

After Repeal - What?

My old friend in the W.C.T.U. loyal to the women's crusading days, prayed and broke bottles in saloons, fought in prohibition ranks for forty years or more, tells me that she has been convicted of sin. Not that she has changed her mind. Oh, my no. She never was more militantly, determinedly a prohibitionist than now. Fundamentally kindness is stronger in her than fanaticism. She holds sacred an old friendship when that friend like myself does not hold with her views, is proved by the free way in which she talks with me.

"We've made a terrible mistake," she said. "We thought that law would finish it. I have always believed so. After fifty years of fighting I thought I had a right to rest, that I had won the battle. You know it did look so at first. And then I saw things happening in our town - one speakeasy after another. And then the boys carrying hip flasks and the girls, and even children." (incidents of railroad stations) Insert here. "But when I talked to my friends about doing something they said, 'We have nothing more to do with it - it is the government - there is a law forbidding it. The government must enforce it.'

"And when it got worse I said, we must do something. They said, 'No law is perfectly enforced.' And then came the revolt and we have been utterly helpless. I see now that a law can't change men over night that if you are going to train him you

have to begin at the bottom, and keep all this after him."

Of course she was right but when she fought for prohibition she spiked her own gun, and ~~(convinced)~~ the crusades, the militant type in ~~which she engaged~~ had no standing ^{reful} for the people. Enforce the law ~~was~~ the answer.

It looks today as if the repeal of ~~my friend~~ (of this long desired law would ^{is certain} have ~~interested~~ him, that the 18th Amendment must go. And I am asking myself with no small misgiving and indeed have been asking myself the question ever since that I became convinced that prohibition was unenforceable - something that I had always expected. I have been asking myself - after repeal - what? Are the people who have carried on these anti-prohibition ~~operations~~ campaigns - Mrs. Sabin with her women's society - Mr. Dupont and Mr. Raskob with their societies - are they going to settle back and finally the 18th Amendment is off the books and liquor rule, as it is doing now? There will be a fight - is liquor legal? And all the old time ^{brewer} ~~chemists~~ that found profit legally in liquor will come to the front. They will fight for the saloon and they will be as energetic as the present bootlegger in converting people to drink. And we will have what goes on now behind the walls going on in the street.

What has been the object in this anti-prohibition campaign? What have these people, that have been fighting it, wanted? Perhaps the loudest voice in recent months and the one most discouraging and disgusting to me - an anti-prohibitionist - has been the cry that if we repeal ^{it} / makes liquor legal, we can get for the

government the money the bootlegger now is absorbing illegally. It is a depressing and ignoble argument. What is the object of all this ~~hulla-ba-llo~~ over drink anyway? Has it ever been really anything but the encouragement of temperance - the bringing to men and women to a point where their appetites were controlled, where a glass of wine was like a piece of beef steak - an enjoyable and legal ^{appetite} ~~addition~~ to their dinner. Temperance is the object of what we are after. How are you going to keep that object to the front when the repeal is passed? You can not do it by the argument that the money better go to the government than to the bootlegger.

You cannot do it by the drawing of a pleasant picture that Mr. Rascob recently drew - repeal and once again the dinner table has its light wines and its beers. Social argument. If light wines and beers on the dinner table lead to drunkenness and distress, as the prohibitionists argue, and as we know so often happens, that is no argument for the repeal. The only argument is a larger degree of temperance - progressive temperance - and if we are to get that, after the repeal, it has got to be by a continuance intelligent system of campaigning its interest.

There are some serious questions which the anti-prohibitionists must ask themselves today, and be prepared to answer.

It will go back to the States and the States will control it but how about the saloon. - ~~Can anyone buy it,~~ there will ^{at least} be localities/where efforts to re-establish the saloon will occur and that they will be successful in proportion to the sentiment of the locality. ^{in certain} ~~never in the world.~~ The United States government cannot prevent the States from opening a saloon, allowing it to be opened in this country. Senator Borah was entirely right when he said, (Quote)

And Mrs. Sabin and Mr. Dupont and Mr. Curry have a serious problem on their hands - a problem of education to control.

Moreover they have got to meet, and they might as well begin it now, to figure out both physical and moral results - social results - of the free use of wines, beers and hard liquors. They must be prepared to meet this intelligently. The prohibitionists claim that liquor in any form is a poison. Look back at what we were brought upon and what goes into the schools today.

(Digest the teachings of present school books on the use of alcohol)

That is the kind of thing I was brought up upon. It was only by an actual and rather frightened experience, after I was a grown woman, that convinced me that a little alcohol was not only not dangerous but really helpful. I shall always remember with ~~much~~ amusement the education on this point from a fine old time American Consul, stationed years ago in a French city. I had

gone there to look up an industrial development of the town and dined at the Consul's table. There was no wine but we were a group of Americans and of course we talked wine and its effect on the people. And this ^{precautions} old gentleman, brought up in ^{under} ~~this~~ conspicuous prohibitionist teachings, said after listening to what we had been saying, "Well, I have made up my mind that we have been wrong in teaching that a little wine is harmful. I was ill last summer in Italy - the Doctor would not allow me to drink water - he insisted that I have wine. They brought me a bottle and I tell you I saw devils dancing inside that liquid. But I had to drink something. I had been trained to obey a Doctor. You know in a week I drank all of that quart and I never felt any intoxication."

Gradually I think that gentleman if he had lived long enough - and he was already an old man - might have been brought to drink a cocktail before dinner. And he was already drinking ^{Dubonnet} ~~dishonest~~ under his Doctor's order, so he told us, and had not shown any intoxication!

One of the staunchest of prohibitionists was the late Judge Gary (Quote interview) must be carried on in and entirely candid, absolutely based scientifically campaign on the real effect of alcohol. Just how much can be taken with benefit - how restrained one must be. That is the kind of temperance we must have if we are to be what is a truly temperant country and the education that requires is like the education to any other form of self-control - the breaking down of any other form of self-indulgence.

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It cannot be done by laws - it must be done by education and to do it by education there must be the soundest knowledge of what is going on.

(Quote Buffalo Doctor)

There are those who have led in the fight ~~or~~ against the 18th Amendment which experience proves was drawing temperance in this country as an ideal and building ^{(out} up a height) of organized, subsidized, crime obstructed by a large element of those very institutions that we have devised to keep us straight and to punish the evil. Have those who have been fighting to break down these effects of the 18th Amendment the courage to prevent repeal to bring back to us all the evils of the old situation - have the courage to attack the new intemperance and crime that has come out of the 18th Amendment. Unless Mrs. Sabin and Mr. Dupont and Mr. Curry can see their way to transform campaigns against the Amendment into campaigns for genuine temperance then we shall have the the same mistakes that the prohibitionists made after they got their Amendment. They will eventually ^{see} unless they are organized to fear the new forces which they are letting loose, they will see a return of conditions which will give a new life to those who they have apparently have defeated.