

BIG TASK FACES G. HYERS, STATE BOOZE AGENT

Former Lancaster County Sheriff Serves Notice That Bootlegging Must Stop in Douglas County.

(Continued From Page One.)

His predecessors and all the machinery of the law have heretofore failed to make a "bone dry" Omaha or a "bone dry" Nebraska, yet he says it can and will be done, using methods which he has devised and put into practice in Lancaster county.

Bad Luck to Sample Goods.

During the last 18 months there have been cases where adventurous bootleggers of the Jess Eckford type, who have come to grief and have abandoned the traffic, not through successful police methods so much as to lack of discretion on the part of the bootleggers and an overindulgence in the merchandise they peddled, which has caused accidents that have brought them into the limelight of notoriety and has proved their undoing.

Prosecutions, under the law, are confined mainly to the unfortunate stranger within our gates, who brings in a few flasks of whisky in grips or suit cases and are caught by the members of the morals squad at the depots. The majority of these are not peddlers.

It is true that some bootleggers, whose work was so coarse and lacking in finesse as to suggest the cunning of the ostrich, which imagines its whole body concealed when it hides its head in the sand, have been captured and put out of business. Then, too, there have been fortuitous and accidental circumstances which have revealed the clever cunning of expert bootleggers.

The cleverest of these have never been identified, although they have lost valuable cargoes.

There is the case of a bootlegger who shipped in over a thousand gallons of fine whisky and brandy, all of which was contained in five and 10-gallon kegs, concealed in barrels of macaroni. The spirits and macaroni were seized by the police and the liquor went to the military hospitals of Omaha, while the food product was sold for the benefit of the police relief fund. Neither the owner nor consignee was ever identified.

Curious Discoveries.

Most of the shipments of whisky by freight have resulted in grief because of the vigilance of the Western Weighing association, a traffic organization maintained here for the classification of freight for the benefit of shippers. It is not a police organization in any sense of the word. In its activities it has occasion to investigate packages of freight to see that the contents are in accord with the classifications of the freight bills. Overweight of the contents may cause suspicion and lead to investigation. Some curious discoveries have been made. Liquors, cordials, fine wines and whiskies have been found concealed within the plump abdomens of gigantic Teddy Bears, toy Newfoundland dogs, mounted on wheels, and large enough for a child to ride.

Kegs of whisky have been found in large cans of lard, in boxes of starch and even in cases containing shipments of Bible and other religious books.

They are reported to the federal authorities. Most of these shipments have been for private consumption and not for trafficking.

Human nature is the one big thing that Mr. Hyers and his co-laborers in the moral vineyard will have to cope with. In most every instance they will find themselves working alone for it is seldom that information or help is volunteered by disinterested parties that will lead to the detection and prosecution of this class of crime.

Men who are, in all other respects, law abiding and law enforcing citizens, guard closely and sacredly the secrets of the bootlegger. They may know the routes and the means the whisky bandits employ in delivering and distributing their contraband. They may have the telephone numbers of the whisky runners, but they never chime to the officers of the law.

It is the exception to the rule that the dunkard brought up in police court will "peach" on a bootlegger and tell where he got his liquor, even though the law guarantees him immunity from fine or jail sentence if he gives this information.

In 18 months there have been only two cases in the Omaha police court where such information has been given out of the hundreds of cases tried.

Hard to Get Evidence.

In the north part of Omaha there is a certain establishment that has been under police suspicion for many months. Police know that a large volume of contraband liquor is sold at the place daily. The morals squad has made raid after raid on the place but have never yet procured a particle of evidence. They were at the place New Year night when dozens of thirsty and disappointed customers lined up outside the doors waiting until the raid was over and the police came out empty handed. It is related when the coast became clear that the disappointment of the gang was converted into mental and liquid joy.

On account of its bulk the drinking public is deprived of beer for there is no profit to the bootlegger for smuggling it in. Occasionally, though, favored patrons are supplied with a case or two, although there is now complaint of the quality—customers saying it is no more potent than the near beers, and not near so palatable.

The other day a passenger got on a Missouri Pacific train at Kansas City. He had a huge sack in his hand and was pale and nervous. He attracted the attention of Jack Hall, veteran conductor, who thought the man was sick, especially as he made frequent trips to the water cooler and every time he took a drink sucked away at a lemon which he took from the bag.

Jack got a pill for the man and in other ways showed his solicitude for the fellow.

