

VOLSTEAD LAWS ANNUL OTHERS

Supreme Court Passes on Important Question—Lower Body Upheld

Washington, June 2.—Various internal revenue laws enacted prior to adoption of the 18th amendment and designed to cover illicit distilling have been superceded and annulled by the amendment and the Volstead act, the supreme court held today.

The court sustained the United States district court in Oregon in quashing an indictment under the old statutes against Boze Yuginovich and Cousin Boze Yuginovoch on the ground that no offense had been charged under the Volstead act.

Miss Annette Adams, assistant attorney general, who appeared for the government in arguing the case before the supreme court, said the effect of the decision would be to abate prosecution in a number of cases in which indictments were similarly based and possibly cause the remittance of fines imposed in cases already decided contrary to today's ruling.

On the other hand, Wayne B. Wheeler, counsel for the Anti-Saloon League of America, took the stand tonight that the decision would serve as further support for the dry forces. In the course of its opinion, the court agreed with the lower tribunal in holding that "congress manifested an intention to tax liquor illegally as well as legally produced."

"The decision of the court sustaining the prohibitive tax features of the Volstead act and the revenue laws is a hard blow at the illegal dealers," Mr. Wheeler's statement said. "Over \$25,000,000 were involved in this decision and a still larger amount involved in possible assessments for the next year. If these sections of the law are properly used, they will put out of business all financially responsible illicit liquor dealers."

Boze and Cousin Boze were indicted for violations of sections of the revised statutes. The first court charged them with "unlawfully engaging in carrying on the business of distillers. The second as having failed to keep "conspicuously" over their place of business a sign exhibiting in plain letters those words "registered distillery," the third with having failed to give the required bond and the fourth with having "unlawfully fermented a certain mash."

Washington, June 2.—The Volstead bill, designed to prevent the use of medical beer was agreed upon today by the house judiciary committee which will report it to the house, probably tomorrow with a request for its immediate passage.

Prohibition leaders declared there were votes enough to put it through before the bureau of internal revenue could make effective proposed regulations by which beer could be prescribed for the ailing under a ruling of former Attorney General Palmer.

Although the measure as a whole would make the prohibition enforcement act more drastic, representatives of the drug and flavoring ex-

SEEK INFORMATION OF CHINA'S COTTON INDUSTRY

More trustworthy information as to cotton production and consumption in China is expected to be made available as a result of a recent conference between Mr. Chunjen C. Chen and officials of the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Chen, since his graduation from Cornell University, has spent much of his time during the past two or three years in and about the Department of Agriculture and at southern experiment stations in an intensive study of cotton breeding, marketing and allied subjects under the patronage of the Chinese Cotton Mill Owners Association.

On Mr. Chen's return to China in June he will undertake for the association to develop the cotton industry of that country on a scientific basis. Among his plans he now hopes to have the association undertake cotton statistical work along the same lines as that now carried on by the United States Department of Agriculture.

At present no trustworthy statistics of cotton are obtainable from China, so this project is expected to prove of great value to this country, especially since Mr. Chen also hopes to be able to produce American Upland long staples in China. It is now estimated that China produces annually about 8,000,000 bales of short staple cotton, practically all of which is consumed locally, such long staple as is consumed being imported in the form of combed yarns.

In growing long staple cotton, however, it is possible that China may become a competitor of the United States in the world market, provided enough were produced for export. Accurate cotton statistics would keep the trade in this country informed as to the amount of cotton being grown and the size of China's exports and imports which would enable American dealers to handle their product more intelligently—U. S. Dept. Weekly News Letter.

Ivory from tusks of female elephants is the most valuable of all ivories.

tracts trades won their fight against a section requiring the medicating or denaturing of alcohol, prior to its withdrawal from warehouses and distilleries for manufacturing purposes.

Chairman Volstead, by direction of the committee, introduced late today a redraft of his bill, slightly modified in some particulars. The section prohibiting importation and manufacture of liquor until the stocks held under government supervision have been materially reduced, or exhausted, was retained.

The redrafted measure, while placing certain restrictions around the use of wines in medicines, did not include the original provisions which would have outlawed wine as a medicine along with beer. It provides, however, for the limitation of alcohol withdrawals for medicines and gives the commissioner authority, if he finds that any preparation is being used as a beverage, to require a change of formula so that it would be rendered actually unfit for drinking.

FREIGHT CHARGES GIVEN ATTENTION

Washington, June 2.—While railroad executives were pressing before congress today their plea for relief from financial embarrassments, President Harding took direct action to satisfy himself that a revision of freight rates, particularly on necessities, would be a part of the general railway readjustment.

Walking unannounced into the office of the interstate commerce commission, the president inquired of the commissioners what they were doing toward the relief of shippers who had found some of the present rates unreasonably burdensome. He was assured that the whole subject was under investigation and that the commission hoped soon to effect broad revision through the voluntary action of the roads. The hauling charges for fruit products over Western roads were made a specific example by Mr. Harding in pressing his inquiries. The commission officials replied that the fruit schedules already were receiving informal consideration.

Although it was indicated that the question of rates prompted the president's call on the commission, it was assumed that during the half hour's conference mention also was

made of the road's proposal that the government discharge at once its debt to them growing out of federal control. This proposal was renewed before the senate interstate commerce committee during the day by Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania lines, who argued that such action would be no more than in keeping with the word of the government given at the time the roads were taken over. The suggestion is known to have received careful consideration by the president and his advisers, and was the subject of a conference yesterday between Mr. Harding Chairman Cummings of the interstate commerce committee and Dr. Jen Davis of the railroad administration.

In visiting the interstate commerce commission today Mr. Harding technically was dealing with a part of the government entirely outside the executive branch, and he assured the commissioners that he had come simply in the interest of cooperation and general welfare. Since he had official right to communicate with congress regarding rates, he explained he felt that he might enjoy the same privilege in regard to the commission set up as the agent of congress in the making of rates.

WOMAN IS SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER

Bridgeport, Conn., June 2.—Mrs. Ethel Hutchins Nott, on trial here charged with the murder of her husband, George B. Nott, today pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree. Judge Wm. M. Maltbie sentenced her to life imprisonment.

Mrs. Nott changed her plea after counsel for the state introduced letters alleged to have been written by her to Elwood L. Wade, who was recently hanged for murdering Nott. The letters were said to have been written while Mrs. Nott and Wade were in jail awaiting trial.

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