

# Big Campaign Launched To Dry Up Washington

## Prohibition Enforcement Is to Have Its Greatest Test in National Capital and Officials Entrusted With Job Have Made Up Minds to Do It Thoroughly

By ROBERT T. SMALL  
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Washington, Jan. 12.—Prohibition enforcement is to have its greatest test here in Washington. The officials entrusted with that work have made up their minds that the nation's capital is to be bone-dry.

With Anti-Saloon Leaguers and temperance advocates gathered here for the celebration next week of the fourth anniversary of constitutional prohibition in this country word has gone forth that this city at least is to be made in actuality a dry municipality no matter what the cost. This is to be a real test. If it fails then it will be admitted that prohibition laws cannot be made operative.

So long as Washington remains "wet" it is said there is little hope of effective enforcement in other communities that lean to alcoholic dampness. The chiefs have decided there is not much to be gained in raking their subordinates over the coals in other jurisdictions when the Volstead Act is being violated right under their noses here in Washington.

Fair warning has been given, therefore, to Government officials and all other flouters of the law that they must make up their minds to accept prohibition and abide by it. The prohibition agents have gone so far as to say that if they cannot make Washington dry they might as well give up the task everywhere.

Washington consequently is to become a dry symbol to the rest of the country. There has been entirely too much drinking here in connection with national banquets and dinners. Too many prominent visitors have gone back to their home towns with the statement that they found Washington as wet as the Atlantic Ocean. All of this is going to be changed. It is admitted wines and liquors have not been served openly at the banquet tables, but on the occasion of each big dinner it is claimed several hotel rooms have been taken over and converted into virtual bars. For some of the functions the committees in charge have imported old-time bar tenders and the jubilation has gone forward in gaily tempo.

Distinguished foreign visitors, entertained here at the capital, invariably have gone back to Europe with the statement that prohibition seems to be a "joke" in this country even in the very home of the Government.

All of this semi-public drinking is to be stamped out. To this end the prohibition chiefs are importing some of their most successful operatives from other districts. None of the regular agents are being relieved in the District of Columbia, but there is to be a concentration here of the "heat minds" in the enforcement personnel, and it is to be a case of dry up Washington or "bust."

It was reported today that the special agents who recently "cleaned up" Savannah, Ga., and rounded up some ninety or one hundred of the chief bootleggers and conspirators, have arrived in Washington and begun work "under cover." They are known in the service as the "Irish wrecking crew" and what they intend to do to the law breakers here in the capital is said to be a plenty. Neither senators, nor congressmen nor officials in any branch of the Government will be spared in the "round up" of those who sell and those who possess the forbidden beverages.

An example is to be made of Washington and naturally the temperance delegates who are here are delighted with the prospect. They feel that a great step forward will be made if the lid can be clamped on Washington good and tight. They have been faulted everywhere with the free drinking in Washington, and they believe if an effective start can be made here the rest of the country will yield.

The prohibition agents do not expect to blot out the last vestige of wetness. They say that a certain amount of moonshine will continue to filter into the capital from the surrounding rural counties in Maryland and Virginia. They are striking at the "cholece liquors" which have been pouring into the capital lately and bringing here higher prices than in almost any other sections of the country.

Some of the raids thus far made have been anonymous affairs. The names of the homes invaded have not been made public. This is to be no brass band affair this time. The workers are going to labor quietly and earnestly and believe their silence will be more effective than

## YEAR SUCCESSFUL IN WELFARE WORK

### Commissioner Makes Annual Statement of Accomplishment and Looks Forward to Another Good Year.

Raleigh, January 14 — Declaring that the year 1923 was the most successful and eventful in its history, the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare today made public a review of the year's work and the plans as outlined by Mrs. Kate Burr Johnston, Commissioner for the 1924 period. Among subjects discussed in the report were the present conditions, work for crippled children, the operation of the Mother's Aid Law passed by the 1923 Assembly and the use of the fifty per cent increase for the work of the Board which was granted by the 1923 Legislature. Increasing popular support and understanding of the work of the Board on the part of the public has been very heartening to the officers of the department, the statement declared.

For 1923, according to Mrs. Johnston's statement, the Board will enlarge the scope of its five bureaus dealing with public welfare and it is expected that the new State institutions will come under its supervision. Clinics for the crippled children, conducted successfully for 1923 will be continued in 1924. The adoption of definite standards for the work of the county superintendents

flamboyant accounts of obscure arrests. Neither is the round up here to be a forty eight hour "dead line" affair. If Washington is dry by late spring, the prohibition unit will be satisfied.

dents of public welfare was begun in 1923 and will be continued in 1924 to state in spirit work to its highest possible state of efficiency.

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