

Call a Cop

By Charles Francis Coe
Eminent Criminologist and Author of
"Mr. X is a Gangster," "Swag," "Voters"
... and other startling crime stories.

PASSING OF THE BOOTLEGGER

ARTICLE No. 1

UNCLE SAM might very reasonably advertise "bootleggers for sale." Not that they are salable. It is simply that the good Uncle has a great many of the breed of which he soon must make some disposition.

The problem is not only real, it is acute. To understand it, and gather an idea about what must be done to solve it, we should analyze the bootlegger. We should know whence he came, determine whether he goes, if he goes!

He was, broadly speaking, a product of the prohibition era. That is, the "millionaire bootlegger" came with prohibition. Before that we always had the bootlegger. But he was a small-timer. He was nothing but a tin-horn tax evader. It is not exaggerating to say that the advent of prohibition saw the passing of this art of tax evading from the hands of the original mountaineer and dry county bootlegger into the hands of others presumably more respectable.

But let no one tell you that prohibition made the gangster. America had gangsters just as vicious as present-day gangsters long before the dry era dawned as a national condition.

What prohibition did was to finance the gangster through making the small-time business of bootlegging a national industry. The notorious old "Hudson Dusters" of New York were a gang. They plundered and pillaged; they fought and brawled. But they were constantly in trouble with the police. They served a goodly portion of their lives in the penitentiary for comparatively minor offenses. They were, in the language of the gay nineties, "bums." They had no political influence, they controlled no profitable commercial activities, and they utterly lacked influence in the courts.

Prohibition changed that. With a nation suddenly gone drink-minded a source of supply was necessary. The gangster, being a naturally inclined criminal, undertook to supply illicit booze. Suddenly he supplied it in immeasurable quantities for immeasurable profits. He lost none of his thuggery; none of his criminal propensities; none of his strong-arm methods of operation. He merely became rich, and riches are power.

It quickly developed that the great metropolitan areas wanted liquor and would pay well for it. It naturally followed that no one was particularly interested in enforcing an unpopular law. The danger of prosecution was negligible but the danger of arrest was mighty. The difference is graft.

A bootlegger caught plying his trade could pay his "legal fee" in advance to the arresting officer instead of to the court. This made him immune. Prosecution was nothing but persecution, and persecution was little enough so long as you passed its cost along to the consumer of booze.

Millions rolled in. Petty gangsters passed out because the bootlegging business attracted cute lawyers in search of great fees. Their ability to do this had more far-reaching results. It attracted to bootlegging competing gangsters.

They were still gutter rats; still thugs; still human vermin as conscientious as serpents. They brought to the commerce their usual commercial methods: blackjacks, brass knuckles, pistols, finally machine guns. Bootlegging became a mighty business with mighty profits. It was a simple business, easy to learn. A brawny arm, a stultified character and a sudden understanding were worth millions.

The whole thing grew with almost magical speed. The only fundamental change in the old-time gangster was the lifting of him from the status of an alley rat with a blackjack and a sweater to a boulevardier with a boutonniere and a limousine. Under the seat of the limousine was a machine gun. In the background was a shyster lawyer with a habes corpus and a venal judge living on the fat of the land through bootleg bribes.

Now the change. Sentiment is routing prohibition. If it passes, the United States will have an array of the most murderous bandits of modern time without "work." No more the endless stream of gagrenous gold; no longer the overflowing coffers of beer and booze wells; no more the "alky-cooking" millions which offered profits of 1,000 per cent a drink and sold for anywhere from 15 cents to two dollars a gulp. That is gone.

Inevitably the gangster reverts to his old status. But here is the chronic acute angle: he is now a gangster accustomed to ten-course dinners, star sapphires and peaked lapels. Platinum blonds occupy a definite and indispensable place in his life. He uses limousines, presents diamonds, contributes to elections. He has assumed an immense political power through the information he has on venal officials now in office. He has learned to operate without murdering anything but competition. Is it to be expected that the repeal of a single law will change this yegg? Not for a second.

The problem, then, is simple. Without bootleg revenues where will he

turn? What will he do? How will he operate? What of all his luxuries? Can he keep up the pace without turning to crimes of violence?

Let me say right here that he cannot. The records of the last few months prove this. Kidnapings have assumed front-page position in the news.

Rackets fill in with less sensational but just as incredible advices of the predatory operations of these thugs. American business pays the price.

