

houses and the institutions of correction are illuminating. There has been a marked decrease in the deaths from alcoholism. In many instances jails have been closed and county homes have become almost obsolete. The number of families that require help because of drunken parents has shown a remarkable falling off. One hospital of thirteen hundred beds reports, "We had just completed a delirium tremens ward, but it never is used. Accident cases have decreased one-third." The increased savings in banks is known to everyone who reads. And so one might continue, but it is not necessary. The value of a social movement is revealed by its tendency in human relationships. The tendency is a social trend towards freedom from the evils of drink and into fuller life for all concerned.

If the moral quality of an act is in the motive, then the Eighteenth Amendment has the quality of an honest effort to enhance human values. If concrete results achieved against tremendous opposition and in five years reveal the ethical and social results of a law, then this particular law has made the future safer for everybody. In America, at least, the will of the people increases in its determination to go the way that promises most for the coming generation. The moral significance of the whole matter is just in this social will and its concrete results under law.

WALTER A. MORGAN.

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## PROHIBITION AND THE YOUNGER GENERATION

BY CORNELIA JAMES CANNON

WHENEVER the older generation foregathers to discuss the younger generation tales are told to make the blood run cold. But whether youthful defiance of Prohibition adds an appreciable amount of material to the indictment is yet to be proved. Undoubtedly Tut-Ankh-Amen and his contemporaries spoke with severity and astonished disapproval of the doings of the young Hatshepsus and Saa-nekhts of their day. General adult criticism of the young must be definitely separated from a consideration of

the reaction of this particular generation to the Eighteenth Amendment.

Prohibition has certainly added the charm of actual law-breaking to the primitive tang of tasting the forbidden, a temptation as old as the Garden of Eden. It has not thereby necessarily increased the total consumption of alcohol nor augmented the poignancy of temptation to the majority of the population, young and old.

Cheating at examinations has been ruled against since examinations were invented. But cheating has persisted, nevertheless, and at times in school and colleges, under favoring conditions, has assumed quite alarming proportions. The amount and frequency of its occurrence has borne no relation to the prohibition of the practice, since that had always existed. But it has borne a direct relation to the rigor of enforcement. Where supervision has been lax, cheating in some schools has become so common that a student who went into an examination with white cuffs ran risk of being considered a moral prude. Where the proctoring has been competent, the technique of cheating has become one of the lost arts, symbolic of a decadent or a weakling schoolroom civilization.

Young people in certain social groups undeniably drink alcohol, and often to excess, unless, indeed, any consumption of alcohol, except under a doctor's orders, is not, in a Prohibition community, drinking to excess. But it must be remembered that individuals, here and there, of all ages and in all social groups, have broken every rule of God or man.

The question is not whether youth breaks and defies the laws, but whether conditions as regards drinking of alcohol under Prohibition are worse than they were before the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect.

Let us of the older generation be frank in canvassing the memories of our own youth. Did we not all know hostesses who served champagne at dances to their young guests for fear the men would otherwise refuse to come? Was there any dearth of young men going hopelessly down hill because of looking too long upon the wine when it was red?

A man, closely associated for sixty years with one of our large

universities, first as student and then as trustee, finds the young men of the present generation incomparably superior to earlier generations in their whole attitude toward alcohol. In his days at college there was never a morning when the college yard did not show one or two students under the influence of alcohol, whose condition was unrepented by their contemporaries. Students get drunk today, but the proportion is by comparison negligible. In addition with a new seriousness and wholesomeness the modern student body is developing an interest in other forms of pleasure which are destined in time to swing the rebels and weaklings into line. When youth itself voices distaste, the tide has turned, and here and there, throughout our educational institutions, the word, not of criticism, but of disgust for the carrier of the flask, is beginning to be heard.

