

Washington, D. C., July 9, 1929.

Ida M. Tarbell,
C/o Liberty Magazine, 247 Park Avenue, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

Referring to your article in "Liberty" July 1929, wherein you state that for three years there was an almost spectacular improvement in conditions, etc., but in 1921 came a quick, emphatic throwback. Now if you had gone deeply into the cause of this throwback you would have discovered that at about that time the Whiskey Ring had completed its plan for overthrowing the good Prohibition had won in the Nation. It was about this time that Wm. R. Hearst began to buy up the newspapers of the country with a view of educating the Public along certain lines of endeavor. Had the able, and influential Mr. Hearst, one of the strongest and most able of his kind in the country taken up the Government and the Peoples side of this problem, or else not have permitted his papers to publish such articles as has been published for the last few years --- for instance, July 7, Herald, copy inclosed, the prohibition laws would not be scorned, scoffed, cursed and crushed to earth.

I know a bootlegger who has ten (10) children under 17 years of age. Always, he reads the morning Herald. That is he reads and examines it for prohibition news. He knows every bootlegger who has died for the cause. This morning he held a glass of the stuff to his little child's mouth, telling it to drink. The child began to cry O papa I hate it I don't like it! The child made an ugly face, it begged and pleaded. To no avail. Father cursed and drank saying Mr. Hearst is right, to Hell with the Government. To Hell with the Constitution. We'll show them whose bossing in this country. He cursed all the laws, all the Judges and Lawyers, and said we are going to have light wines and beers, Mr. Hearst says so and so it will be, and every child I have shall drink just to show them we are going to have our Liberty, and the dam Government that it can't stop whiskey and light wines and beers in this country. I am sure if Mr. Hearst could have seen the scared faces of the children, and the pitiful pale face of the little four year old that this father was forcing to drink, little helpless child, a criminal before it could read and write, that at least he'd stop putting or permitting to be put such articles in his papers. Every night this father gathers his ten children about him, reads what Hearst publishes, explains it to his children--he has six little boys and four girls -- then he starts off and bully-rags and denounces the Government, the Churches, Catholic and Protestant, etc. (refuses to let his children attend any church, and don't want them to go to school) he teaches them in his own way, threatens and beats them into a corner, and makes them swear that they will do all in their power to help Mr. Hearst get wines and light beers, etc for everybody.

Of course intemperance and all sorts of crime will increase so long as women like you, and men like Wm. R. Hearst with his powerful newspaper mis-guide the people by vilifying the enforcement of the laws, hold the President and Congress and the enforcement agents up to ridicule of the worst sort. If there are flaws in the Prohibition law, and you and Liberty, and Mr. Hearst, and his publications, etc. want them rectified, why don't you at least be as good as the Power Trust, Mr. Hearst is always harping at, quietly, go to the President and the Powers that Be, tell your side, etc. in-

terest in what you want, and stop putting this rubbish in the papers for ignorant people to use to crush and kill the young and helpless? Surely if Mr. Hearst, with his good intention to get light wines and beers really wants to improve the condition of mankind, if the matter was brought to his attention in the proper way, would forbid his papers henceforth publishing such trash, which only inflames the minds of almost cured drunkards, and those who had just acquired a taste when the law went into effect and those and those under the influence of these folks, and the young ones coming up whom Mr. Hearst is educating along these nefarious lines. Surely, Mr. Hearst, an influential citizen of the country, would not intentionally cause one little soul to perish, and the little children I speak of will perish unless something occurs which will cause their father to cease reading the stuff, and his consequent hideous actions.

The method you are now taking is used exclusively by the criminal class to further his criminal ends. Is it just, is it right? If you will do nothing to stimulate the laws, do nothing to hinder them. Do nothing that will put into the minds of these drink lovers words and thoughts, and passions that cause suffering and continued crime. Your articles inflame their thirst, and passions and feed and nourish by the seeming or apparant truths (LIES) which you dress up in pretty language, enough to deceive any person who does not think for himself. Of course crimes will increase so long as women of your caliber, and this mighty Editor and Publisher lend their name to articles that inflame the taste and minds of the open and secret drinkers and criminals of all sorts. Be a woman, use your best efforts to get Liberty and Mr. Hearst to stop this bully-ragging and blaggarding of the laws of the United States. You talk like a fool when you say law must not interfere with a man's private affairs. What about the White Slave Law and the Laws against Incest? for the protection of the young. There is no pith in your objections to prohibition. No drunkard respects the law, or himself or anybody, not even his own wife and little children. These are the people you and Hearst serve when you write such articles or permit them to use a publication in which you are interested for that purpose. Give us a right-minded press, a God fearing press, that will not cheapen the law, and we will stamp out prohibition crimes even if we have a loose administration with Mr. Mellon at its head

I understand an organization is forming, or has formed to dynamite and blow up every publisher's headquarters, whose magazines and papers undertake to destroy and ridicule the 18th Amendment, either directly or indirectly. If anyone is to be hanged it should be these publishers, those who publish these nefarious articles. How stop it? See that these Editors and Publishers pledge their word of honor that they will either refrain from printing such damnable articles or write in such a manner that the anger and hate they have aroused against the Prohibition laws cease. Then the spending of millions of dollars trying to install into weak minded and criminals that it can't be obeyed will cease. There is all the difference in the world between the slave laws and the prohibition laws. Laws upholding slavery were wrong, unjust and cruel, they sent souls to hell, just as you send little children to hell with your damnable articles. Laws upholding Prohibition lessen tessen the evils that destroy homes and children, and build up mankind and citizenship. Right shall prevail.

There is nothing puzzling and exasperating in the situation. ~~See that~~

All that is necessary is to see that the press either gets on the law enforcing side of this enactment or that it does not refer to it in any shape or form and drinkers, bootleggers, criminals, and fathers of little children who read such publications to their children and force them to drink to show the Government and the law that it cannot be enforced, and that light wines and beer will prevail, will soon forget the defiling lies and misrepresentations set forth in past publications, and helpless little bodies of young children will soon be free from kicks, burns, bruises, and lashes for not wanting to drink.

You can tell Bill Rogers that notwithstanding Mr. Hearst's and Ida M. Tarbell's desperate efforts to scare the country and get everybody to thinking the country is WET when it is DRY, that the rural folks, the backbone of the Nation intend to keep it dry, because most of the conscience against prohibition is in the hearts of these Publishers and the hearts of ~~Examiners~~ their Criminal backers, not in the hearts of the people.

Now, Ida M. Tarbell, do you mean to insinuate that with the Press of the country on the side of the Prohibition Laws, as it should be, that the law abiding citizens of this Nation can't stamp out violations, as Washington stamped out the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania in the early days? Well, if not, we will blow up the devilish publishers and their buildings, before they go too far, silence them to complete honesty, and the laws of the country will be obeyed. You don't scare by your diabolical arguments, but you make us weep at your lack.

K. M. Jones

of the Committee.