

Prohibition is a Success

John Gordon Cooper (1872 – 1955)

A significant issue during the 1920's was Prohibition. The 18th Amendment, ratified in 1919, prohibited the manufacture, transportation, and sale of intoxicating liquors. Congress passed the Volstead Act in 1919 to enforce the amendment. Cooper – the author of this article was a former railroad worker and engineer, and a Republican Congressman from Ohio from 1915 – 1937.

Whether or not we should keep Prohibition shouldn't be a debate – obviously we need to keep it in our constitution. Our Constitution is important – and a blow to the Constitution is a blow to all of us. The 18th amendment is a part of that Constitution, and should be given as much respect as any other part of it. My opponents swear that they don't want to completely get rid of the 18th amendment – they just want to edit it to keep liquor illegal, but make beer and wine legal. My answer is that you can't just ban a little. You must ban it all, because once you give evil an inch, it will take a mile.

The effectiveness of Prohibition

Whether or not you think Prohibition is successful depends on your point of view. The belief that everyone in every part of the US is following it is false. As is the belief that everyone in the US is breaking it. Prohibition is relatively successful, and will become more successful the older the law gets. Once we have generations that have gone their whole lives never drinking alcohol, they shall never want it and then will always obey the law.

During the war (WWI) people obeyed prohibition more. It was enforced more strictly, as they felt it was their American duty to do so. As soon as the war ended – selfish bootleggers have started breaking it, and it is our job to make them stop as they had before. We need to increase the punishments for bootlegging – the small fines we have now only encourage people to pick up the trade.

Americans want Enforcement of the Law

Americans want Prohibition. Every Congress that's been elected since it passed has had more and more members that support Prohibition. Christians, women who now have the right to vote, and everyone wants lawmakers to punish bootleggers more harshly so that we can keep prohibition. And as a country, we are better off with Prohibition. 177,000 saloons and bars were closed, meaning that those centers of evil, vice and corruption are closed. Never before has our country been so rich and sober.

Benefits of Prohibition

The death rate in the US has fallen amazingly – in the first 4 years under Prohibition 873,000 less people died throughout the whole country. Crime has lessened.

More people may be arrested now – but for lesser crimes like traffic law violations or food regulations. The federal census shows a decrease of 6 men from every 100,000 men in our prisons. Hundreds of prisons have been closed since Prohibition. Judge Genmill of Chicago says that the drop in the number of arrests is now down by half a million arrests per year. We are now one of the richest countries in the world. We have 5/6 of the worlds cars. Mr. Hodgkins, VP of the Rollin Motors company says that at least seven million cars have been bought with money people used to spend on alcohol. 2 or 3 billion dollars so far – that would have been spent on alcohol, have instead been spent on legitimate business.

Last year alone, the savings deposits of all Americans in banks went up a billion dollars. Jobs are being created in radio, moving pictures and other entertainments – all instead of alcohol. More people than ever before are saving their money and buying stocks.

The proof that drunkenness has decreased is that fact that in most cities a drunk is a rare sight on the streets. Rehabs of alcoholics have decreased from 238 to just 38. The average man is the greatest gainer from Prohibition. In the past 10 years, the average income has increased from \$968 a year to \$2,198 a year. Most of the gain has come after Prohibition. It is only the rich man who wants to get rid of Prohibition – as he has so much money he does not care if he loses a bit of it to alcohol.