

GOVERNMENT SALE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

(One of a series of twenty articles following impartial investigation of government sale of liquor as practised in Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec.)

TWO DOLLARS BRINGS RIGHT TO BUY UNLIMITED SUPPLY

Government of British Columbia Monopolizes Sale of All Liquor and Beer, But Makes No Attempt To Control Traffic.

PLAN MERELY TO MAKE PURCHASE EASY

This is the first article dealing with government sale in British Columbia. That province voted for the sale of beer and spirituous liquors in sealed packages under government control, which is what Ontario is voting upon. The B. C. series should be of exceptional interest.

ARTICLE NO. 12.

I crossed the Rockies from Alberta over the Yellowhead Pass feeling that in British Columbia I would find government control working to the best possible advantage and proving conclusively such benefits as it has to offer. For there the government control system is not a new thing as in Manitoba and Alberta, which have been experimenting with it for only eleven and four months, respectively. British Columbia has had the system for more than three years and has had a chance to rectify early defects. Manitoba is in the throes of agitation working in opposite directions because of the intense dissatisfaction with government control on the part of both wet and dry. In Alberta sentiment is not so aroused and some of the local residents have no definite opinion yet as to the results being secured, although businessmen of the moderationist type told me they considered the tendencies were decidedly bad. In subsequent articles I expect to indicate what authoritative opinion in British Columbia is saying. This article will deal mainly with the law and the system.

A Government Monopoly. British Columbia has a system of government control that retains for the government a monopoly of the right to sell beer and spirits in the province. Under the law, neither

brewers nor distillers can sell direct. The government is their selling agent. As in Manitoba and Alberta, the manufacturers of intoxicants do all the advertising that is required. The brewers are not supposed to deliver direct to any customer except on the order of the government. Permits to buy unlimited quantities of beer and whiskey can be had for \$2 simply by signing an application stating that the applicant is 21 years of age. During the first year of government control there was one permit for beer and another for whiskey and other spirits, and a third for transients. That has all been changed and the permit conditions simplified in the way indicated.

With his permit a man can go to a government liquor store and buy five dollars or one hundred dollars worth of whiskey. He can get a bottle or a barrel of beer. There is no attempt to control or to limit the amount of his buying. On the back of his permit a record is kept of the quantities that he buys. The record does not restrict buying or drinking. It does assist the government in running down those who are selling liquor illicitly.

May Carry It on Street.

If it is whiskey a permit holder wants, he goes to the government liquor store, pays over his money after looking at the hundreds of choice brands of liquor facing him from across the counter, each with its selling price plainly marked up. He must not break the seal or drink on the premises. But he gets quick results in British Columbia. In Manitoba he would have to wait until the government warehouse shipped to him, which might be in 24 hours and possibly not for 48 hours. Pleased by this restriction, some men buy from bootleggers. In all three government control provinces, men who suddenly discover that they want a



GOVERNMENT CONTROL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

On the above map all the places named have government liquor stores as the result of the decision of B. C. voters in favor of the sale of liquor in sealed packages under government control. Seventy stores for the sale of strong beer, whiskey, gin, cocktails, champagne, brandy, rum and other spirituous liquors in hundreds of different varieties have been established. Seven of these stores are in Vancouver and two in Victoria. Two other places in the far north, Atlin and Stewart, which have liquor stores, do not show on the map. B. C.'s population is less than that of Toronto.

Whiskey-and-soda have to buy a whole quart bottle of hard stuff unless they happen to be adjacent to their pantry or cellar.

Should a whole barrel of beer be wanted by a citizen, the government accepts his order at the government store, which then notifies the brewery to deliver so much to Mr. So-and-So.

The brewery then calls up Mr. So-and-So and tells him that it has received his order. Wets and drys both told me that the man might then say: "Good, make it three barrels while you are about it." And there would be no trouble completing the arrangement. The government is supposed to have an inspector who will see that nothing of the kind happens, but I am informed that the practice goes on on a large scale just the same. The government records show one barrel sold and the province takes its little profit on the transaction. But Mr. Citizen has three barrels safely stowed away and Mr. Brewer has his share of the profits on one barrel and his own and his partner's share of the profits on two other barrels. The partner, of course, is the government, or, if you prefer, it is the people of British Columbia.

