

# RUM-RUNNERS FIRE ON CUSTOMS BOAT

## Damage Craft in Running Fight in Detroit River and Escape to Canada.

### ATTACK CALLED DESPERATE

#### W. S. Petty, Acting Collector, Says Liquor Carrier Is Known and Predicts Its Capture.

*Special to The New York Times.*

DETROIT, Mich., June 19.—Customs border patrol speed boat 4101 was attacked today by gunfire of rum-runners and damaged in a running fight which developed in American waters of the Detroit River.

The runners took the aggressive in their effort to bring Canadian liquor across the border. This, according to Walter S. Petty, acting Customs Collector, shows how desperate the rum-runners are in their efforts to run the customs blockade.

"This particular runner's boat," Mr. Petty said, "is the most dangerous on the river, and once we get it a large share of our troubles will be over. We have enough men, and our boats are fast enough to run this craft down."

#### Opened Fire Second Time.

After reaching the haven of Canadian waters, where they were automatically protected by the terms of international treaty, the rum-runners opened fire a second time but did not hit the patrol boat again. The two inspectors in the speed boat brought their craft to the customs base here, where it will be repaired.

The bow was smashed by bullets, the wind-shield broken and some of the machinery wrecked. The boat from which the shots were fired is known to the inspectors of the customs border patrol. Last week the same rum-runners opened fire on a customs boat, but were turned back to Canada before any damage was inflicted.

They are members of a Detroit gang noted for rum-running and hijacking, according to Walter S. Petty, Assistant Collector of Customs.

The rum-runners' boat is a mahogany-colored craft, with a wide white strip just above the water line. It was seen just before midnight Tuesday in Canadian waters, headed toward Detroit, but evidently was deterred from the dash across because of several customs boats.

At 4 A. M. today the members of the crew shot out of the shadows of the Canadian shore, toward the foot of Leid Street. One hundred feet from the Detroit shore the customs boat raced out from a hiding place.

Two rum-runners stood up and opened fire with pistols, and the men at the wheel of their boat turned it around, raced back toward the Canadian shore, his companions crouched behind a pile of bags and continuing their fire.

The chase led past Belle Isle, and both of the inspectors returned the fire without effect. Half way up the Belle Isle shore the customs boat, with the bow riddled, fell behind and the inspectors gave up the chase, retreating toward the base in the face of a pistol fire from the rum-runners.