

REPEAL
THE EIGHTEENTH
AMENDMENT?



By M. E. DODD

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THE writing of the 18th Amendment into the Constitution of the United States was the greatest achievement in social engineering and construction since Jesus said: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Yes, it is greater than Lincoln's liberation of the slaves, because it affects all people of all races.

But since its enactment there has been a constant bombing, shelling and dynamiting of it by those whose selfish interests it affected.

These selfish liquor interests have recently recruited to their support some sincere, though misguided leaders. They have always had the bums and the bootleggers, the pimps and the prostitutes, the gamblers and the gangsters on their side.

They are now making a great show of strength and are conducting last desperate drives against prohibition. This reminds one of Ludendorf's drive toward Paris in the Spring of 1918. And the liquor forces will come out, ultimately, about like Ludendorf did in November, 1918.

The American Colonies issued the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and won their freedom. But they had to fight it over again in 1812, since which time they have had peace from that source.

The American people declared their independence and won their freedom from legalized liquor

in 1917. But it looks as though the whole issue must be fought out again in 1933. And since the fight is of the liquor leaders' making, their whole nefarious business must again be dragged into the light.

Let us welcome the fight and meet the challenge of the cohorts of evil in the open field.

We Welcome the Fight

1. Because it will afford an opportunity to let the young people who never saw an open saloon know just how horrible and corrupting the business was, and is and always will be.

2. Because it will afford an opportunity for public education on the physical, mental and moral effects of intoxicating liquor.

3. Because it will arouse the slumbering moral consciousness of the nation. We need a concrete issue to do this.

4. Because it will provide a common meeting ground for united service by the moral forces of the country. There are many high minded intelligent Jews, and many Roman Catholic priests and people, together with a large majority of nine million Baptists, nine million Methodists, five million Presbyterians and ten million other Evangelical church members, who will join heart and hand against returning the legalized liquor business just as they did to outlaw it.

And there is none so poor or presumptuous as to defend the old saloon, not even the liquorites

themselves. They say the saloon must not return.

The Liquor Traffic

The liquor traffic is a legal outlaw, an economic outcast, an intellectual imbecile and a moral derelict.

It is an outlaw because it is not now, never has been, and, by its very nature, never can be subject to any legal restraint, regulation or prohibition. Give it nothing legally and it will take an inch, but if we give it an inch it will take a mile, themselves being witness. The Brewers Journal of May 1, 1910 said:

“No matter what laws are made to cripple the beverage industries, they cannot and will not be observed by those managing these industries.”

You had as well try to regulate a rattlesnake, a raging flood or a wild forest fire. The only thing to be done with any of them is to destroy them.

The proposal to regulate the liquor traffic is an apparition of ghostly dreams, a hallucination of illogical minds, a fantasy of wild imaginations, a chimera of evening carousals.

The liquor traffic stands as a conscienceless criminal before the bar of an enlightened public conscience.

The liquor traffic is an economic outcast because it cannot be justified by any definition of legitimate business. A legitimate business transaction is one in which both parties profit. In a

liquor transaction both parties lose, oftentimes the seller more than the buyer.

The liquor traffic is an intellectual imbecile because no mind, individual or group, can be moral when under the influence of intoxicants, direct or indirect.

The liquor traffic is a moral derelict with no friend to do it honor on moral grounds.

It is on moral grounds that the battle must be fought out and on these grounds liquor has always lost. There are abundant arguments against the liquor business from economic, industrial, social and political points of view. But on moral grounds the liquor business has not an inch on which to stand.

Every argument, on any ground, in behalf of legalized liquor is unsocial, undemocratic, unmoral, unreligious. Every plea for liquor is selfish, and selfishness is the negation of God, the destruction of society and the damnation of the soul.

A man is known by the company he keeps. A tree is known by its fruit. An institution is judged by its product. The liquor traffic keeps the worst of company, grows the bitterest of fruit and produces nothing but evil. The liquor traffic defiles, debauches, destroys all that it touches. It destroys health and happiness, home and reason, character and conduct, life and limb, liberty and love, yea, all that is good it drags down into the murk and mire of degeneracy and damnation.

The 18th Amendment against the legalized liquor traffic should never be repealed until drunk-

en husbands, drunken fathers, drunken employers, drunken employees, soldiers, sailors, and air pilots, drunken auto drivers, and drunken engineers are preferred to sober ones. It should not be repealed until preachers are all dead, church houses are all destroyed, members disbanded, no, not until hell freezes over and God Almighty abdicates.

To repeal the Eighteenth Amendment would be to turn the wheels of progress backward, to unseat reason, to overthrow righteousness, and to upset social advance.

This tract is for free distribution by the First Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. Any free-will offering for the distribution of this and other gospel tracts will be gladly received. Send requests and contributions to John S. Ramond, Box 16, Shreveport, La.