Permit System Loose.

The permit system is so loose that

it cannot be considered as a check at all. There is nothing to prevent men buying on one another's permits. Not that it can be done legally, but that there is no effective method of stopping it. It is being done on all sides. Taxi drivers think nothing of lending their permits.

When I told my driver to take me to the nearest government store downtown, he said: "Here's my permit; you may as well use it and save \$2." People on the coast don't see any harm in this practice, and when the government makes the most liberal provision for all to drink intoxicants, there appears to be little harm apart from the fact that the government is being cheated out of its take-off.

I visited two government stores in Vancouver and one in Victoria. The accommodation was ample, unlike Manitoba's cubbyholes. The windows were painted green. Over two of the stores the words "Government Liquor Store" appeared in letters two feet high. Another had "B. C. Government Control Liquor Board" on the window.

It was slightly before 10 o'clock when I reached the liquor store in the business section of Vancouver. The store was due to open at that hour. I found six or seven men

waiting to buy liquor. Most of them were swarthy foreigners in cheap clothes. I saw no woman in the Vancouver stores, though I understand they are frequently to be seen. In Victoria I saw one woman buying her supplies. All the stores have the whiskey, cocktails and other liquors tastefully exhibited on shelves and in showcases.

Government Manufacturing Liquor.

One of the ministers of the government told me that the business of the government was not really to sell liquor, but to make liquor reasonably available for purchase. I asked this minister whether it was true that the government itself was making a new wine from logan berries with upwards of 15 per cent alcoholic content, and selling it to the people. He admitted that this was so, that 25,000 gallons of wine had been turned out, that it was given the name "Vin Soleil," and that it was considered rather good stuff. He said the government contemplated selling some of it to other government control provinces. I found few B. C. citizens who knew of this fresh venture of the government into the liquor business.

It was in October, 1920, that B. C. voted for government control. The legislature brought the system into operation on June 15, 1921. By the first of April, 1922, the government could report that "during the period under review government liquor stores have been established in all provincial ridings, with the exception of Esquimalt, Island, Kaslo, Richmond, Saanich, Slooan and South Vancouver."

Has 70 Liquor Stores.

The government's report explained that its liquor board "directed its attention firstly to establishing government liquor stores in the more densely populated districts, seven stores being in readiness for business and open to the public for the purchase of liquor on June 15, or during the week following this date. The stores were located in such towns and cities as would most readily facilitate the purchase of liquor by inhabitants of the surrounding country and which at the same time were situated to the best advantage conducive to service, economy in freight rates, etc."

In less than a year the government control board had planted 51 stores throughout British Columbia for the sale of intoxicants. At the time of writing the number of government stores has grown to 70, and they are doing a rushing business—much more so than in Alberta, where the system is only a few months old. The people are pouring money at the rate of \$12,000,000 per year into the purchase of liquor through legal channels. More liquor is being imported by private parties than by the government, as official Ottawa figures prove. Millions of dollars of liquor are bought illegally every year by citizens from bootleggers. A lot of liquor is taken south for consumption in the United States, but perhaps not as much as is generally believed. During the summer months, when the tourist traffic is heavy, the sale of liquor is little, if any, higher than in other months. December is the heaviest month.

Two of the drawbacks. One weakness of the situation in British Columbia is that the government does not monopolize the right to bring liquor into the province. Anybody can import as much as he likes for his own use. This condition, which first discredited prohibition, is now doing much to discredit government control. The province sought the right from Ottawa to stop importations, but the Senate turned down the application. In some quarters it is urged that British Columbia has the right already but does not want to use it. Alberta imposed a ban on importations while it was a prohibition province and keeps it on under government control.

