New Orleans Forgetting Prohibition

No Dry Law in City and Police Leave Enforcement Work Entirely to Federal Men

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New Orleans, Dec. 6 - This city is making preparations to forget prohibition.

There is no prohibition law in New Orleans now so far as the police are concerned. Shortly after the general election in which the state voted preponderantly in favor of repeal of the state liquor law, Superintendent of Police Reyers announced his men would abandon further attempts to enforce the state liquor act, which shortly will be inoperable.

Told to "Forget" Liquor.

For a time police apparently were not sure where they stood in regard to violations of the National Prohibition Act committed in their presence. A number of arrests were made for other offenses, after which police reported liquor law violations to Federal prohibition officials here.

Then the superintendent of police issued an all-station order in which it was directed, "police is to forget it" when they found liquor, and to cease cooperating with Federal operatives.

Prohibition agents are now patrolling the roads leading to New Orleans from the numberless byways where small, speedy boats discharge their liquor cargoes which in turn are loaded aboard trucks and automobiles—and the race cityward starts.

It developed recently that "big shots" employ small armies of drivers who take their chances of running the prohibition blockade. The same driver does not make the entire trip.

At way stations cars and trucks halt, new drivers are substituted, and the race toward New Orleans continues. Agents frequently are thrown off the track, especially in regard to automobiles, in which men and women take turns at driving.

Famous Liquor Center.

New Orleans has been one of the centers of smuggled liquor distribution since Canada tightened up on its liquor laws more than two years ago. The largest number of persons ever indicted in a single rum smuggling conspiracy were indicted here, but liquor continued to pour into the city.

Many of the larger speakeasies are planning to go legitimate with new bars and equipment as soon as the Volstead Act is modified.

Famous restaurants here, which draw their patronage from visitors from all parts of the world, have placed tentative orders for consignments of imported wine and beer.

Widely known bartenders who left New Orleans and the United States when prohibition took its hold are returning in appreciable numbers, and are all set to give this city the Bazarre's, the Ramos gin fizzes and other cocktails and concoctions which were celebrated before the dry era.

In addition to the large breweries which have continued in operation, with thoroughly modernized plants ready to meet the demand for beer, a number of new breweries contemplate early opening.

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