When the train arrived at the

NEWLY CHOSEN BOOZE AGENT FOR NEBRASKA



Gus Hyers

Union station in Omaha the man, in descending from the train, his sack still comfortably filled with lemons, handed a specimen of the fruit in a playful manner to Conductor Hall, who smilingly put the lemon in his pocket.

An hour or so later, when Hall was at his hotel, some friends called attention to a damp spot in the region of one of his trousers pockets and also to a suspicious odor emanating from him.

The conductor put his hand in his pocket, drew out the lemon which had been given him by his passenger and found that the lemon was leaking whisky. It developed that the passenger was bringing into Omaha, contrary to law, his own lemon sours, au naturel.

One day last spring members of the state squad were at the Burlington station to meet a train from St. Joseph.

When the passengers came into the lobby two agents picked out a rosy checked rustic, about 23 years old, as a suspect.

They compelled him to open his suitcase and they partially investigated the contents. In his "nightie" they found something suspicious. The garment was unfolded and there rolled out on the floor four or five jars of strawberry jam and preserves.

Spectators kidded the agents and the passenger. "Say!" exclaimed one red-nosed fellow, with a suspiciously heavy grip and a breath redolent with the aroma of St. Joe thirst parlors, "they've picked you out for a bootlegger."

"Yes," answered the rustic, "and I notice you fellows who have the goods on you are getting by all right."

Later in a street car the rustic, who proved to be not so green as he looked, confided in several of the passengers, who had witnessed the scene at the depot that the jam and preserves were all camouflage. They had been packed in a garment at the top of the suitcase and he figured on just an incident as occurred to throw ridicule on the officers and prevent them from making a further search. In the bottom of the same suitcase there were numerous pint bottles.

In Hot Water Bottles.

Ardent spirits are introduced into the city in hot water bottles worn beneath the clothing of women. Babies have also been used as a means of smuggling for no officer would be so hardy as to search a heavily swaddled and peacefully sleeping innocent infantile carrier of booze.

In South Omaha the police have captured walking bars. Several negroes were found with elaborate harnesses to which were fastened pockets stored with pint bottles of liquor. The bulky proportions of the body of one of these human saloons, surmounted by a head too small for such an anatomy, led to detection.

Then there is the case of a minor politician. Accident compels him to wear a wooden leg. The stump of the artificial limb had been followed out so as to conceal a quantity of liquor. The owner carried a few small whisky glasses, and regaled the initiated with drinks at 25 cents apiece in alleyways and

other retired places until on one peaceful day, too free patronage of his own bar caused the fellow to be caught flagrant delicto.

While the law prohibits the manufacture of malt or spirituous liquor in Nebraska, beer and wine is being made in large quantities. Lovers of the malt beverage have their own recipes for making home-made beer, and during the warm days of last summer many of them won a more than local reputation for the excellence of their brews. Beer parties were frequent and hospitality on the part of the amateur brewers was lavish.

One Secret They Kept.

Do you think that any of the recipients of this hospitality shouted their secret from the housetops so that the officers of the law would be apprised? Not on your life! If would have been the unapardonable crime!

There are thousands of natives of sunny Italy, especially of Sicily, in the city. There are also Armenians and Syrians, all of whom regard wine as one of the staple necessities of life.

They are making wine. They make it out of grapes, raisins, the latter forming the base of the famous "Dago red," and also out of wild grapes, wild an dttame cherries, elderberries and rhubarb. They turn the despised and lowly dandelion. It was a frequent sight last spring to see women and children of this race busy with knife and basket gathering dandelions, not for greens, but for the making of eau de vie. If the practice continues it may prove to be a solution of the dandelion pest.

Out in the state farmers and orchardists are making hard cider and brandy out of apples, peaches and plums, the wild goose and other native plums producing stuff with an extra "kick" to it.

Under the law the manufacturer of these domestic joy promoters are as culpable as the bootlegger who flourishes in the large cities. It will be the duty of Mr. Hyers to detect and prosecute them.

Like the fabled monster of old, the making and distributing of contraband liquor in Nebraska is hydra-headed and as soon as one head is "scotched" a dozen more arise to take its place.

There are men like Noah. It is related that the first thing he did after leaving the ark, with its 40 days and nights of monotonous shower, was to make himself some wine and get soured. In fact, there are so many of them in Douglas county and the state of Nebraska that it will take a real army of state agents and police officers of every description to enforce the law, many believe. He may have done wonders in Lancaster, though there are some naughty folk who say the "holy city" is not a desert by any means. When it comes to clearing up Douglas county and Nebraska he has a super-man's job, to say the least, all agree.

