

R. H. TOWNER

160 BROADWAY

NEW YORK

TELEPHONE
CORTLANDT 2-689-90

June 2, 1928.

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have read with interest your article in the June "Delineator", describing drinking conditions as you have found them in small towns of the West. The manner in which prohibition has restored whiskey to popular esteem is also described in my article in "The American Mercury" for May, called "The Rehabilitation of Whiskey".

I sometimes wonder whether you or anyone else of your standing, occupation, predilections, and general outlook on life really knows anything about conditions right here in New York City. I am sure a great many sincere and convinced prohibitionists (especially church people) don't know. They have no opportunity to find out.

On Forty-fourth Street, where I live and where this letter is being dictated, just across Sixth Avenue, a few doors away, an open saloon has been running for years and is still running. It is "open" in the sense that there is no one at the door

to stop anyone, stranger or otherwise, from entering; it is not necessary to be known there or to be introduced, or to have any kind of card or password, or other identification for entry. Anyone can just walk in. The bar is crowded all the time and employs two or three busy bartenders. This place runs all night and closes at 6 a. m. for the purpose of cleaning up; after four hours devoted to cleaning, it opens again at 10 a. m.

And do you know some of the night clubs? Some of their bars are nearly as open as this and are crowded every night.

If you have no one else to show you these things and care to see them, I will be your guide some evening. I don't pretend to have knowledge of them that could be acquired by actors, newspaper reporters, or Broadway characters. I am in business down-town at this address and do a little writing up-town besides; (I wrote the "Philosophy of Civilization"). But there are so many of these places and they are so well known to everyone that they even come to my attention. I don't frequent them, but I enjoy taking friends and business associates from the Middle West around to see these places when they visit New York, and to witness their astonishment.

Yours very truly,

Arthur H. Love