

President Signs Anti-Beer Measure; Doctors Lose Right to Prescribe Beer

Special to *The New York Times*.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—President Harding signed the Anti-Medicinal Beer bill today, an act which automatically nullifies the Treasury Department regulations permitting physicians to prescribe beer for medicinal purposes.

The bill came to the White House from the Capitol by way of the Treasury Department, where legal experts passed upon it, but before the President's signature no ruling as to its constitutionality was required from the Attorney General, which implies that this question was not raised by Treasury officials.

"The passage of the Willis-Campbell bill, otherwise known as the Anti-Beer act, marks a new step forward in the enforcement of prohibition," Prohibition Commissioner R. A. Haynes said today. "It is regrettable that some few brewers and druggists had sufficient confidence that the bill would not be signed by the President to induce the brewers to pay taxes and withdraw beer and to induce the druggists to purchase tax-paid beer for medicinal purposes. Under the law the tax cannot be refunded.

"The act also limits the activities of the few physicians who were issuing prescriptions for liquor to people not actually requiring it, and it strengthens the hands of the department in dealing with the alleged medicinal preparations on the open market which have been used for beverage purposes.

"No embarrassment in the enforce-

ment of prohibition is anticipated from the provision imposing penal liability upon officers searching dwellings without warrants and searching other property without warrants maliciously and without reasonable cause. Fair notice is given to the officers that they must not search dwellings without warrants and no attempts to do so will be made. It will be a very rare case indeed in which under the act an officer can be prosecuted on account of the search of other property.

"It therefore appears that so long as a prohibition officer has reasonable ground for suspecting a violation of the Prohibition act he cannot be punished for searching property other than a dwelling without a warrant. No substantial decrease in the activities of prohibition officers is anticipated as the result of the new act, and I am entirely confident that Federal District Attorneys and the Department of Justice are not going to institute proceedings against officers, except in the case of a wilful and wanton search by an officer without reasonable grounds for doing so."

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23.—Test of the constitutionality of the anti-beer bill, signed by President Harding, will be begun soon by the National Brewers' Association, it was stated today by H. A. Poth, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Brewers' Association.

"What form the action will take or how wide its scope will be cannot be determined until there has been a conference of those interested," Mr. Poth said.

The New York Times

Published: November 24, 1921
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