Another great drawback is the right freely exercised by export warehouses to bring liquor in, place it in an export warehouse and ship it, consigned to a foreign port, without payment of duty. In Manitoba and Alberta the authorities complained bitterly to me that the federal customs and excise officers were not on their job and that much liquor purporting to be shipped abroad really was shipped eastward and sold by bootleggers in competition with the government control boards. As duties are heavy, this enables the bootleggers, when they choose to do so, to undersell the government, and in any case to reap tremendous profits. Many tricks for eluding the officers are used. Naturally, British Columbia suffers more than the prairie provinces from this illicit traffic.

During the first year of government control there were 13 export warehouses. A consolidation of 13 warehouses into one was arranged, with a nominal capital of one million dollars. This merger has reduced the number of its warehouses to five, on each of which it pays a license fee of \$10,000. There are only four other warehouses. I understand the capital is mostly American.

500 Banquet Permits. Besides the permits granted to individuals, the government grants what are known as "banquet permits" to private and public organizations holding celebrations in a public place with beer and whiskey among the attractions. In the first ten months nearly 500 of these special permits were issued. Doctors and dentists have the right to prescribe liquor. At first their license fee was \$5, but this has been reduced to \$2. A vast amount of trouble has been

OFFICERS NAMED FOR LIQUOR VOTE

T. W. Merriam, Byron, Appointed Deputy For East Middlesex.

Following is a list of the deputy returning officers and poll clerks who will officiate at the various voting booths in the electoral district of East Middlesex.

J. W. Merriam, Byron, is the returning officer for East Middlesex, his election clerk being William Boler, also of Byron.

Township of Westminster. Deputy returning officers—Sub-division 1a, William Cornish; 2, Norman Munro; 3, Daniel Currie; 4, Charles Parkinson; 5, Charles Parsons; 6, Alfred Kains; 7, Henry Pools; 8, Thomas Hunt; 9, W. C. Wright; 10, George McMurray; 11a, John Norton, Jr.; 11b, Thomas D. Taylor; 12, Sextus Abel.

Poll clerks—Sub-division 1, Charles Luton; 2, Henry Rose; 3, Ella O'Brien; 4, W. D. Bate; 5, Thomas Pinkman; 6, Mrs. M. Hart; 7, Mrs. L. Mill; 8, Fred Adams; 9, M. L. Leam; 10, James Jupp; 11, John McLaren, Jr.; 12, Harry Young; 13, A. Waterman.

Township of London. Deputy returning officers—Sub-division 1a, R. W. Edwards; 1, T. Masters; 2, Thomas J. Foster; 3, W. J. H. Willoughby; 4, Sherman Tummonds; 5, William McAndless; 6, Thomas Gibson; 7, A. C. Denigter; 8, Thomas Clark; 9, John Bacon; 10, W. E. Talbot; 11, E. B. Powell; 12, C. W. Hayfield; 13, B. A. Ashworth; 14, Freeman Talbot; 15, William Golding; 16, W. J. Fuller; 17, W. R. Trotter; 18, R. Oke; 19, H. R. K. Tozer.

Poll clerks—Sub-division 1a, F. C. Furness; 1b, R. Hale; 1, Eli Davis; 2, Charles Guest; 3, James Clair; 4, Miriam Robson; 5, H. C. Robson; 6, Henry Barrett; 7, Arthur Pearson; 8, Fred Percival; 9, J. L. Guest; 10, Neil Parkinson; 11, Alex Grant; 12, Geo. Fitzgerald; 13, G. L. Walker; 14, Chester Hobbs; 15, M. Shoenbottom; 16, J. Winters; 17, Ellis Hodgins; 18, William Garringe.

West Nisour. Deputy returning officers—Sub-division 1, Colbert Day; 2, William Wright; 3, W. H. Taylor; 4, G. H. Vining; 5, Walter McVey; 6, J. B. Moore; 7, Roy E. Facey; 8, William Stritt.

Poll clerks—Sub-division 1, C. H. Duffin; 2, William Lee; 3, R. Matthews; 4, Wilbert Aiken; 5, Wesley Hudson; 6, J. W. Hobbs; 7, Peter Ramsay; 8, W. J. Atkinson.

