

Pelletier

12

1075 Robinson ave.
San Diego, Calif.
June 16, 1931

Miss Ida Tarbell,
9 Delinctor
New York City
Dear Madam:-

I was not surprised when I saw an article, written by you, published by a Trashy Magazine such as "Liberty" but when one of little higher standard like the Delinctor, (a friend handed me a few old copies the other day) starts printing them - it is high time thinking people do something about it.

When certain types of men ridicule the eighteenth amendment we do not think much of it. but women, especially those old enough to be grandmothers - well it is nauseating - & in my opinion far more disgusting than the drunken woman you describe on the steps next door to you for she only harms herself, family & people in her immediate vicinity - while you contribute to just such conditions to millions throughout this country - for the majority do not

Think for themselves - 2 -
+ may give some credence to your writings.

I have observed the fact: that those of you - who preach against prohibition & say it is a failure, are on the whole the ignorant & criminal class. But people like you, Al Smith, Rascot, Brisbane, & others I could name - are in doubt suffering from alcoholic complexes. That is - if you do not drink yourselves, you de- cended from drinking people - therefore cannot get a clear conception of ^a situation.

Between sane persons there can be no argument on the question. The consumption of liquor is either right or wrong. Science has proven it to be wrong - by find- ing it detrimental to humanity - Mentally, spiritually & physically. The same as any other narcotic. It is even more deadly - for cause, other "dope" friends rarely leave children. Alcohol being milder in form - takes longer to kill its victim - leaving greater havoc in its wake. And so I would say in answer to your "Wets" arguments - about prohibition causing corruption among our public officials ect. ~~will~~ That it would be just as logical

to have our laws prohibiting murder, stealing, & all the rest of it repealed - then when a murder or robbery was committed - it would be no crime - no arrests could be made & our jails would be empty.

These politicians, bootleggers, & different consumers - are corrupt to begin with - caused in all probability by pre-prohibition condition. Their crookedness was carried on in a far more insidious manner before prohibition no doubt - only most of the population was so saturated with "booze" - They were unable to detect it.

It surprises me - to see the law enforced as well as it is - since we elect alcoholic addicts to office to enforce it. It would be as sensible to expect a cannibal of the South Sea Islands - to convict another cannibal for being a cannibal. However if we will only use our eyes & intelligence & look around us - we can see a vast improvement - I have never seen or heard of any one having delirium tremens while in the old days - every neighborhood had at least one.

Referring to this woman you ask your advice about becoming a bootlegger - Must say that it is incredible that that a woman able to write as well as you can - would consider this woman refined & well bred. & you even called her trust worthy & self respecting.

I particularly resented your reference to Lincoln in your 'Liberty' article - in fact I considered it nothing short of blasphemous (& I am not a church member) to have published his picture ^{with it} ^{two}. That great good man who did so much good for his Country - would be the first to uphold a law tending to free the whole human race from a slavery far worse than that from which he freed the Negroes.

There are many other points I would like to touch upon - relating to your Believer article - but I do not type & have not the time etc. But the young - you mention have drinking parents? - I have seen many high school boys as well as my own two. If the boys carry hip flasks & they say very free & they are smart alecks - & something that will soon pass off. My boys never hunt for a bootlegger but I feel sure if it comes back in any form one of these will probably become an addict any way. So please try to refrain from doing so much harm to your humanity.

Yours very truly
(Mrs) H. Adeline Tarver