

# Say Calhoun Will Make New Jersey Very Arid

Former Associates Think State's New Prohibition Administrator Will Swing Eighteenth Amendment Mop Steadily and Surely

Staff Correspondent.

NEW YORK—Prohibition Commissioner James M. Doran "meant business" when he appointed William J. Calhoun, former head of the prohibition undercover bureau here, as New Jersey prohibition administrator succeeding Edwin S. Ross.

This is the view taken here by members of Calhoun's old staff, who say Doran could not have made a more effective appointment in attempting to lessen Jersey's wetness.

Calhoun's former associates say he is peculiarly conversant with the knotty angles affecting prohibition across the Hudson. Since July, 1927, when Calhoun became head of the undercover bureau, or New York Division of Special Agents as they are titled, he has been familiar with the enforcement situation here, they relate. And none better know the difficulties.

This group covers the Southern and Eastern Federal Districts of New York, all of New Jersey and the Middle and Eastern Districts of Pennsylvania. The group's duties consist in obtaining indictments for conspiracy, smuggling and violations of the Jones law. They are not concerned much with speak-easies and general enforcement work.

## Proof of Merit.

It was as chief of this group that Calhoun, a former Department of Justice agent, won his spurs. So successful was he that when Alf Oftedal resigned as assistant prohibition commissioner to become collector of internal revenue in California, Calhoun was drafted as acting assistant commissioner in his place until detailed to Newark.

"For instance," one of his former assistants remarked, "he knows that many big bootleg rings which previously operated in New York or Philadelphia are working from New Jersey bases and are sending liquor by trucks into the two cities."

"These gentry are in for the surprise of their lives now that Calhoun is New Jersey administrator," this speaker said. He intimated that before taking the new office Calhoun had been doing effective work in having the leaders indicted as conspirators.

Calhoun is described by his former associates as unemotional, patient and painstaking with a distaste for sensational methods. Those who know him say his work as New Jersey administrator may result in the speeding of important liquor cases in the federal courts. Some cases are said to have been pending two years. If cases are not moved within a reasonable period Calhoun's friends expect he will apply to Washington to have a special assistant United States attorney assigned.

## His Successes.

Calhoun is credited with the round-up of the so-called Go-Bart bootleg ring here.

Another important conspiracy case prepared by Calhoun is that against James M. McCunn, who is accused of having supplied liquor to some of the wealthiest New Yorkers. The case resulted in a mistrial. It is set for the September term of Federal Court.

An important case in which the New Jersey administrator obtained conviction was that of the "gin gang." This manufacturing outfit, which is said to have supplied much gin of an inferior grade to numerous New York speak-easies, was rounded up in a garage. Two men were given penitentiary sentences and others were sent to the Westchester jail.

John Sheehan, who is accused by Calhoun of being one of the leaders of this gang, disappeared, but was arrested in Hoboken. Sheehan resisted extradition to New York and is free in bail of \$75,000 pending an appeal.

Associates expect no "fireworks" from the Calhoun administratorship nor do they anticipate an immediate drying

up of the New Jersey beer and liquor supply. They do look for a gradual improvement in the general situation through a slow but effective campaign against the biggest and most influential bootleg rings.

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