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THE NATIONAL PICTURE MONTHLY

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## TEN YEARS AFTER PROHIBITION

**A**mericans on December 5 will look backwards to a dramatic night 10 years ago—many with surprise that a whole decade has passed since the nation abandoned Prohibition. And thoughtful Americans, taking stock of the fruits of Repeal, will find:

In that decade a giant has grown: a multi-billion-dollar liquor industry whose plants now are humming day and night making alcohol—exclusively for war.

In that decade the nation threw off the octopus-like clutch of gangs and graft, and rid itself of a bad conscience—the bad conscience that came with popular and repeated law violation.

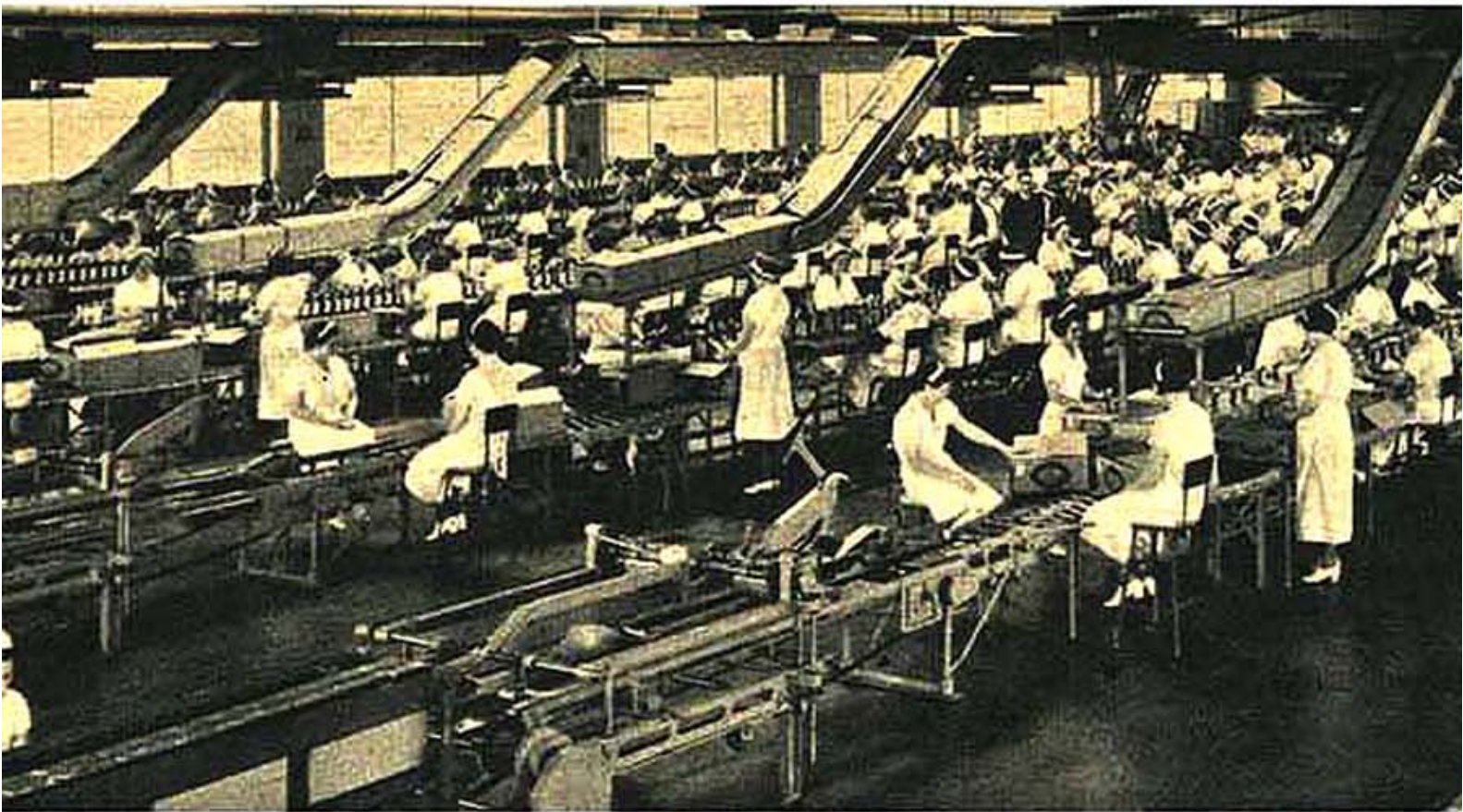
In that decade Americans learned again to drink—most of them in moderation, with restraint.

And yet, now as the decade ends, America faces a rebirth of bootlegging. Black marketing and smuggling are marring the picture. Chicago has even hired special police to combat liquor hijacking.

All of these evils are feeding on unavoidable wartime taxes and shortages. Some of them have reappeared with a resurging Prohibition movement—for once again about a fourth of our towns and villages prohibit sale of alcoholic beverages.

Thus are we celebrating the 10th anniversary of Repeal.

At sundown, December 5, 1933, Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st (Repeal) Amendment, bringing to an end the colorful period of axe-swinging Carrie Nation, the underworld's most ambitious ventures in the realm of high finance, and the all-time peak of official corruption. In the early '30s, Congressman LaGuardia



**YES, THEY'RE CURRENTLY BOTTLING SPIRITS BUT WITH RESERVES IRREPLACEABLE, ONLY ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF NORMAL SUPPLY IS BEING DISTRIBUTED TODAY**

found the authorities siphoning an estimated million dollars a day in graft from bootleggers. Cost of the noble experiment to the government hovered around a billion dollars a year. In the last 10 of nearly 14 prohibition years, the public was figured to have spent more than \$36,000,000,000 for bootleg and smuggled liquor!

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## *After Prohibition*

**Liquor industries' facilities are 100% in war production as Drys try for a return engagement**

So the nation rejoiced when Utah went off the wagon.

With Repeal, an industry which represents about \$4,500,000,000 of our nation's annual business leaped into being. It has produced well over \$11,000,000,000 in state and federal revenue in those 10 years. Controlled, scientific conditions replaced the unsavory hide-outs of bootleggers as locations for manufacture.

Three states, Kansas, Oklahoma and Mississippi, voted dry. Seventeen now sell bottled liquor only through state owned and controlled distributing agencies. The rest of the states permit liquor through private outlets save where local options have cut wide swaths into their wet areas—notably in whiskey-producing Kentucky, and Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The liquor industry's development was arrested in October, 1942. All its production facilities have been devoted to manufacture of essential war alcohol since then. Only the supply of alcohol stored away prior to that October for aging is being distributed today. It's about two-thirds of normal distribution.

With the outbreak of World War II, Prohibitionists again leaped to their posts, putting their power behind local option elections—and this year may well be their most successful one since Repeal.



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**HERE'S WHERE SOME OF THE ALCOHOL GOES. EACH CHARGE OF THESE GIANT COAST ARTILLERY RAILWAY RIFLES TAKES MORE THAN 182 POUNDS OF ALCOHOL**

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