

New Dry Head May Cut Down Beer Permits

Tightening-up Seen After Moist Summer—Large Plant Raided

The beer industry in New Jersey apparently is in for harder times. Though this was only the second day of William J. Calhoun's stay as acting prohibition administrator for the state, he already has set in motion a drive aimed at drying up the leaks that have Washington officials intent upon replacing Captain Edwin S. Ross, the vacationing administrator.

Despite silence on the part of Mr. Calhoun as to his plans, there were positive indications that he would strike at the roots of the industry by revoking the permits of possibly a dozen or more of the breweries that now manufacture beer through holding cereal beverage permits.

A policy of wholesale raids against beer running already has been put in force by the acting administrator. Last midnight a raid was conducted by dry agents on a farm on Orangeville road, in Old Tappan, that netted two arrests and five 1,500-gallon vats filled with beer in the making, one of the biggest seizures by the prohibition unit in many months.

Also last night were seized fifty barrels of beer and a truck on State Highway 27 in Paterson. Two arrests likewise were made here.

The impression in Washington has been for some time that cereal beverage permits were being distributed promiscuously in New Jersey, which is said to have more plants operating under this type of permit than any other state.

Revocation of the permits is expected to bring an upheaval not only in prohibition circles, but in political as well. It is no secret that many of the permits now in effect were obtained through political connections.

By an ingenious system of strings placed around the Old Tappan farm, which is owned by J. J. O'Connor, the five raiding agents last night were kept from arresting ten or twelve men said to have been in attendance upon the plant.

The strings were arranged so that the unknowing, when approaching the still, would run into them and thus set off an alarm. The two men arrested were not taken until the raiders had waited four hours at the farm. When Joseph Priore of 6 Sherman avenue, Paterson, and Louis Cerce, of 32 Albion avenue, Paterson, arrived on a truck loaded with malt they were arrested and charged with possession and transportation of liquor.

The pair seized on the truck in Paterson were charged with illegal transportation.

Despite efforts of the raiding agents to make quick clean-ups of the cases they were foiled by an inability to find a United States Commissioner before whom the prisoners might be arraigned, though there are supposed to be several in this district.

Except for two weeks in May and early June, immediately after Prohibition Commissioner Doran ordered Ross to stop the flow of beer in New Jersey, beer has been particularly plentiful in the metropolitan area. Little difficulty has been encountered, it is known, in manufacturing good beer within comparatively easy access of points of final disposal.

Don't Like Oyler.

The beer men have heard that Ralph Oyler, narcotics chief, has been mentioned to succeed Captain Ross as the

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New Jersey administrator. There are a number of candidates for the post, but Oyler seems to be most in favor at present. Oyler's record as chief of the narcotics division in New York for many years and his activity as head of the Chicago division are calculated to cause apprehension among violators of the dry laws.

Gathering of evidence and raiding is similar in liquor and narcotics work. Although Oyler has never done any prohibition work, it is admitted he would have but little to learn in transferring his activities.

When he visited Newark June 4 Dr. Doran praised Captain Ross's work against the hard liquor traffic. By raids on distilling plants, Dr. Doran declared, Captain Ross had brought the state to the point where practically all hard liquor sold had to be brought in from outside.

The Early Drought.

During the early summer beer drought, which came during hot weather, breweries in this section of the state stopped running. Many places reported no beer available for several days and others admitted their beer was brought in from Pennsylvania and was not as good as they had been serving previously. Guards from Washington were posted twenty-four hours a day outside Newark, Elizabeth and Harrison breweries.

All the breweries are operating on permits to manufacture near-beer and cereal beverages. They make real beer and are supposed to dealcoholize it before shipping. During the regime of Colonel Arthur J. Hanlon, predecessor of Captain Ross, only one permit for manufacture of cereal beverages was issued.

Colonel Hanlon had the greatest part of the dry unit working on efforts to curb the beer flow. He directed the legal department of the unit in several endless court battles against breweries, but most of the time the government came off second best.

Captain Ross has issued a number of cereal beverage permits, it is understood, and cases against breweries have not taken much of the time of the prohibition legal division. Several large breweries in this section, which had been closed, have become active within the last six months.

The beer trade in Paterson and vicinity has become so valuable that it is reported a large syndicate has been organized to monopolize the distribution. According to the story the syndicate has approached several Passaic County banks for loans to finance the project.

JOHN BOYD AVIS LIKELY U. S. JUDGE

Kean and Edge Both Concur in
Recommendation on
Bench Job

(Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—Appointment of John Boyd Avis, Camden, (N. J.) attorney, as United States Court judge for Southern New Jersey is expected shortly. It is understood here Senators Kean and Edge both concurred in the recommendation of Mr. Avis for the position left vacant by Joseph L. Bodine when the latter entered the State judiciary.

Formal appointment will be made by President Hoover. It was said the recommendation of the Department of Justice will be forwarded to the White House within a short time.

Mr. Avis, formerly State Senator in New Jersey, has had long experience in criminal, civil and maritime law, the principal questions that come before a Federal judge in South Jersey. Several months ago it was said William B. Knight, assemblyman from Camden, was to be appointed, but the Department of Justice failed to make the recommendation. Another possible candidate was Charles Wolverton, representative from the first New Jersey district.

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