North Dorchester. Deputy returning officers—Sub-division 1, Miles Rickard; 2, D. L. Morrison; 3, Jos. H. Calvert; 4, George Hickey; 5, Gardiner Myrick; 6, H. J. Barry; 7, Frank Johnson; 8, E. E. Longfield; 9, E. W. Cornish.

Poll clerks—Sub-division 1, George Sault; 2, William Leavelle; 3, M. Sutherland; 4, Fred Cough; 5, Miss Celia W. Neely; 6, Miss Inez A. Barrons; 7, Samuel Jackson; 8, Charles Rath; 9, P. Leaman.

City of London Annex. Deputy returning officers—Sub-division 48, H. B. Turner; 49, M. J. Morrison; 50, R. H. Cooper; 51, A. C. Thompson; 52, Harry Martin; 53, Harry Staffell; 54, H. Horlor; 55, J. D. Reynolds.

Poll clerks—Sub-division 48, Mrs. G. England; 49, Miss Margaret Buchanan; 50, John Davidson; 51, Mrs. Barnard; 52, Harry Steel; 53, A. A. Williams.

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WINDSOR MAN IS HELD FOR KIDNAPPING BOY

R. J. Yearley Caught Boarding Vessel For Orient—On Orders of Police.

Canadian Press Despatch. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 8.—Arrested as he was about to sail for the Orient at noon today, Robert J. Yearley, from Detroit or Windsor, is held at the request of the police in those cities on the charge of kidnapping Herbert Kanaday, aged 7.

Yearley is held by the eastern

caused by the tendency of drinking men to organize clubs or make use of innumerable small organizations for drinking purposes. I was told on the highest authority that there were 500 bootleggers in Vancouver a year ago, 100 of whom were the "managers" of these drinking clubs. The members would turn over their permits to the manager and have liquor kept in their lockers and the police were apparently unable to get convictions. The city at one time charged a \$300 license fee for these clubs to pay, knowing they were being used for drinking purposes. The club evil is not so glaringly evident as a year ago. But there are many clubs under cover still.



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authorities to have taken the boy from his home with the intention of taking him to Manila. When arrested Yearley was not accompanied by the boy, of whose whereabouts he denied knowledge.

CROWDS CHEER PRINCE ON ARRIVAL IN CALGARY

Canadian Press Despatch. Calgary, Oct. 9.—Ninth avenue and the precincts of the C. P. R. station adjacent to the Palliser hotel were crowded with hundreds of men, women and children, who cheered heartily as the Prince of Wales walked out accompanied by Mayor Webster on the arrival of the special train here at 2:15 p.m. this afternoon.

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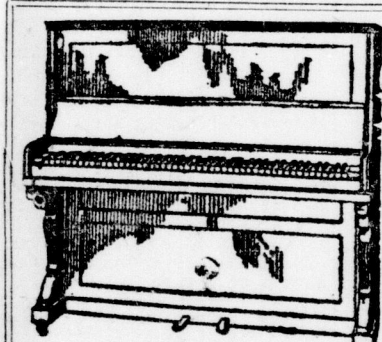
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WRIGHT PIANO, Colonial, mahogany case. Was \$550. Sale price

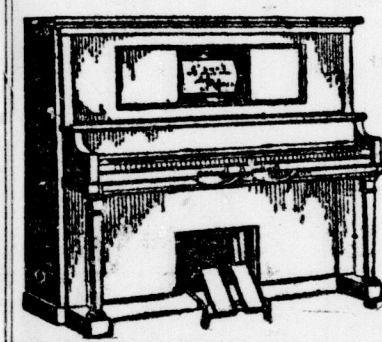
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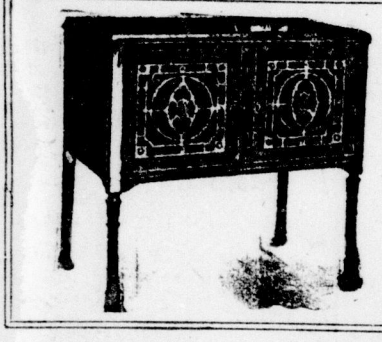
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