

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

NATIONAL MODEL LICENSE LEAGUE

INCORPORATED

LOUISVILLE, KY.

MODEL LICENSE LAW WILL SOLVE THE
LIQUOR PROBLEM THROUGH EDUCATION AND ORGANIZATION

February 16, 1917.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

New York City, New York.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your name is being used by Charles M. Stelzle, a prohibition agitator, in a circular letter that is being sent out under the high-sounding title, "Campaign for the Conservation of Human Life".

In this letter, copy of which I enclose, assertions and pleas are made, ostensibly with your approval, as a member of Mr. Stelzle's Advisory Committee.

May I presume to ask to what extent you assume responsibility for the Stelzle propaganda in behalf of prohibition and also in behalf of raising a \$10,000 fund for use, presumably, under your direction?

My interest in this matter is obvious to you if you are acquainted with the objects and purposes of the work in which I have been engaged so earnestly for so many years; the work of advocating constructive legislation for the strict control of the manufacture, sale, and use of liquors under such conditions as may be in conformity with enlightened public sentiment.

I believe that the people of this country use and have a right to use, temperately, the wines and spirits that are denounced by prohibition agitators, and I know that a country that consumes such vast quantities of liquors per capita is not to

Miss I. M. T. #2

be legislated into teetotalism or into respect for laws that cannot be enforced.

It is my hope that the solution of the liquor problem will be evolved through the efforts of competent students of the subject, rather than that it will become almost hopelessly involved through the possibly well-meaning, but certainly destructive, zealotry of those who so foolishly imagine that individual temperance is to be achieved by legislative enactment, and that intemperance on the part of the few is warrant for depriving the many of the right to exercise or to cultivate the virtue of temperance.

I would like for you to understand that I have not the least criticism for any one who may conscientiously oppose the use of liquor, or who may conscientiously oppose any phase of the liquor business as at present constituted. The use of liquor is a matter of taste or opinion, and the various phases of the liquor business are properly subjects to modification, but even so there is no occasion for sacrificing civil and religious liberty, destroying private property and public revenues, without compensation, and substituting prohibition for regulation, if such sacrifices are to produce nothing better than non-enforcement of a sumptuary law.

Yours very respectfully,



Secretary NATIONAL MODEL LICENSE LEAGUE.

Enclosure.

COPY.

February 10, 1917.

The President,
American Fruit Product Co.,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

As an employer of labor, you are interested in the saloon question. Here are some facts that must concern you:

Do you know that the liquor men are trying to dominate every Central Labor Union in America- the legislative bodies for trade-unionists in over 700 cities? And do you know that the Bartenders' Union ranks sixth and the Brewery Workers' Union tenth in point of membership among the one hundred and five international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor?

Do you know that one-half the population in the wet territory in this country lives in four great industrial states- New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and New Jersey, and one-fourth of the people in wet territory live in six great industrial cities- New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston and Cleveland?

The liquor men are thoroughly organized in this field. They are spending many thousands of dollars, employing professional labor leaders to conduct their campaigns.

We are planning to set up a campaign of publicity opposing the saloon through paid advertising in the labor press. There are something like two hundred labor papers published in this country which are read by millions of working men and their families.

At the same time, many of these labor papers have agreed to print strong, pointed articles in their regular columns, showing the fallacy of the liquor men's statement that the abolition of the saloon will create a labor panic and other evils.

I recently gave two years, with my staff, to the study of the liquor question from the ^{workingmen's} ~~workmen's~~ viewpoint, spending something like \$15,000 to make this investigation, so that I am prepared to meet all the arguments of the liquor men .

In order to carry on this publicity campaign for a period of three months we shall need \$10,000 . Won't you help put this through by sending us as large a contribution as you can? Nothing else that we could do would be quite as effective as this. It will enlist the sympathetic interest of the labor editors. It will undoubtedly give us a chance to appeal to a large number of workingmen to join our anti-saloon fellowship, who could not possibly be reached in any other way, and our advertising will create a sentiment against the saloon which will make it easier for the local workers throughout the country to put through anti-saloon legislation and to abolish the saloon itself in industrial centers.

Please make your check payable to Alfred R. Kimball, Treasurer.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) Charles Stekler.

P.S. -- The enclosed proofs are samples of the advertisements we shall use in our campaign. There will be 12 in all. The remainder will deal with such questions as personal liberty, booze and lawlessness, the saloon and sanitation, fundamental reasons why workingmen should wipe out the saloon, the saloon and poverty, the saloon and the cost of living.