February 19, 1931,

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Knowing of your extensive research into the life of Abraham Lincoln I thought that you might be able to enlighten me on a subject which appears to be in dispute. I refer to an alleged quotation from a speech reported to have been made by the Emancipator with respect to Prohibition, while he was a member of the Illinois Legislature.

According to my informant Mr. Lincoln is reputed to have spoken as follows:

> "Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason, in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A Prohibition Law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our Government was founded."

It is asserted that the above statement can be found in the Journal of the House of Representatives on page 136, under date of December 19, 1840.

No doubt your examination of historical data could confirm for me the accuracy of the aforesaid statement and I beg to assure you that any information in this respect would be heartily appreciated.

The writer will in the very near future engage in a debate on the Prohibition Problem and desires to use the above citation if its authenticity can be properly documented.

Reiterating my appreciation of your kind compliance, believe me,

sincerely yours,

A. V. Biegen

Mr. A. V. Biegen,
514 - 15th Street,
Union City, N. J.

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