

RUM AGENTS MAY 'GET ROUGH,' WITNESS SAYS

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—Prohibition agents are justified in using football tactics on violators of the prohibition law who resist their efforts to obtain possession of intoxicating liquors as evidence, Francis V. Hertzig, a witness of the commonwealth, testified at the trial in Federal court of James L. Asher, federal prohibition agent, on a charge of second degree murder in connection with the death of Peter Yancauskas, a saloonkeeper.

The state, which is prosecuting the case, claims that Yancauskas died from peritonitis resulting from a beating and kicks in the stomach administered by Asher during a raid on his saloon. It also is claimed that in resisting the prohibition officers, Yancauskas and his wife believed them to be robbers. Asher, who is known as the "Lone Wolf" is being defended by the federal district attorney.

Describing what he called a free-for-all fight that followed the agents' entry into the saloon, Hertzig, a former prohibition agent, who accompanied Asher in the raid, said Mrs. Yancauskas "flew at us like a tigress and her husband rushed at us like a wild bull." Hertzig denied that the saloon-keeper had been given an unjustified beating.

Testimony of Mrs. Yancauskas that David Erskine, another, agent, who assisted Asher in the raid, had hit her husband on the head with a black jack and had threatened to shoot him, was denied by Erskine. He declared that he neither had struck the saloonkeeper nor displayed his pistol.

Peter Yancauskas

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