

to be accomplished. The amount of actual evidence was discouragingly meagre; the identities of the participants unknown. Descriptions, as in many such affairs, were negligible.

The investigators visited every home in the district within a twelve-mile radius. Someone, somewhere, would surely remember or know of an individual characteristic of the wanted men.

Eventually it was learned that an erstwhile bootlegger and former resident in a near-by locality was the leader of the gang. This man had moved to the city and become moderately successful as an automobile salesman. It was also disclosed that one of his confederates had a cross eye and was known as "Turk"; another had a fresh cut on his prominent nose and a third, because of a pigeon-toed foot, walked with a slight limp.

The hunt settled down in grim determination. Through the keen perceptive powers of the constable in charge of a detachment in the industrial area the thug with the cut nose was identified in a few hours. This led to the rum-runners' undoing. Following a system of deduction the police soon identified the other men involved.

During an enquiry under the far-reaching powers of Section 134A of the Customs Act the entire proceedings were recounted. The evidence thereby obtained, although not used in later prosecutions, assisted greatly in preparing the cases for presentation before the presiding magistrate and resulted in the seizure of the cars used in the illicit traffic.

Six men were charged with offences under s. 66(2) (a) of the Nova Scotia Liquor Control Act and under s.193 (2) of the Customs Act. The charge was so laid that the penalty for unlawful possession of a quantity of liquor over four imperial gallons imposed a mandatory gaol term as well as a fine. There were no exhibits, but the testimony of witnesses established the existence of rum and the fact that there was more than four imperial gallons. For they

themselves had opened more than one keg and imbibed some of the contents which each deposed to be rum.

Lacking exhibits and evidence of continuity of possession (for the ten kegs seized during the initial stage of the investigation could not be connected definitely with the case), we were forced to lay charges under the minor offence of s. 193 of the Customs Act.

One of the offenders absconded before the cases were brought to court. The remaining five, represented by an experienced counsel, appeared before the magistrate. After days of wrangling the magistrate. After days of wrangling convictions were entered in all five cases.

Appeals were immediately entered. The cases were again heard at the next sitting of the County Court. Here the magistrate's decision was upheld.

The men pleaded guilty when later arraigned for the charges under the Customs Act.

For the offence under the N.S.L.C. Act each man was sentenced to three months imprisonment and fined \$200 and costs; or in default, an additional three months in jail. For offences under the Customs Act each was fined \$50 and costs or one month behind bars.

Their infractions achieved no gain for the six men. The rum they stole was later seized from the new caches by other hi-jackers who had watched the proceedings and awaited their opportunity.

The fact that the first hi-jackers succeeded in locating the original cache reflects no discredit on the police. One of the gang was the nephew of a big-time rum-runner. From his uncle he received accurate information as to the position of the cache. Even then he and his accomplices found it necessary to return and search the beach several times before finally unearthing the hidden stores.

Their treasure was a 'Castle in Spain' that burst like a bubble in the wind. These gangsters, no doubt, realize now that easy money is hard to get.