Jackson, Miss. July 6th, 1929.

Mrs. Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o Liberty, New York.

My dear Mrs. Tarbell: Allow me to say I have just read with pleasure and full accord and endorsement your article on prohibition. While the article considered from any stand point must be conceded to be good, the fact that your ideas and mine so fully agree may have added to my estimate of it. Although a total abstainer I have from the first disapproved the 18th amendment and the Volstead Act. While I have made no or very little effort to make public my views regarding them, to my friends I expressed myself as feeling that the natural rights of persons were invaded and trampled upon. Though not admiring the occupation, the manufacture of strong liquors was the right of such as chose to follow that business and the use of beverages was the right of all. Indeed I contended that it was not the use of alcoholic drinks, but the

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abuse of them that was wrong. I remember saying to a friend that, were I to stumble across a hidden still, I might advise the operator to close it for the sake of peace and avoidance of trouble, I would never inform on him. I indicted that those who felt that their rights, even their liberty was invaded would feel justified to resist, and, effort on the part of government, State or Federal, to enforce would naturally cause

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conflict involving loss of life. I also predicted that the business, once legitimate, when forbidden would tend to lower the quality of the article, and that when it was found that fortunes could be made, there would be great danger of the corruption of enforcement Officers. My predictions have all been realized. There are only two classes that do not get all the liquor they want, those who do not want it and those too poor to pay for it. The rich, even in our capital, treat the law with contempt and ridicule. It is an open secret that fine beverages are served, and there is some rivalry as to who has the most kissible cousin and finest brands. The original resisters of the law claimed they were justified because their rights were invaded, but their numbers now include many who make no attempt to justify their acts, and the violation of this law leads to contempt for law in general.

I think so highly of you that it is hardly necessary to apologize for resort to ink and lined paper.

Trusting you will take my letter as it is meant, I remain,

Yours truly

R. K. Jayne.

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