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October 23, 1914.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o American Magazine,
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

A controversy has recently risen here, which I judge has been somewhat chronic in other parts of the country, though I have never myself happened to run against it. We have on a wet and dry campaign here, with the usual intemperance on both sides, and among other things the wets are running advertisements containing an alleged quotation from Abraham Lincoln, condemning prohibition. Immediately the drys began sending a lot of preachers around the country, flaunting hundred dollar bills and offering to bet that the quotation is not genuine. So far as I can find out, they are correct as to that point. Your own collection of Lincoln's utterances, which is the most conscientious and exhaustive that has been made, contains nothing of the sort, and all the internal evidence would indicate that the quotation is not genuine.

However, I have got just interested enough in the matter to have some serious curiosity to know what is the truth, and where the quotation got started on its rounds. The wine growers here claim that it is a quotation from a speech made by Abraham Lincoln in the Illinois legislature

in December 1840, and that it was quoted some time ago in "Collier's Weekly." I have some vague remembrance that "Collier's" afterward retracted the quotation.

At any rate, I know that you would know, if anybody does, just what is the source of this alleged quotation and on what grounds those who make it profess to attribute it to Lincoln. If you have not the information at hand, please do not bother to do any research on it, but if you should happen to know, it would be a real favor if you would drop me a note in regard to it.

Yours very truly,

Chester H. Rowell

Editor "Fresno Republican."

CHR:SR
Enclosure.

Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself, for it goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and in making crimes out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our government was founded."

--Abraham Lincoln

Vote "NO" on Proposition No. 2