## Arthur Brisbane on Prohibition


#### Abstract

Temperance will never come from prohibition, from an attempt of a minority to coecce a majority of the people The truly temperate man is the man who controls him- self, not the man who is controlled by somebody else, no selr, not the man who is controned by somebody else, not the man compelled by a lawmaking minority to do what he ought to do.

For many years the world has grown gradually more than two hundred years ago drunkenness was not only tolerated, but rather admired among the greatest men, the directors of governments. But now it is tolerated nowhere, and only pitied in the gutter.

With this wonderful change for the better, prohibition has had nothing whatever to do

Maine, the prohibition state, suffers from drunkenness, from tho effects of poisonous drink, highly charged with alcohol, more perhaps than any state in the Union.

Maine, the prohibition state, is cursed with a great body of secret drunkards, because temperate, open drinking of mild beverages is prevented by law and Prohibition must have that effect everywhere.

It is painful to say anything that might offend or discourage the earnest prohibitionist. There are no better men or women living than those sincerely trying to help their fellow creatures and to discourage excessive drinking. But if the man who now tries to encourage temper-


ance by force and prohibition is sincere, so was the man sincere who once tried to make people religious by the It is necessary to tall freely on the question of prohibi tion. The temperate nations on the question or prohini the mild beverages, the light natural wines and beers. The intemperate nations are the ones that drink the fiery spir itous liquors, whisky, gin, brandy and vodka.
Prohibition drives out by law the bulky light, harmless drinks of temperate people-wines and beers. It compels men who will drink to take the whiskies and gin and concentrated stimulants, easily hidden and of which a small amount produces drunkenness.

In Maine, per capita, there is ten times more drunkenness than there is in France. In Maine, prohibition rules and the law says no man shall buy anything to drink. In

The French government in public placards and by education at government expense denounces the use of highy alcohohic drinks, and it encourages and even subsidize
the production and the sale of light natural wines, he production and the sale of light natural wines.

If, tomorrow, you should establish prohibition in France, if you forbade the public selling of light, harmless
stimulants that the people have always taken and always stimulants that the people have always taken and always
will take, you would drive out the use of the light wines that produce a temperate race and you would compel the use of whiskies, gin and other drinks that produce drunkenness.

So it is in Germany, where all the people from time immemorial have been temperate drinkers of light and wholesome beers, with a very small percentage of alconol. There is infinitely less drunkenness in Germany, where prohibition is never heard of, than in Maine or in Kansas, our two most distinguished prohibition states.

There is infinitely less drunkenness, less crime and disorder due to drink in Germany, France or Italy, where the people are temperate and where everybody drinks the really temperate drinks, than in any one of our southern states recently converted to prohibition.

Prohibition in Germany would mean driving out harmess beers, which do not lead to intoxication. But prohibition would not stop men from drinking. It would compel them to give up beer, which cannot be hidden, and replace it with schnapps, the German substitute for whisky.
History proves that teetotalism is fatal to a race. Ex amples: Turkey and India. While a man is temperate himself, and if he chooses, leading the life of a teetotaler, he ought to realize that he has no right to force his will upon another. He ought to read history intelligently. To study other countries intelligently, and know that there is no such thing as real temperance based on prohibitionArthur Brisbane, in che New York Journal.
(Paid advertisement, Anti-Prohibition League.)


