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Letter: Frank Forbes Corliss to Ida M. Tarbell, September 3, 1929

Corliss, Frank Forbes

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Oakland, Maryland

Sept 5-1929

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City.

My Dear Miss Tarbell :--
Your letter received and greatly appreciated and your pardon is herewith granted.

Yes, you may use any part of my Control System that suits you and my name also when you wish to be relieved of responsibility for my statements.

Citizens and Senators have approved of my method for securing a righteous temperance law and the only criticism they have made is like yours, namely: that while the eighteenth remains unrepealed, they see no way of enacting it into law.

Well, its a fact, that Politicians don't want to see any changes or improvements in our Prohibitory law, because it is the richest gold mine they have ever discovered and been able to appropriate for Party paramountcy and profits.

As a matter of fact, The Congress can pass a law forbidding any appropriation of U.S. Treasury funds for the purpose of enforcing the Volstead Act, which would make Prohibition as dead and obsolete as the Blue Laws of the Puritans .

Let it sleep in the mausoleum of the Constitution!-
As a static force it would be helpless and harmless.

The eighteenth amendment specifically prohibits individuals , from making, transporting and selling INTOXICANTS but it does not forbid the STATES the use of their sovereign rights , of self-determination, to make and sell wine, cider or Alcohol for the exclusive use of States Citizens.

If a wet State encroaches on the rights of a Dry State then the Federal Government may use its protective forces for the benefit of the dry or injured state.

It can not compel any State to assist it in the enforcement of the Volstead Act.

Sixteen of our most populous States represent practically 2/3 of the Nations man power, money power, industrial power and the BRAINS that make the Nations leadership.

If their Governors or legislatures should notify the President of the U.S.A. that he could have no help from them in the enforcement of an UNJUST and unprincipled law against an unwilling people, that would be the end of his " noble experiment" .

I have no money to give the Temperance Cause, but I do say in modesty and without conceit that I can aid the IGNORANT and inexperienced to secure a temperance law that all right-thinking and justice-loving people desire.

With high regards- Frank Forbes Corliss.