

The Daily Tar Heel

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Wednesday, January 20, 1932

Denying Man His Freedom

The Prohibition question does not seem to be of any immediate concern to the college man of today. The student who wishes to drink can and does obtain all the liquor that he wishes almost as though the Eighteenth Amendment never existed. The higher price, the lower quality of whiskey, the absence of less harmful and more enjoyable wines and beers, and a great increase of drinking among young people are the only effects that Prohibition has brought to the youth of today.

The older generation is faced with a graver problem. They have no difficulty in obtaining liquor but from their pockets come the huge sums levied to attempt the enforcement of a law which is incapable of being carried out. The vast army of prohibition officers and the numerous prosecution of offenders is draining the country of much needed money which could and should be put to useful and imperative needs. More serious even than the ineffectiveness of the law and the useless expense it entails is the vast corruptness and rottenness that has grown up with it. The bribery of officials and the presence of well organized and protected chains of bootleggers and speakeasy operators constitute a grave menace to the safety and morale of the nation. The hypocrisy of a people supporting a law which they are constantly breaking has produced a threat to the respect of law and order which is being felt more and more.

A great danger lies in the power of a few thousand men to saddle the country with such a condition. We may live to see in a like manner all of our personal liberties curtailed and regulated by similar acts. The prohibition of smoking sounds no more ridiculous or unreasonable than did the prohibition of drinking thirty years ago. Over indulgence in alcohol is dangerous to the health of the individual but the same is true of every habit and usage when carried to an excess.

Were prohibition free from its corruptness, its impotency, its graft, crime, uselessness, waste, and hypocrisy it would still be unjustifiable. By the regulation of what we eat, what we drink, the exercise we take, and the clothes we wear a very healthy nation might be produced. But these are rights which the failure of Prohibition have proved to be beyond the possibility of control. It seems strange that "the land of the free" once hailed as the exponent of liberty should now be the only nation which attempts to interfere with "the liberty and pursuit of happiness" for which its fathers died. We are not livestock to be fed, watered, and conditioned as our masters see fit but a liberty-loving and independent people.

The youth of the country can no longer be content with just ignoring the Eighteenth Amendment. They must endeavor to remove it from the legal system it has endangered. We have been the victims of hypocrisy and graft long enough. We have been a joke in the eyes of the world and endured its contempt too long. Prohibition has proved itself the most colossal, dangerous, and expensive failure that this country has known. It is approaching the beginning of its end. No group is more fitted to administer the death blow than the independent, liberal, and intelligent youth of today.—J.F.A.

The Aftermath Of Depression

The financial depression which we have been facing for the past two years may be a great blessing for America. It is a needed, if painful, slap in the face to awaken us to our present condition. It should bring with it a healthy return to sanity after the madness of the past decade. It may be the herald of a great period of permanent social betterment.

The World War destroyed much that had been accomplished in the way of social improvement during the preceding half-century. Since the days of the Credit Mobilier, of Gould and Fiske and Drew, and the scandals of the Grant administration, America had come far by 1914. Under the leadership of men like Cleveland, Roosevelt, and Wilson the building of a social and industrial system based upon justice as well as self-interest had been begun. The civil service had been reformed. The people had gained the power to destroy monopolies. The entire banking system had been remodeled and much improved. The government had gained sufficient power over railroads to fix their rates and services. More important than these accomplishments, a better philosophy was built up in the people. They ceased somewhat their worship of the money-makers. They began to think of industry as the servant of society. The thought of the people appeared to have a more idealistic tinge. Greed began to lose some of its controlling force in our national life. In 1913 the whole nation seemed to be moving toward higher social goals.

But the World War destroyed much of this. Under the stress of the war period prudence and forethought and ethical standards were lost. With the coming of peace the nation entered upon a decade of madness. Sheer materialism reigned supreme. The one thought of the people became to make money. Henry Ford was set up as the current god. The stock market reports occupied our entire attention. Excessive speculation, "buying-on-margin" psychology, and all the other unhealthy symptoms of the "boom" were present. Our laboriously built up conception of justice in industry was destroyed.

When the insanity had reached

its peak, the crash came; and since then we have been recovering from our madness. We have been made to see the folly of losing our heads in a wild search for profits. We have lost our unhealthy dreams of overnight fortunes. The new period of painful recovery and bitter disillusionment has brought us face to face with many social problems. We have some millions of unemployed men to take care of. We have a broken-down industrial system to rebuild. We have a nearly destitute agricultural population to provide for. It may be that from the contact with these problems and from this period of reconstruction there will emerge a clearer social thought, a deeper social consciousness which will enable us to resume our pre-war progress and rise high above the civilization of 1913. We shall come forth from the depression a saner people, a people more interested in social problems and more determined to secure social justice, a people more fit to face the future.—D.M.L.

Out Of The Dust

It is well known that suffering produces depth and maturity in the human mind. The fact that Americans are considered abroad as being barbaric, slothful, and stupid may be attributed to the fact that they have not had to be otherwise.

The suffering that is being endured by our nation today is making it more serious and more cultured. The intensity and severe self-criticism which prevails among many Americans is certainly a wholesome sign of indication of growing maturity.