Those who know their underworld know bootlegging has not been the big-shot operation for some fourteen months. It got so it cost too much to fix murder trials, square "raps" and operate within the bounds of profit.

But bootlegging has taught the power of the legal technicality. Gangsters formed corporations and as such preyed upon business under the protection of the law. Shysters reaped a harvest by directing sabotage, intimidation and monopoly enforced by the machine gun and bomb.

Today literally billions of dollars are being extracted by the scalpel of force in the hands of murderous thugs who were spawned in the gutter, who thrive in the slums of thought and grew to the distortions of bribery, malfeasance and organized corruption.

People ask if the bootlegger will turn to crimes of violence with the passing of prohibition. The answer is frightfully simple. He already has. In the upper crust of the underworld today bootleggers are as scarce as Hot-tentots in the United States senate. Bootlegging no longer pays. People are wise to prices. Competition is too broad. Attempted enforcement has been wasted, thus increasing the ease of distribution of liquor. The enforceability of law has been made doubtful in the mind of the professional criminal. That goes for all law, not just prohibition. As a result, he is still riding in his limousine.

The commercial racket is simple in operation. So the passing bootlegger operates it. In most large cities the cleaners are "organized." So, too, with the laundries, the window cleaners, the dyers, the poultry markets, the garages, the fruit dealers, the ice cream dealers, the trucking companies. Space does not permit enumeration of all the commercial and industrial activities which have fallen under the spell of this one-time alley rat called the gangster.

New York City disclosed recently a "poultry racket" that paid its operators some sixteen millions a year. How did it operate? Intimidation. Pure and simple, alone and unaided. Instead of a diplomatic note, bombs were placed in offices, freight stations and stores. In place of sales letters, machine gun bullets whined their expressive and usually conclusive message. Force. "Pay us, or we'll blow up your plant, murder your wife, kidnap your children."

The business of the racket is just as widespread today as the business of the bootlegger was three years ago. This is not a comforting condition. On the other hand it is not half so bad as it sounds. Put in a nut shell, the business of the gangsters before prohibition was cheap and hazardous because its revenues were insufficient to pay for protection. The crime of violence never in history has proven profitable.

Crime is safe only when protected by venal police or courts. That protection is a commodity not offered at inferior prices. So violent crime is stupidity. In its very essence it is failure.

Successful crime must be profitable on a great scale, to pay bribes, nurture corruption and hire skilled lawyers. Footpads cannot do that. Neither can burglars, robbers, petty thieves and the like. The gangster who became the bootlegger must now again become the gangster because he has never changed except in purse. He is the same old bootlegger with a few new ideas conceived in bootleg gold, a few new ambitions certain to trip him up, a few confidences that will prove mantraps as his bootleg revenues change into those for which he must resort to violence.

There is a way and a simple way to rout the racketeer. It involves national action. It demands a unification of protective measures that never can be subsidized by local politicians and criminals. So closely are these local politicians and criminals allied that the line of demarcation between them is often indistinguishable.

It is a deadly truth that the bootlegger never could have gone as he did without political protection he bought with bootleg money. It is a helpful truth that the passing of prohibition will enable honest officials to break the tie-up between thief and cop and so disrupt the so-called gangster organizations the country over.

The next few years will see tremendous developments in American criminal codes and procedures. If some decent and sane social order is to survive, these developments already are appearing obvious in their demands.

The bootlegger who has turned racketeer is on the way out. The speed of his exit will be commensurate with the speed of the social order in enacting simple and far-reaching measures for the establishment of order and the banishment of the worst criminals the United States ever has tolerated.

Even now the federal government is moving against the racketeer. A senate sub-committee investigating this form of criminality has just been assured by President Roosevelt that the full facilities of the federal government will be at the committee's disposal.

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How I Broke Into The Movies

Copyright by Hal C. Merman

BY AL JOLSON

I DON'T believe I "broke" in the movies at all. I think I sauntered into them through a front door that was left open by the Warner Brothers.

And there was a "welcome" mat in the hall! At least I did a lot of "looking" before "leaping."

I "looked" into the movies several times during the years that immediately preceded the development of Vitaphone pictures, but I couldn't be convinced that the silent screen was a proper medium for me to use to reach an audience.

Several producers and directors tried to persuade me but I was always dubious. I went so far as to make tests to plan a story, but I was still dubious and finally decided that the silver screen was for me.

