Newark 12/9/31

EVENING NEWS, MONDAY, DECEMBE

Liquor Plentiful Despite Hard Blows at Bootleggers

Pennington, Prohibition Administrator Here, Hits Rum Racketeers' Bankrolls, but Drinkables Still Come In

Bootleggers and prohibition officials are looking forward to the holiday season and back at this year of enforcement, the first full year of the regime of Commander John D. Pennington, administrator for this district. On all sides it is agreed that during this period prohibition has been in the hands of its friends.

The honors, since Pennington took hold July 1, 1930, in so far as they can be reduced to concrete items, stand somewhat as follows:

For Prohibition:

Three breweries padlocked, the first in this state since prohibition went into effect.

At least two others put out of business; permit of another revoked.

Seizure of drop and pipeline to the Hensler brewery, also under seizure.

Bank roll of bootleggers hit heavily.

Recent seizure of Newark and Elizabeth distilleries, largest and most complete ever uncovered in the state.

Seizure of numerous others with a total capacity of more than 500,000 gallons.

Against It:

Liquor and beer supply plentiful, cheap and of better quality than at most periods of prohibition enforcement.

Atlantic Highlands rum ring acquitted in federal court, ending ingloriously for the government a supposed "grand coup." The raid on the ring was made before the Pennington regime.

One dry agent murdered as beer ring fought back at Pennington enforcement regime.

beer and ale, 5,000 gallons of whisky, 3,100,000 gallons of mash and 375,000 pounds of sugar have been taken. There have been 430 trucks seized.

Activity among the rum runners continues with little abatement. Shipments find their way into New Jersey either directly from ships or by truck from Long Island or other points. Occasionally a consignment is intercepted. The bootleggers shrug their shoulders and hope for better luck next time. There have been evidences of late that alinements were shifting, that some new faces were appearing in New Jersey rum circles, that some mergers were contemplated. Syndicates, as a matter of fact, change with almost every shipment. Distributers get "a piece" of one shipload and stay away from the next.

Bad Feeling Rumored.

Newark and Paterson are regarded as the headquarters of two of the most powerful of the bootleg groups. Another occupied itself along the New Jersey shore, but lately has turned to Connecticut and other points. All of the New Jersey groups have links with New York when occasion demands. "Celebrities," such as Waxy Gordon, occasionally enter the picture. Recently there have been reports of bad feeling between the gangs and consequent tipping off of enforcement officers to the presence of large plants in this vicinity.

Just now the general economic situation is doing as much as the federal authorities to impede the progress of the rum business. Storehouses are declared to be full of liquor that can't be sold. Prices are down. But there are few rifts in the ranks of those who operate outside the Eighteenth Amendment. They expect things to improve ere long.

Prohibition officials enjoined in numerous major cases.

Former Naval Officer.

Commander Pennington, leading the government forces, is a former United States naval officer. For more than thirty years he was in the service, rising from enlisted man to fleet personnel and athletic officer.

He tells reporters: "This is not war. We are just trying to do our job," but when John G. Finiello was shot in the Rising Sun brewery by gangster bullets, Pennington said to the agents around him: "They cannot kill my men and get away with it. I am either going to break the liquor racket in this state or it will break me."

The commander knows that there are those who are not loyal to him and who send word of his plans to the enemy as soon almost as they are decided in his mind. He says:

"No police force in this world is or ever has been free from crooks, but I intend to make the prohibition department as clean as I can."

Since he has been in charge more transfers and resignations from the service have been made than in any similar period. Practically all the men who were stationed in New Jersey when Pennington took charge are out of the service or have been transferred. One new agent was convicted of bribery and sentenced to a jail term.

Most of the resignations have been "voluntary," but under pressure from Pennington. To dismiss an agent he must bring charges against him and prove them at a civil service hearing.

He has surrounded himself with former naval officers, men he learned to trust in his former service. Assistant Administrator Moss and Chief Investigator Porter are both graduates of Annapolis. Lewis J. Tutt, deputy for New Jersey and selected by Pennington and Amos W. W. Woodcock, national director, served eighteen months in the navy. An agent in the local department was stationed on the same ship with Pennington and saw nearly as many years of service.

Scores Police Attitude.

Pennington has been outspoken against the lack of cooperation from police throughout the state.

"No speakeasy could operate for five minutes if the police wanted to enforce the state law. I don't blame the policeman on the beat. He has to do as he is told. It is up to the chiefs of police and heads of the Public Safety departments to close them up. Philadelphia was dried up by the police and any city can be if the police heads are determined that it shall be."

Figures compiled by the prohibition department show that during 1931 the government has seized some 350 stills which, it is estimated, cost bootleggers about $4,000,000. In addition 225,000 gallons of alcohol, 687,000 gallons of

DRY LAW SENTENCES HEAVIER IN JERSEY

Trenton Times 12/14/31

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Heavier jail sentences and heavier fines marked the prosecution of Federal dry law violators in New Jersey district courts in November as compared with October, a report issued today by Colonel Amos W. Woodcock, director of prohibition enforcement, shows.

"Scofflaws" who faced the Federal judges in New Jersey in November drew jail sentences averaging 87.9 days and average fines of $303.99 compared with 57.4 days and $233.1 fines in October.

Seizures in New Jersey were greate than for any other district in th whole country, the beer total bein 174,828.31 gallons, over three times a great as the quantity confiscated i all four New York State districts. I October this situation was reverse with New York State beer seizur over three times the 50,390 gallons r ported in Jersey.

Liquor seizures in Jersey were f greater than elsewhe e, the total b ing 81,701 gallons, compared wi 12,032 the previous month.

SEVERE PENALTIES FOR TRENTONIANS

Trenton Times 12/11/31

Liquor Charges Predominate In Imposition of U. S. Sentences

Judge John Boyd Avis, in Federal Court today, dealth out severe penalties to a number of Trenton defendants who were charged mith liquor law violations.

As a result of the raid on his farm on the Allentown and Crosswicks Road, Yardville, last year, Alex Kovalik was fined $250 and sentenced to serve four months in jail.

Joe Puynata, of 10 Paul Avenue, Trenton, accused of violations in the same case, was sentenced to serve two months in jail.

Joe Marcola, of 342 North Clinton Avenue, and Alfred Beflore, arrested the same raid, were dismissed and the charges dropped.

Three men arrested during a raid on a farm in Monroe Township, Middlesex County, were each sentenced to serve one month in jail. They are Dominic Dimeco, of 251 North Clinton Avenue; John De Rosse, of 211 Hudson Street, and Edward Mitchell, of 17 Houghton Street.

Rocco Pagano, of Trenton, was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail, and his companion, Natale Minco, also of this city, was given a sentence of 20 days, for violations of the liquor laws.

Martin Kaczor, of Yardville, was sentenced to serve four months in jail, and Anthony Zappi, of Trenton, was sentenced to serve three months, on charges of manufacturing and possessing liquor.

Thomas Davis, who has been confined to the Mercer County Jail to await sentence, was given a term of two years in the penitentiary for forgery.

John L. Maas, of Belmar, was fined $350 for liquor law violations.

James Mixon, of Hudson County, was given an 18-month term for violation of the narcotic laws.