

# 1913 grand jury focuses on 'over-indulgers'

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The 'pink teas' are not likely to be disturbed as social sessions."

Translated, that meant the grand jury couldn't have cared less about Great Aunt Agatha, who nipped on the cooking sherry, or discreet sherry-serving in private homes of an afternoon. The real targets of investigation were alcohol dealers traveling under the names of officers of social clubs.

The *Star* got down to specifics. "The trouble is, blind tigers and other illegal joints are organized as

clubs, with officers, by-laws, & c., thinking that by this method they will escape the red-eyed law."

Apparently the private clubs' "social sessions" were, "simply beer parties, each guest chipping in enough to make up the price of the wet goods consumed." Continued the newspaper, "It is not likely that there is any intention of enforcing the blue laws, or to disturb any decent persons who indulge in the little vices incident to social parties and meetings."

Another concern of the grand jury was to be the practice of allowing minors to shoot pool,

"which is wide open and notorious." Although pool halls had been known to sell booze in the back room, the business per se were not a target of the *Star* or the grand jury.

The newspaper differentiated in a gray area that has always been a line-drawing problem for society. "There can be no objection to a young man well up in his teens playing pool, providing his parents do not object, but there are many minors who spend much time in frequenting pool rooms and are led to gambling by the elder ones who patronize such resorts.