composed many other songs which were very popular for years, but to-day very few of them are remembered. The songs were great favorites with the crews of the vessels in our mercantile marine, and also at the seashore and social gatherings. The man who could sing the best song was the hero of the hour, and received special attention when the beverage was handed round.

But that was by no means the end of the affair. They went out on the fishing ground the next morning, and fished away until the skipper gave orders to cook breakfast. It was found that the tea kettle was in the after cuddy, and the skipper of the principal boat went to fill it with water to prepare tea for the early meal. To his surprise and consternation, he found the kettle full of first-shot rum, and addressing his crew, asked them how the rum got there? They replied that it was given them by some friends.

A conference was necessary to decide what they would do with the rum, as it would be an act of extravagance to throw it away. The skipper decided that they would have to drink cold water, sweetened with molasses, as they could not make tea without the kettle, and carted away to the water-keg to get his first pint of water, when he found that the keg was also full of rum. He demanded an explanation there and then, and the crew made a clean breast of everything, and the skipper, being of a jovial, good-natured disposition, making a virtue of necessity, allowed the matter to drop, and went along-side another boat on the grounds and exchanged a bottle of high-proof rum for a kettle of water. The men who smuggled the goods were up early the next morning, and carted away their goods that paid no duty, minus the quantity that was transferred to the fishing boats, and disposed of by the crews and their friends, to wash down the hard-tack which was always used in those days, as well as to give their friends one of the greatest and cheapest blow-outs they ever had, at the expense of the smuggling crew. But to their credit be it said, although we had newspapers in those days, not a word of the transaction ever appeared in their columns. The men of those days knew how to keep a secret. They kept the secret—as well as the rum. It is true that in those early days some people often became intoxicated, but since Prohibition in various parts of the world many are poisoned, it may be slowly or quickly, by substituting wood-alcohol, and other vile mixtures, in lieu of the real thing. "Of two such evils choose the less," is an old and familiar maxim, and still holds good; and we know from experience that a people, or an individual cannot be made either moral or sober by Act of Parliament.

Not Yet Dry

Brooklyn Eagle: Reports have indicated that the Canadians are not even lukewarm to the American prohibition. It has been broadly hinted that the United States has never showed a disposition to help enforce Canadian laws. The case of the always potentially irritating fisheries question is mentioned, a question in which the United States has stoutly maintained the claims of the Gloucester men. Of course the United States has never recognized that there is such a thing as nationality among deep sea fish. On the other hand, Canada has not gone absolutely dry. In fact, recently she has added another province, to her array of very damp provinces, something that is bound to influence any action Parliament may be asked to take.

(For the Baby) — Brooches, Bracelets, Baby Rings, Silver Spoons, Food Pushers, Silver Cups, at LANGMEAD'S.

WINARD'S LINIMENT FOR DISTEMPER.

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DOLLS!

Dressed.

Reg. 25c. each. Sale Price . . . 20c.
Reg. 25c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 30c. each. Sale Price . . . 72c.
Reg. \$1.10 each. Sale Price . . . 88c.
Reg. \$1.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 1.50
Reg. \$1.65 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 1.32
Reg. \$3.30 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 2.45
Reg. \$5.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 4.00
Reg. \$8.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 6.50
Reg. \$10.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 8.00
Reg. \$12.75 each. Sale Price . . . \$10.50

Undressed.

Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. 90c. each. Sale Price . . . 72c.
Reg. \$1.20 each. Sale Price . . . 96c.
Reg. \$1.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 1.20
Reg. \$1.90 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 1.52
Reg. \$3.30 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 2.45
Reg. \$5.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 4.00
Reg. \$8.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 6.50
Reg. \$10.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$ 8.00
Reg. \$12.75 each. Sale Price . . . \$10.50

TOYS.

Magic Lanterns.
Reg. \$1.55 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.00
Reg. \$2.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.00

Moving Picture Machines.
Reg. \$2.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.00
Reg. \$3.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.50

Films.
Reg. \$1.50 per dozen. Sale Price . . . \$1.20
Reg. \$3.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.45

Sewing Machines.
Reg. \$1.65 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.32
Reg. \$3.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.45

Carpet Trains.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. 90c. each. Sale Price . . . 72c.

Mechanical Trains.
Reg. \$ 1.20 each. Sale Price . . . 96c.
Reg. \$ 2.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.00
Reg. \$ 3.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.50
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Reg. 90c. per set. Sale Price . . . 72c.
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Reg. 35c. each. Sale Price . . . 28c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

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Reg. 35c. each. Sale Price . . . 28c.

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Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.

Pianos.
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Push Wheels.
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Reg. 30c. each. Sale Price . . . 24c.
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TOYS.

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Toy Guns.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
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Wheel Chimes.
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Circular Horns.
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Spinning Tops.
Reg. 45c. each. Sale Price . . . 36c.

Japanese Money Boxes.
Reg. 35c. each. Sale Price . . . 28c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Windmills.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Strong Expresses.
Reg. \$1.90 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.52
Reg. \$2.55 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.04

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Reg. 95c. each. Sale Price . . . 76c.

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Washing Tubs.
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Reg. \$3.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.40
Reg. \$3.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.40

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Reg. \$1.20 each. Sale Price . . . \$0.96
Reg. \$1.55 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.24
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Toy Irons.
Reg. 75c. each. Sale Price . . . 60c.

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Reg. 25c. box. Sale Price . . . 20c.
Reg. 30c. box. Sale Price . . . 24c.
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Reg. 45c. each. Sale Price . . . 36c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

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Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 65c. each. Sale Price . . . 52c.