The contrast is frequently made between the highly refined culture and the central European man and the lack of culture in the American from the mid-west, for example. The European is high-strung, wide-awake, and opinionated, perhaps, to a point which is obnoxious. At any rate he is very much alive and this is largely because he is almost always in danger. The Pole fears the German, the Russian, and the Italian. He reads and re-reads the newspapers, goes into excited discussion over developments in political affairs because these happenings affect him. From this interest grows other interests: art, music, literature, and the dance.

On the other hand, the mid-western American has practically nothing to fear in normal times. Vast fields of wheat isolate him from life and change. He lives near the earth yet away from the world. And to a certain degree, all America is like that. It is close to itself and ignores its neighbors. Things have come easy for Americans and they have not had to work awfully hard, worry very much, struggle in really vital conflicts. For this reason Americans have become a nationality intellectually lazy. But it is noticeable in these days of depression and international as well as national strife that there is an appearance of thoughtfulness and philosophical analysis of all those things that were taken very much for granted by the ordinary person.

Out of the pain of physical and mental anguish there may appear an American culture which will not be the reflection of lavish prosperity and thoughtless material extravagance but of maturity and intelligence.—R.W.B.

Sixteen per cent of the freshmen at Syracuse university indulge in intoxicating beverages, according to a recent survey of that campus. Thirty per cent smoke, and sixty-eight per cent sleep less than eight hours each night.



THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US

The world is too much with us: late and soon. Newspaper institutes, disarmament conferences, organ recitals, the approaching Galli-Curci concert, basketball games, and even classes have to be considered. Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers. There is not time for the minor, delightfully unimportant things of life; each event is of major interest, each occurrence of noteworthy importance. Little we see in Nature that is ours. And there was once a professor of education who admitted that more knowledge could be acquired by just sitting on gray rocks in the sun and thinking than by attendance on courses pedagogical. True it is that few things can arouse nobler emotions than the leashed power of waves hurling and breaking themselves against a "rock-bound shore" (this Sea that beares her bosom to the moon) or the towering heights of a verdant mountain where there are winds that will be howling at all hours, but are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers. It was Ambrose Bierce who wrote that "in estimating the relative altitudes of mountain peaks we look no lower than their summits."

Who among the student body has time to follow the advice of William Hazlitt and go upon a journey, tramping out on the airport road far beyond the acrid stench of the city dump, past the quaint and many-windowed Orange Methodist church to a point where upon lifting up one's eyes one beholds the spires and water tanks of Chapel Hill beckoning one hence? Within that five-mile stretch is clearly evident the agrarian past out of which the industrial present has come—unpainted shack of the hand-to-mouth tenant, down-gone farm of a former gentry, negroes with an entirely different attitude than that of a young Africa on Back street, L-shaped farmhouse of the early twentieth century, modern house with a suburban air and in the yard a school bus, emblem of consolidation in education.

Just as it is good to go upon a journey, so also is it good to stay at home and read. There is much of wisdom in the masters and much of interest in the clever young moderns and the few collegiate publications worthy of perusal. Yet he who devotes his time to various campus activities in an attempt to render service to his fellow man has little time for pleasurable reading. We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon! There was a time when students went in for rustication, retired

quietly and delved deeply into the intricacies of the classes or the humanities. For this, for everything, we are out of tune.

As for religion, it moves us not.—Great God! I'd rather be a Pagan suckled in a creed out-worn, and to that creed be true than entirely lacking in the essential articles of any faith. So might I standing on some pleasantlea, have glimpses that would make me less folorn. Miracles! Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea; or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

And if the rumors in the air be true the University's greatest problem might be solved by allowing, even encouraging, all members of the faculty to accept offers from other institutions, thereby dispensing entirely with classes, and granting the students time in which to acquire savoir faire by attending the more entertaining and informative conferences, institutes, and concerts in our midst. Our civilization has adopted a culture all its own which will not be denied. At present (Sunday night) this particular but inconsequential member of the feature board is *Outward Bound*.

With Contemporaries

Student Viewpoint
 In spite of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler's comment in his recent annual report that youth cannot be expected to become all wrought up over a political situation in which both parties are mere names, and in which controversial issues are kept always out of sight or at least in (Continued on last page)

SPEAKING the CAMPUS MIND

A Thousand Officials

The basketball team wishes to thank the student body for its splendid support during our early games. We hope to warrant your continued support during the entire season.

We feel, however, there are a few students who are overzealous in their efforts on our behalf, causing them to resort to such unsportsmanlike and ungentlemanly conduct as booing and hissing the officials or our visiting team. Such conduct is not in harmony with either the spirit of the University or of your basketball team. We shall try our best to win by playing hard, aggressive basketball, but we shall not resort to any element of unfairness.

The official is trying his best to handle the game fairly and conscientiously; he is human and is bound to make some mistakes in every game. However, he is in much better position to judge penalties than anyone in the stands, and no doubt he is right many times when some members of the student body do not agree.

Rule 6, Section 7, of the Official Basketball Rules empowers the official to call penalties on the home team for unsportsmanlike conduct of spectators. Your basketball team feels that if it were penalized for such action, it would be a disgrace to the University, the student body, and the team.

We therefore ask the student body not to countenance any element of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a few spectators, and to show every courtesy to the visiting team and officials.

T. W. ALEXANDER, JR., Basketball Captain.

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CAROLINA Winnie Lightner, Chas. Butterworth Pictures of the Tulane University of California Game Saturday—10 A.M.

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