

A NEW DRY "CZAR"

A MUSTACHE WHICH HAS ACCOMPANIED HIM through a political career of fifteen years now goes to Washington with G. Aaron Youngquist, who drops his duties as Attorney-General of Minnesota to accept President Hoover's appointment as "the new czar of Prohibition enforcement," with the prospect of exercising "greater power than has been given to any one man since the Eighteenth Amendment was enacted." When he began his political career, in 1914, we read, Mr. Youngquist was "so young that I had to grow a mustache to get anywhere in the campaign," and he has kept it ever since. Succeeding Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, who resigned five months ago as Assistant Attorney-General in charge of Prohibition enforcement, he enters the wet-and-dry arena to carry out the President's ideas of how the law should be administered. "Under Youngquist," says the Washington correspondent of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, "the 'noble experiment' is expected to get its acid test." And this may come soon, for in December, we read, the President will ask Congress to pass a bill now being drawn up by John McNab, California lawyer, transferring all powers of the Prohibition unit from the Treasury Department to the Department of Justice.

Making his bow to the nation with the praise of the Anti-Saloon League and of Andrew J. Volstead, father of the Prohibition law, ringing in his ears, Mr. Youngquist was quick to announce that "I am dry politically and personally, but I am not a fanatic on the subject." And he indicated, according to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, that he "would not conduct a Carrie Nation crusade against liquor." This attitude wins the commendation of both wet and dry newspapers.

Voicing what seem to be the views of a majority of newspapers, the *Asheville Times* suggests: "Let all wish him well, dram-drinking Prohibitionists and self-confessed wets. He may be no fanatic, but he is now about to engage in battle with fanatics in both camps of the American liquor issue." And the *Minneapolis Star* agrees that "no governmental post has been more a target for criticism and censure than that of chief Prohibition prosecutor, a position which calls for "the tact of a diplomat and the courage of a soldier."

Mr. Youngquist, we are told, was born in Sweden on November 4, 1885, and came to the United States with his parents two years later, first to Illinois, and in 1889 to St. Paul. He left school at thirteen to go to work. Quoting from an interesting sketch of his life in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*:

"Returning to St. Paul, in 1901, he began the dual life of office-boy and student of stenography. A double life was not enough for him, so he embarked on a triple career of stenographer in an insurance office, high-school student, and student in the St. Paul College of Law.

"After graduation, in 1909, he went to Thief River Falls, Minnesota, to become a lawyer, but the people of the town refused to cooperate. Moving to Crookston, he practised law with greater success, and in 1914 began his political career, running for the office of Polk County Attorney. 'I was new, and green, and so young that I had to grow a mustache to get anywhere in the campaign,' he said. The mustache has accompanied him in all his offices, as Assistant State Attorney-General, Attorney-General, in various legal appointments, and now to Washington. In 1918 Mr. Youngquist was commissioned captain in the United States Army. 'I was in the service only two weeks,' he explained, 'and then the war quit.'"