SHORELEDGE
NEWAGEN, MAINE Oct. 6, 1930

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Thank you for yours Oct. 3. I am sure the McClaughlin clipping was in a stamped envelope addressed to me: I hope you can find it: it is very pertinent to our discussion that "you cannot make people moral by legislation" all of which is readily agreed to without agreeing we must not legislate on moral questions. I am also enclosing two clippings: one, written by myself: and one by concerning a Catholic woman of our little literary set. Who states this & my own view-point better than ours greatly admired Protestant woman friend! I wish you had written it! I wish, too, the Delineator would publish a letter from her. Giving it the endorsement he did yours!

Moreover, if the use of alcoholic drink were one of personal comfort alone, there would be grave doubt of prohibition: but when it affects so deeply the welfare of the family,

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his family. I mean, of society in general, and of the Safety of the Community in general, it becomes a matter of general concern and should be under public control. Other matters, not so far-reaching in their consequences, as narcotics, bigamy, white slave traffic etc. are prohibited by law (a score of others could be named); and without serious question: the reasons for prohibition applying to alcoholic beverages are manifold greater.

I do not know how much alcohol is a poison: & the Statements used in Scientific Instruction are not Scientific, they should be brought in accord with the fact in the case. Of this I am very sure, to quote an American put out by the W. C. T. U. I think, anyhow some Temperance Organization at 150 Fifth Ave., your city: liquor is lawless. Iniquitous. Quarrelsome, Unclean. Oppressive and Ruinous. I have been in the midst of the fight for over 50 years: by its very nature it is lawless; and the evils of which you complain were not brought about by Prohibition but by the lawlessness of the liquor traffic: and I see no hope in any plan suggested by any body that will do away with, or diminish the spirit of lawless unrest liquor traffic engenders whatever control it may be conducted.

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As I have for many years, read with great interest and profit everything within my reach that you have written, and have so really admired your stand on many moral questions, and have always regarded you as a distinct force for righteousness, I was the more deeply disappointed, and shocked, and humiliated to find you linking yourself with all the evil influences allied to make ineffective the 18th Amendment. We do not question the Sept. 29 item in Time; there is no danger at present of repeal; but your influence is added to those evil influences that aid in making enforcement more difficult. I insist that the 18th Amendment has been so inadequately enforced that we have never had a fair test. If it is a bad law the

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4/ surest way to end it now is to give it a fair chance: besides, ten years is an all too brief time: we need at least one generation or 30 years: perhaps we need three generations. Give us ten years of real enforcement. and then begin to judge us..

All the forces of evil in America today are joined in warfare against this Amendment: this is not, to my mind, a reason for its repeal, but it is a reason for every right-minded citizen to determine that it shall be enforced. In America the liquor business has been in rebellion against temperance and law from George Washington's day down to Lincoln, Roosevelt & Hoover.

The great respect and my perfect good will.

Yours Faithfully, W. H. Mullins

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