

BOOZE RUNNING? NAY, SAYS LAW

Federal, County, City Officials Join Chorus Denying Rum Crosses River.

Stories of rum smuggling across the Detroit river were declared to be grossly exaggerated by federal, county and city authorities Friday. If liquor is being received along the water front and if gangs of whisky runners are making shipments by automobile to points as far east as Boston, it is being done despite the redoubled vigilance of every means known to put a stop to it, authorities stated.

"We are trying to verify the report received from Boston that a large quantity of liquor was received in that city from Detroit," said James R. Davis, federal prohibition director for Detroit. "My men have been working along the river front, but as far as I know there is no more activity in liquor smuggling than in the past. If anything, less is coming into Detroit. Reports of smuggling have been greatly inflated."

At police headquarters it was said that there might be some whisky runners but if there were they were alert enough to evade the law and as far as the police knew they were no more active now than in the past. It had been hinted that there were gangs organized for the purpose of running liquor into the smaller towns of the state but so far these organizations had evaded the law.

"There is no truth to the report that Detroit is the source of supply for bootleggers and whisky runners, as far as we have been able to ascertain," said Zalic Clago, chief clerk of the sheriff's office. "There are many wild stories about, but upon investigation they generally peter out. Detroit is no worse now than it was some months ago despite stories to the contrary. I think there is less liquor in the city than reports would lead us to believe."

Field men of the Detroit prohibition district were called for conference Friday. Federal Prohibition Director Davis stated. The entire federal prohibition force has been reorganized, and will be operating on a full basis within the next month, Mr. Davis said.

Mr. Davis recently succeeded A. C. Graham, as director.