

Prohibition

Alhambra, Calif., 11-10-'30.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
#120 East Nineteenth St.,
New York City.

Dear Madam;-

In reply to your letter of Oct. 16th, would say that it is not my intention to attempt a "reform" as to your views, but as I stated in my previous letter, I want those whose views coincide with yours, to at least keep them to the individuals who have them! I will explain later why I advocate this.

Quoting from your letter "honest minded prohibitionists" did "take stock - trusted their senses -" and admitted that "the issue" HAS NOT BEEN CLOSED by the 18th Amendment! In fact, we were distinctly told that the law would not end our troubles.

Crime is inundating us in spite of "statutes" against them; murders, rape, arson, theft, etc, etc, so numerous it is not safe for a woman to even drive along after certain hours in certain districts.

As to this and also the "youth of criminals," it certainly is most unfair to blame it all on the 18th Amendment. Every new invention, every activity of the age, has acted as an electric torch to speed up the brains of the nation. A 6-year old boy now is smarter than a 12-yr. old of years ago, because of the stimulating power of present day living. If this is true in ordinary brain activities, it sure is true of the criminal activities.

Also part of this is due to the fact that we did not Americanize our foreigners who came here poor, ignorant, many times vicious, with a hatred of all law, and who, while they were working hard to gain a living had to allow their offspring run the streets, absorbing all the evil and not coming in touch with the good.

BIG business leaders are urging every one to THINK PROSPERITY, TALK PROSPERITY, WRITE PROSPERITY! If there is any virtue in this (and I am sure there is) why not apply it to LAWS?

The situation can be bettered when every one who really desires good government, uses all his or her powers to awaken a civic conscience in all peoples.

our own or foreigners, so they will obey the laws of the country they are working and earning their living in. If they do not like said laws, let them go back to their own country!

The Salvation Army, as you know, is brought very intimately in touch with these things, and their recent report is that the drunks they care for after week ends and holidays do not compare in number with those they cared for in Pre-Volstead days. We also have the report of police officers to the effect that the Monday morning Courts see a big difference.

So, bad as the situation is, let's be true Americans and keep our "blue" thoughts to ourselves, and by refusing to laugh at dubious "jokes" about prohibition, let people realize that we do not consider it at all smart to regard the matter humorously. Thousands of the younger generation do not realize at all the difference between our present day without the saloon and the days when there was one on every corner and often two, and they can be easily persuaded to vote against prohibition on that account.

I am cancelling my subscription to all papers who print articles against law, especially the prohibition law, and I find that one very popular magazine was forced to change its policy because they lost so many subscriptions on account of the stand they took against the 13th amendment. I hope the Delineator may also find it necessary to have a change of heart.

Yours for GOOD GOVERNMENT,

Mrs. Mae F. Barker,
#316 S. Hidalgo Ave.,
Alhambra, Calif.