

## The Axe Descends Again

9/10/29  
Blaylock  
Captain Edwin S. Ross joins the ranks of the prohibition administrators who have come to New Jersey with distinguished records of performance elsewhere and who have left at the end of a brief period of service, baffled and disheartened, their best endeavors defeated and thwarted at every turn.

Captain Ross has been relieved as head of the enforcement office in New Jersey because of his "unsatisfactory handling of the job," and after an extended leave of absence will be assigned to some other State where the responsibilities are not so overwhelming.

Even in spite of the circumstances of his retirement from the New Jersey field, however, it would be unfair to record against Captain Ross a judgment of incompetency or of lack of faithful and conscientious effort. He came here with a reputation for exceptional capacity and effectiveness and it is probable that he is still one of the most able men in the prohibition service.

The records will show that New Jersey has never had a completely satisfactory prohibition enforcement director. Each has been tried and found wanting, some being deficient in the essential quality of honesty and others in administrative ability. In one respect or another they have all failed, Captain Ross being the latest.

It is altogether unlikely that his successor, who has already been selected, will achieve what so many have failed to accomplish. The task of making New Jersey dry, there is every reason to believe, lies just outside the bounds of the possibility of fulfillment.