

14-YEAR DRY ERA ENDS TODAY

PARISH, DEFUNCT PIPE LINE HEAD, GIVES UP TODAY

NEWS SUMMARY

SUPREME COURT ORDERS FACTOR BACK TO LONDON

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DRY CHALLENGERS

CHICAGO TO GIVE LEGAL LIQUOR A GAY WELCOME

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW LIQUOR ERA

Plenty of Spirits and Wines Will Be Available



Chicago Daily Tribune Tuesday, December 5, 1933

Beginning at about 3 o'clock this afternoon Chicago is due to start drinking legal liquor again, after a lapse of fourteen years, five months and five days of machine gun murders, prohibition bribery, and poisoned booze. Many gay gatherings in hotels, restaurants, and other places where liquor will be sold will mark the passing of the dry era".

This is how the main newspaper in the city so much associated with the problems of prohibition started its report on the return of legal alcohol to the United States, one December afternoon of 1933, after what was known as "the dry era" the attempt to erase alcohol from American society that went bloodily awry.

State by state, legislators were repealing the law and thirsty citizens were preparing a big celebration everywhere. In fact, as it turned out, it was the biggest collective celebration since the armistice of 1918 that ended World War I.

For the celebration, the newspaper was reporting on the state of the supply situation: "Bountiful stocks of domestic

wines, a fair supply, particularly in hotel stocks, of imported wines, more than enough domestic gin and blended bourbon, and 'adequate' stocks of bonded bourbon and imported scotch are reported in the city. It will require several weeks for importers of European beer of more than 3.2 strength to catch up with orders".

And concerning prices, only a slight increase in comparison with pre-prohibition figures but much cheaper than the bootleg stuff available during prohibition. A bottle of Champagne, for instance, which fetched \$4.50 before prohibition, and which rose to \$15 during the dry era, was expected to be sold at between \$5 and \$9 now. A glass of Scotch whisky would sell for 25 to 50 cents, compare with 15 cents before and 75 during prohibition.

And among the new regulations for selling liquor, the new legislation said that "no retail liquor establishment is allowed within 100 feet (30 meters) of any church, school, hospital, home for the aged or indigent, or veterans, or military or naval station".