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Reg. 25c. each. Sale Price . . . 20c.

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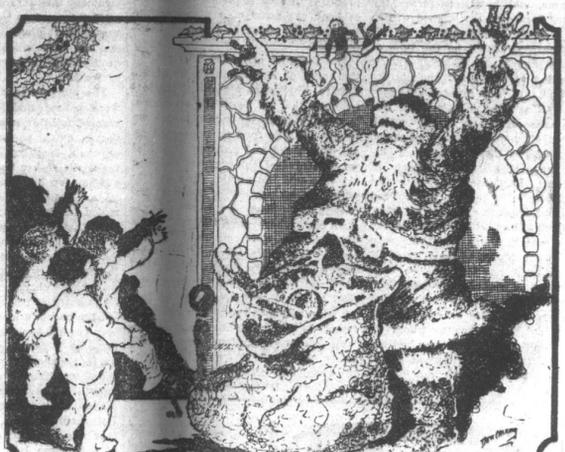
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Mechanical Trains.
Reg. \$ 1.20 each. Sale Price . . . 96c.
Reg. \$ 2.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.00
Reg. \$ 3.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.50
Reg. \$ 8.10 each. Sale Price . . . \$6.48
Reg. \$12.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$9.60

Household Sets.
Reg. 45c. per set. Sale Price . . . 36c.
Reg. 75c. per set. Sale Price . . . 60c.

Tea Sets.
Reg. 50c. per set. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 70c. per set. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. 90c. per set. Sale Price . . . 72c.
Reg. \$1.30 per set. Sale Price . . . \$1.04

Trumpets.
Reg. 20c. each. Sale Price . . . 16c.
Reg. 27c. each. Sale Price . . . 22c.
Reg. 35c. each. Sale Price . . . 28c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Bugles.
Reg. 35c. each. Sale Price . . . 28c.

Musical Tops.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.

Pianos.
Reg. \$2.25 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.80

Push Wheels.
Reg. 60c. each. Sale Price . . . 48c.

Dulcimers.
Reg. 15c. each. Sale Price . . . 12c.
Reg. 20c. each. Sale Price . . . 16c.
Reg. 30c. each. Sale Price . . . 24c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. \$1.00 each. Sale Price . . . 80c.

Building Blocks.
Reg. 20c. each. Sale Price . . . 16c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

TOYS.

Soldier Sets.
Reg. 75c. per set. Sale Price . . . 60c.
Reg. 90c. per set. Sale Price . . . 72c.
Reg. \$2.15 per set. Sale Price . . . \$1.72
Reg. \$2.75 per set. Sale Price . . . \$2.20

Reins.
Reg. 70c. per set. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. 90c. per set. Sale Price . . . 72c.
Reg. \$1.90 per set. Sale Price . . . \$1.52

Toy Guns.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 55c. each. Sale Price . . . 44c.
Reg. \$2.20 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.76

Drums.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. \$1.00 each. Sale Price . . . 80c.
Reg. \$1.30 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.04

Tambourcens.
Reg. 75c. each. Sale Price . . . 60c.

Wheel Chimes.
Reg. 25c. each. Sale Price . . . 20c.
Reg. 45c. each. Sale Price . . . 36c.

Circular Horns.
Reg. 45c. each. Sale Price . . . 36c.

Spinning Tops.
Reg. 45c. each. Sale Price . . . 36c.

Japanese Money Boxes.
Reg. 35c. each. Sale Price . . . 28c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Windmills.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Strong Expresses.
Reg. \$1.90 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.52
Reg. \$2.55 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.04

Wheel-Barrows.
Reg. 95c. each. Sale Price . . . 76c.

Rocking Horse Chairs.
Reg. \$4.65 each. Sale Price . . . \$3.72

Washing Tubs.
Reg. 25c. each. Sale Price . . . 20c.

Horses.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Dolls' Beds.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. \$2.20 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.76

Dolls' Trunks.
Reg. 90c. each. Sale Price . . . 72c.

Doll in Bath.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

TOYS.

Dolls' Carriages.
Reg. \$1.10 each. Sale Price . . . 88c.
Reg. \$3.20 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.56
Reg. \$4.50 each. Sale Price . . . \$3.60

Dolls' Washstands.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.

Sail Boats.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Shamrock Sail Boats.
Reg. 60c. each. Sale Price . . . 48c.
Reg. \$1.95 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.56
Reg. \$3.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.40
Reg. \$3.00 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.40

Assorted Puzzles.
Reg. 55c. each. Sale Price . . . 44c.

Whips.
Reg. 23c. each. Sale Price . . . 19c.

Barking Dogs.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Animals on Wheels.
Reg. 55c. each. Sale Price . . . 44c.

Teddy Bears.
Reg. 70c. each. Sale Price . . . 56c.
Reg. 90c. each. Sale Price . . . 72c.
Reg. \$1.20 each. Sale Price . . . \$0.96
Reg. \$1.55 each. Sale Price . . . \$1.24
Reg. \$3.20 each. Sale Price . . . \$2.56

Toy Irons.
Reg. 75c. each. Sale Price . . . 60c.

Paints.
Reg. 25c. box. Sale Price . . . 20c.
Reg. 30c. box. Sale Price . . . 24c.
Reg. \$1.10 box. Sale Price . . . 88c.

Rocking Horses.
Reg. 45c. each. Sale Price . . . 36c.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.

Horses.
Reg. 50c. each. Sale Price . . . 40c.
Reg. 65c. each. Sale Price . . . 52c.

Washing Tubs.
Reg. 25c. each. Sale Price . . .