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Then there is the case of a minor politician. Accident compels him to wear a wooden leg. The stump of the artificial limb had been followed out so as to conceal a quantity of liquor. The owner carried a few small whisky glasses, and regaled the initiated with drinks at 25 cents apiece in alleyways and

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conditions invariably surround decayed or broken-down teeth. In order to be certain of conditions, we take an X-Ray, which proves the diagnosis. F. P. (Kay) Clark has become expert in operating the X-Ray. Results assured.

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Delay in Pay of Returning U. S. Soldiers is Denied

Washington, Jan. 4.—Despite serious difficulties owing to lost records and insufficient data payments are being made to troops as they arrive from overseas and "no casual or other enlisted men from overseas who have a legitimate claim for pay need go without funds," said a statement today by the finance division of the quartermaster corps. It has been charged in congress and else-

where that soldiers were being returned to this country and discharged without having been given their pay.

British Troops in Demand for Early Demobilization

London, Jan. 4.—The Folkestone correspondent of the Evening News says that several thousand soldiers marched yesterday in a body from three rest camps to the Folkestone town hall to protest against the delay in demobilization.

Hereford Breeders Are to Hold Their Convention Here

The Nebraska Polled Hereford Breeders' association will hold its annual meeting in Omaha at the Hotel Castle at 7:30 p. m. on January 28.
E. H. Gifford of Lewiston, Neb., will preside. Boyd C. Radford of Newark, Neb., is secretary. Addresses will be made by B. O. Gannon of Des Moines, secretary of the National Polled Hereford Breed-

ers' association, and by Hayes Walker, publisher of the American Hereford Journal of Kansas City.

To Look Into Contracts.

Washington, Jan. 4.—An investigation by the senate naval committee of the awarding of contracts to the Ford Motor company for the construction of Eagle boats and into the character and construction of those boats was proposed in a resolution introduced yesterday by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts.

Allied Investigators Find Food Shortage in Vienna

London, Jan. 4.—(via Montreux)—Reuters is informed that the allied commission for revictualizing Austria has arrived at Vienna. It has found that the food shortage in Austria and especially in Vienna, is extremely serious and that probably much more extensive arrangements than originally anticipated must have to be made for feeding the population.

How Many Tires Does Your Car Need To Go 10,000 Miles?

THE above question goes straight to the root of one of the largest items of motor-ing expenditure. For tires cost money—how much money depends largely on whether your car is or is not easy on tires.

The average car (on the right) heavy, or rigidly built, or both—to go 10,000 miles, needs an extra set of tires, or eight tires in all.

The Franklin Car (on the left) to go the same distance—and further—needs only the four tires on the car, or half as many as the other.

There could be no clearer illustration of the splendid economy of the Franklin—America's First Light Weight Fine Car; nor a more direct indictment of unnecessary motor car weight.

weighs 2445 pounds—the right weight for a full-size five passenger car. Moreover, it carries the minimum unsprung weight—weight below the springs, that contributes to the pound and shock tires must meet.

Franklin Flexible Construction—full elliptic springs, instead of the usual compromise type; chassis frame of tough, resilient ash instead of unyielding steel—is still another reason why tires on the Franklin get every opportunity to deliver the full mileage that is in them. This flexible construction reduces road-shocks on tires. There are no torque bars or strut rods to cause the rigidity that leaves tires unprotected.

Heavy Weight Pounds Out Tires

It is excess weight that prevents the average heavy and rigid car from equaling the publicly-known Franklin tire-mileage. The action of the weight of an automobile on its tires is similar to a hammer blow—and the heavier the hammer, the harder and more destructive the blow. Heavy weight pounds out tires prematurely. And the heavy car owner, accustomed to paying for tire-mileage he doesn't get, accepts it as part of the game—until he meets a Franklin owner.

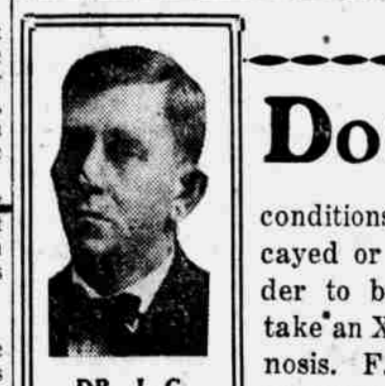
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The reason lies in the sixteen-year old Franklin principle of Scientific Light Weight and Flexible Construction. The Franklin

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DR. BROWNFIELD