I'm still skeptical—about silent pictures—but the public has been kind in its approval of "The Jazz Singer" and "The Singing Fool."

I had resisted some tempting offers to try the silent picture and was on the road with my show "Big Boy" when the suggestion that I make a "singing" picture was first discussed.

We were in Denver with the show and before we left there I had thought the proposition over and decided to make the experiment.

Warner Brothers who had just then perfected the Vitaphone and who had approached me with the proposal that



Al Jolson.

I make their first full length talking and singing picture, were notified that I would accept their offer to make one Vitaphone picture. During the rest of the tour of "Big Boy" we planned the story of "The Jazz Singer" and when the road show closed I went to Hollywood for the first tests.

I was not easily won away from my intention to make the legitimate stage the only medium between the public and me but Vitaphone offered me an opportunity I could not resist.

The success of "The Jazz Singer" is motion picture history. It did "break" into the movies with a loud bang, and I found a new and satisfactory way of reaching a vastly increased audience.

Having made the break and having learned that the public approved of the break, it followed naturally that Warner Brothers wanted more pictures and that I was willing to make them.

In a way I have "gone Hollywood." I have a home there and will probably always spend a part of my time and energy making pictures. I looked a long time before I leaped, but once the leap was made into the movies I had no regrets.

WNU Service

Buck Jones Has Played in More Than 300 Features

Buck Jones has been a successful screen star for more than twelve years. After ten years with Fox, he left that organization to produce independently. Three years ago he joined Columbia pictures and today holds the remarkable record of having appeared in more than 300 feature screen plays.

A fan poll conducted a year ago by a national magazine, revealed that Buck Jones was the most popular outdoor screen star in the opinion of the millions of the publication's readers. The rapid development of the Buck Jones Rangers clubs attests to the star's appeal to the youth of America. Some 3,000,000 Rangers are enrolled throughout the country, in these boys' clubs with a goodly portion of them meeting regularly in more than 500 centers.

Hobart Bosworth Played Leads to Notable Stars

Hobart Bosworth started his stage career in 1885, subsequently appearing as leading man for Minnie Maddern Fiske, Julia Marlowe and Henrietta Crossman. Mr. Bosworth had the distinction of starring in the first picture ever made in Los Angeles, in 1909, "The Sultan's Power." A few months later he wrote, directed and played the leading role in "The Sea Wolf." He has appeared in "Blood-Ship," "Flight," "Dirigible," and "Hurricane." His most recent pictures include "Fanny Foley Herself," "Carnival Boat," "County Fair," "Phantom Express," and "The Miracle Man."

Western Alfalfa Weevil Spreading

Entomologist Predicts That All Districts Will Be Reached in Time.

By J. H. Newton, Deputy State Entomologist, Colorado College Experiment Station—WNU Service.

Occurrence of the alfalfa weevil in all the alfalfa-producing areas of the Western states is only a matter of time. First discovered in American alfalfa fields near Salt Lake City in 1904 or 1905, this native insect of Europe has spread since then to portions of seven of the neighboring states.

It was in 1917 that the weevil was first discovered in Colorado near Ponia, in Delta county. Since then it has spread to parts of Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, Moffat, Routt, Rio Blanco, Garfield and Mesa counties. There is also an isolated infestation at Glenwood Springs, Garfield county. The spread of this insect has been at an average rate of six miles per season.

Careful scouting work has failed to reveal the alfalfa weevil east of the continental divide in Colorado.

Quarantines were never expected to prevent the spread of the weevil that can be expected from flight and other natural means. They are intended to:

1. Prevent promiscuous hauling of hay and straws and thus cut off the most important avenue for carrying the insect into uninfested areas.

2. To meet the quarantines of 22 states, thus assuring them that we are reasonably careful to see that our agricultural products are not carriers of the weevil.

3. To keep outside markets open for all hay grown in uninfested territory.

Orchard Irrigation Is Used by Ohio Growers

Irrigation of orchards is the new thing in Ohio agriculture. Prompted by losses incurred in the drought of three years ago, Ohio fruit growers in increasing numbers resort to canvas hose and pipe line irrigation to bring their crops through dry periods.

C. E. Dutton, manager of the Ohio Orchard company at Milford Center, in keeping records of costs and profits of the irrigated sections and nonirrigated sections of his orchard in 1932, found the total cost of irrigating Rome Beauty trees amounted to \$11.20 an acre. Yield of fruit was increased 25 per cent. Irrigated apples cost less to produce than the non-irrigated fruit, owing to the increased yields.

