

Ending 100 Years of Marijuana Prohibition in California



One hundred years ago, state drug agents staged the first known "marihuana" bust in the Mexican Sonoratown neighborhood of Los Angeles. The raid was the first in a hundred years' war that has seen over two million Californians - many from targeted minorities - arrested for victimless marijuana crimes.

Join California NORML and CCPR (Coalition for Cannabis Policy Reform) in Los Angeles in September 2014 to mark this memorable occasion and call for an end to the century-long war on marijuana.

- Press Conference: Thursday, Sept. 11, 10 AM LA City Hall Spring Street Steps
- Ending the 100-Year War on Pot Party: Saturday, Sept. 13 at LA NORML, 8749 Holloway Dr., West Hollywood 7-10 PM (suggested donation \$25-\$100).

For more information, contact California NORML canorml@canorml.org - (415) 563-5858

America's First Marihuana Bust

Source: L.A. Times September 10, 1914

WAGONLOAD OF DREAMS SEIZED

OFFICERS RAID INDIAN HEMP GARDENS OF CITY

New Toxic Fumes, That Give Smokers Pleasant Sensations and Hallucinations but Sometimes Lead to Murder, Are Wasted on Unsympathetic Air of Police Storeroom.

Stuff of which a million dreams might be made was confiscated yesterday by Inspector Roy Jones of the State Board of Pharmacy. A wagonload of Indian hemp—called hashish in the Orient and marahuana here—worth \$500, was cut down in two "dream gardens" in New High street and now is wasting its incense on the dank air of the police storage cellar.

Indian hemp is a plant having potent narcotic properties and was blacklisted under the poison law

passed by the last Legislature. Surrounding it are sinister legends of murder, suicide and disaster. The toxic effect of the plant's use sometimes induces mental exileration but at other times incides to murder. Etymologists say the word "assassin" is derived from this phase of the drug's effect. Locally, the slaying of three persons at No. 625 () San Fernando street by Juan Soto is credited by the police to addiction to "marahuana."

Marahuana grows on stalks as tall as six feet. Its leaves and blossoms are dried and smoked in cigarettes and pipes, often being adulterated with tobacco. According to Inspector Jones and Detectives Leon and Rico, well acquainted with Sonoratown life, the weed is much used in the local Mexican colony. In out-of-the-way nooks and corners small plants are nursed and often provide the bare livelihood of the cultivators.

One place from which the plant was cut down yesterday was the back

yard of the home of the aunt of Joe Rivers, the pugilist. She is Mrs. Marie Ybona, No. 725 New High street. She said the stalks served only ornamental purposes.

At No. 718 New High street the officers not only cut down two dozen stalks but found a quantity of the leaves dried, apparently for commercial purposes. Retailers of the marahuana obtain as high as \$1 an ounce, according to Mr. Jones.

"One cigarette of the stuff generally puts one in a dreamy state of beauty" says Inspector Jones, "but sometimes it also induces hallucinations. The smoker generally loses the sense of time. While the drug may be bad for the head, it is good for the feet. Cannabis Indica is an extract and is the base of most corn medicines. I am not sure that the plant which grows in this country is identical with that grown in India, but they are both known as Indian hemp and the drug obtained from them has almost the same properties."