The generation of children growing up, who have never seen a saloon, to whom the once common sight of the Saturday night bacchanalian orgie near the drinking resorts is not the ordinary tolerated incident of the week, is the generation most profoundly affected by Prohibition. These children are coming to maturity in a world becoming emancipated from the degradations and vulgarities which are inevitably associated with free access to alcohol. The flaunting defiance of the law against alcohol in our large cities cannot be dissociated from the defiance of all other law in those crowded, inchoate centers, and should not blind us to the decencies and conformities in our smaller communities where the Eighteenth Amendment brings additional strength to an enforcing public opinion.

There is a suspicion in many minds that the abuse of alcohol has passed from a lower to a higher stratum of society, and that it is the educated, privileged groups among the young on whom Prohibition is working a deleterious effect. In a measure this cannot fail to be true, not necessarily because the so-called higher stratum is more lawless and the lower less, but because the group with the largest funds can most effectively defy the law. In so far as higher and lower are measures of income, it is safe to say that the worst lawbreakers of this kind among the young are those with the most elastic pocketbooks.

As far as the young women are concerned there are certainly

groups, both among girls who are brought into juvenile courts and those who are expelled from college, who are using alcohol as the same type of girl did not do a generation ago. But is this due to the existence of the Eighteenth Amendment, or to the extraordinary extension of opportunity open to the young women of today?

The girl of this decade is being brought before the bar of public disapproval by the horrified adult, and is making out a pretty good case against her prosecutor.

She says in effect, "You are letting me undertake work never before done by women. You are allowing me to be exposed at an early age to conditions and temptations to which women have never been subjected in the history of the world. I am in factories, stores, offices in the day time, and in theaters, at public dance halls, and on the streets at night, with no protection save such as society affords to all its members. You allow me to return to my home from my work or my play at all hours of the twenty-four unguarded. I am fending for myself in a world strange and alluring to me. I try all things, good and bad alike. You do not take responsibility for me. I will take it for myself, and you shall not blame me for the disasters I bring upon you or myself."

What, after all, has the older generation done save abdicate its position of authority and obligation toward the younger generation in relation to Prohibition as in relation to everything else? In so far as Prohibition has failed to do for the young what was hoped of it, the blame rests with the older generation. If we leave gunpowder around, can we punish children for blowing off their fingers? If we ourselves fail to have conviction enough to impress our standards upon our boys and girls, shall we hold them guilty?

The whole question of the effect of Prohibition upon the young is a question as to how adequately we safeguard and protect our children. Can we deny that we have largely left them to find their way in the wilderness of temptation we have allowed to grow up about them? Prohibition has succeeded with our young people in proportion as it has succeeded with us—no more and no less. If we can gather hope for the future, it will not come from deploring present conditions nor from commiserating ourselves, but

from the contemplation of the development in our midst of vigorous, independent youth, which bears promise of courage enough to make its own judgments and genuinely establish standards, which we have indicated by a graceful gesture in the form of a law but have been too cowardly and too supine to enforce.

Our hope lies in the honesty of the younger generation and the clear-sightedness with which they watch our blundering and our fumbling. They will never allow their children to do the things we have allowed them to do, and, from the bitter knowledge gained through our weakness and indecision, will be able to throw round the next generation a protection which we have failed to give them.

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## PROHIBITION AND PROSPERITY

BY THOMAS N. CARVER

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THERE are many factors in the prosperity of any country or of any class. It would be useless to argue that Prohibition has been the only or the chief factor in the prosperity of this country or of our laboring population. That it has been one of the factors is a reasonable inference from such facts as we have, by any process of reasoning which we would apply to a similar problem.

When it comes to a pinch, practically every one admits that Prohibition or severe restriction of liquor consumption is necessary to secure the maximum economy of man power. Such a pinch came in the World War. Not only this country, but England, Germany and Austria as well found it necessary greatly to reduce the consumption of liquor. That was a time when every unit of man power counted; when no country could afford to waste any of it. No one doubted that drunkenness, at such a time, was a waste of man power that might produce tragic results. In these times of peace, the waste of man power is not so dangerous, nor are its results likely to be so cataclysmic, but it is pertinent to