Increased value of the apples on the irrigated section, owing both to increased yields and improved quality, was \$66.80 an acre.

Water is being distributed in the irrigated orchards through "ooze" type of canvas hose. The water oozes through the side walls of the hose lines distributed among the trees. No nozzle sprinklers are used.

In dry seasons irrigation is continued through until the fruit ripens. From two to three acre-inches of water are applied each time.

Fermenting Tomato Seed

Allowing tomato pulp to ferment in the process of saving seed helps control the spread of bacterial canker, a plant disease that is very destructive to tomatoes in many parts of the country. At one time all tomato seeds were obtained by allowing them to ferment in the pulp. Recently high-speed seed-extracting machines have come into common use for separating these seeds. Studies by the United States Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Utah agricultural experiment station have shown that seed fermentation largely kills the canker organism present on them, whereas seed extracted by the machines transmit the disease more generally.

Age of Freshening

In the examination of Advanced Registry records, Prof. C. W. Turner of the Missouri College of Agriculture has drawn the following conclusions concerning the effect of age at first freshening upon the later production of heifers: "The most efficient milk and fat production (utilization of nutrients) will be obtained by breeding animals to calve at from 20 to 24 months of age, maximum production at about 30 months of age, and within 5 to 10 per cent of the maximum production at from 23 to 28 months, depending upon the breed."

Copper Carbonate for Smut

Copper carbonate is the most effective chemical for the control of covered smut of barley, according to the results of experiments conducted at the University of Idaho agricultural experimental station farm at Sandpoint. Copper carbonate has been used for the prevention of bunt or stinking smut in wheat for many years, but it has not been previously recommended for the control of the smuts of other cereals.

Milking Time Respected

When a large farm was moved by two special trains in England, recently, the railway arranged the schedule so that the cows could be milked at their usual times. The trains left West Meon immediately after milking time in the evening and arrived at Stalbridge early the next morning, and the 17 cows apparently were satisfied. Fourteen farm hands, nearly 100 head of live stock and several carloads of furniture and implements were moved.—Washington Star.

Scraps of Humor



HALF AND HALF

They had bought a second-hand car and were taking their first trip in it. After covering several miles the driver became aware that something was amiss. He stopped the car.

"I say, my dear," he said to his wife, "have a look at the tires on your side and tell me if there's anything wrong with them."

"Oh, it's quite all right," she said, after a careful scrutiny. "The rear one's flat at the bottom, but it's round enough at the top."

Making It Even

"A girl who is engaged should never go out with another man," said the maiden aunt.

"Oh, it's all right! Bob's engaged, too," replied the modern maid.—Stray Stories.

Seeking Relief

"What makes our friend Mr. Dumley keep talking about the weather?" "Maybe to keep his mind off it," said Miss Cayenne. "He is one of those people who never think about what they are saying."

Slight Mistake

Visitor to a Hotel—This wall is so thin that you can almost see through it.

Hotel Manager—That's the window you're looking at.

Can Hear a Pin Drop

May—Yes, Dick tells me all he knows.

Candid Friend—How really awful the silence must be!—Answers Magazine.

A BIT THICK

The manager of the big business firm stormed into his head clerk's office and banged a fist angrily on his desk.

"Smithers," he cried ominously, "this is outrageous. I distinctly told you you could only take seven clear days' holiday, and here you have at last put in an appearance on the eleventh day. What is the meaning of it?"

"Oh, yes, sir," said Smithers, coolly enough. "I have an explanation. Three of them were foggy."—London Answers.

Less Will Do

Kind Lady—Why are you crying, little boy?

Boy—I've lost a dime.

Kind Lady—When did you lose it?

Boy—This afternoon and mother has sent me out again to look for it. She says if I can't find it, a nickel would do.—Gazette (Montreal).

REALLY NOT HER FAULT



"How out of style she looks." "Why not? Her whole allowance for clothes is only three-fourths of her husband's salary."

Wife's Objection

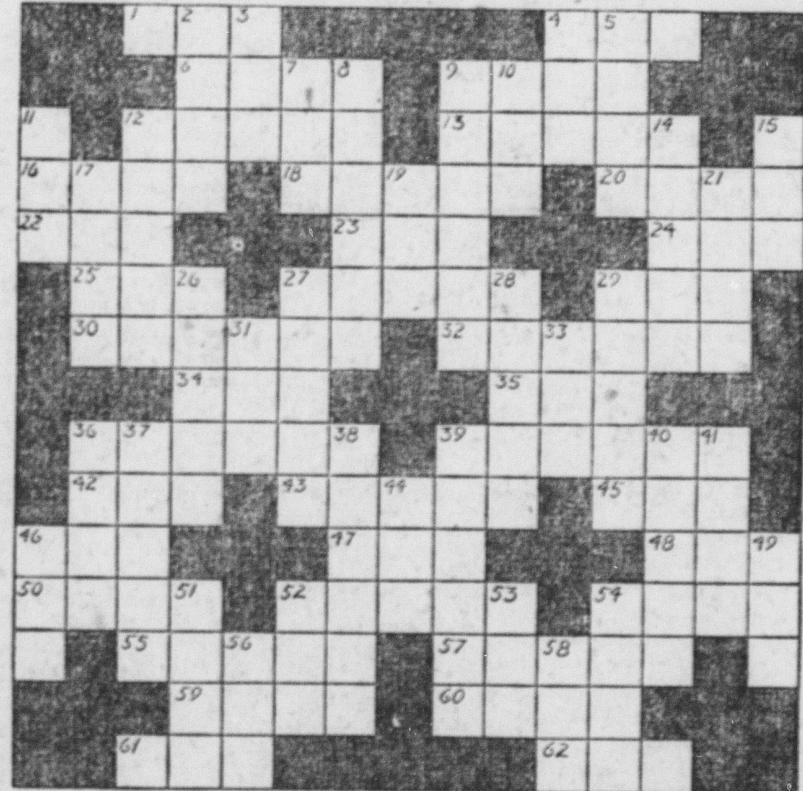
Bones—Have you noticed that William Jackson has stopped wearing glasses?

Banks—Yes. His wife won't let him. They show up her wrinkles and gray hair too plainly.

Quite Simple

Patient—My wife tells me I talk in my sleep. What should I do? Doctor—Nothing that you shouldn't.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



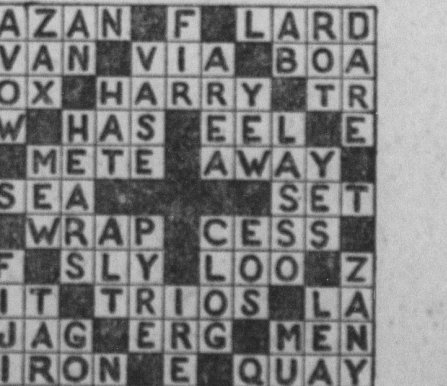
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- Horizontal.
- 1—Marsh
 - 4—Young goat
 - 6—Deeply engrossed
 - 8—Organs of head
 - 12—Dull, spiritless person
 - 13—Trenchant
 - 16—Exclamation of regret
 - 18—Pastimes
 - 20—A quick pull
 - 22—Having been victorious
 - 23—Small room
 - 24—Fish eggs
 - 25—Turf
 - 27—Girl's nickname
 - 28—Long period of time
 - 30—One who follows up
 - 32—Boy's first name
 - 34—Old horse
 - 35—To pull with force
 - 36—Hit
 - 38—University official
 - 42—Prevaricate
 - 43—Becomes fatigued
 - 45—Boy's name
 - 46—Distress signal
 - 47—Mixture of earth and water
 - 48—Unclad (poetic)
 - 50—Shoemaker's tool (pl.)
 - 52—Yellow
 - 54—Belonging to a person
 - 55—To run off
 - 57—Acquires by labor
 - 58—Impressed
 - 60—Flesh
 - 61—Nickname of martyred President
 - 62—A weight

- Vertical.
- 2—God of love
 - 3—Short sleep
 - 4—To know (Scottish)
 - 5—Englishman's salutation (two words)
 - 7—Projecting piece of wood
 - 8—Dealer
 - 9—Hispaning
 - 10—Alternative
 - 11—Face bone
 - 12—Manston
 - 14—Big
 - 15—To earn

The solution will appear in next issue.

Solution of Last Week's Puzzle.



WERE WITH YOU!

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT GUM

THE PERFECT GUM

NRA

WE DO OUR PART

#177