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"CAN PROHIBITION BE ENFORCED?" IS ANSWERED BY LOCAL ATTORNEY

(By C. C. BROWER)

In The Klamath News of July 3, 1925, there appeared a telegraphic item that "After a six months' attempt to enforce prohibition in New York Federal District Attorney Emory R. Buckner, has concluded that enforcement is impossible under the prevailing court system."

We are told that—

He "calls for a new declaration of independence." But we are not told what is to become of the old one.

He said "vote as you drink."

"He asked all persons who opposed prohibition to come out openly and fight the law in a square, two-fisted manner."

If Mr. Buckner is satisfied that the organization of the courts under the law is inefficient, would it not have been better for him to have asked all persons to cooperate with the American Bar association in their efforts to better the organization of the courts?

If he is satisfied that the faults lie in the improper and sometimes vicious, conduct by the courts and their officers of the proceedings under the law, would it not have been better for him to have asked all persons to join with the American Bar association in the efforts to make it so earnestly making to prevent improper practices and to raise the ideals and work of the courts and of American citizenship generally?

Mr. Buckner as Federal District Attorney solemnly subscribed an oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States; not some parts of it with omission of other parts; and it seems that he was particularly charged with "supporting" that particular part known as the Eighteenth Amendment. His oath does not mean that he may "support" it only when in actual performance of some official duty, and then in social activities belittle some of its provisions, or incite or advise others to disobey or destroy such parts as they may not like.

But let us credit him with good intentions both in his official duties and in his talk before the club he was addressing; and, yet, with equally good intentions examine the situation as to enforcement of other laws.

It is a matter of common observation and notoriety that there is but little pretense toward obeying automobile laws; and that little is more for self protection than for any regard for the other fellow's rights. There were about three-fifths as many persons killed last year in the United States with automobiles as the number of American soldiers killed in battle in the world war.

About 9,000 more murders were committed in the United States during the seven years from 1912 to 1918 than the total number of battle deaths of American soldiers in the world war.

In 25 of the principal cities, in 1920 there were 30,046 automobiles registered in New York; one in each 22 in Chicago; and one in each 31 in Cleveland.

In Los Angeles in the first three months of 1922, there were 940 automobiles stolen of an estimated value of \$673,000. A large proportion were recovered by the police but all with some accessories gone or otherwise damaged or wholly wrecked.

Thefts, robberies, burglaries etc. in general are about as common as jazz music, and successful prosecutions about as rare as patriotic or melodious music. See below for some percentages of conviction.

The statistics given below have been gathered from numerous authorities, including Hon. James M. Beck, Solicitor General of the United States, formerly United States Attorney General; Charles Frederick Carter, a Current History writer; reports of the American Bar association; Mayor Devers of Chicago; Los Angeles police statistician, and other reliable sources.

Some losses by theft, burglary and hold-ups: Boston in 1920, \$1,630,000; Baltimore in 1919, \$1,347,492; Washington in 1920, \$1,008,875; Chicago in 1921, \$3,974,326. It is estimated by expert authority that in this great land of liberty, including the liberty or right to own personal property, there is annually stolen, with and without violence the neat little sum of \$302,785,000. This for the most part by professional thieves; and does not include any of the millions obtained by fraud.

Let us consider enforcement, or impossibility of enforcement, in New York, of other criminal laws. Not because New York is thought to be worse than other cities, but because a question of the possibility

of enforcing the prohibition laws has been raised by a federal law enforcing officer in that city. Indeed, comparison of the homicide rate per 100,000 in numerous cities shows such rate in New York in 1921 to be far below most other large cities.

Murders—In 1917, there were 236 cases tried, and only 67, or 28.3 per cent, convictions. In 1918, there were 272 homicides of all degrees, and in 1922 the number had risen to 350.

In 1920, we are told, the district attorney investigated 679 cases of homicide. He presented 130 cases to the grand jury which returned 78 indictments. Of these 78 only 36, or 46.1 per cent, were convicted. How about the rest of the 679 instances investigated, and why?

We are told that in the two years of 1919-21 there were 6,035 arrests for burglary. Of these, 2,755 were convicted; but more than one-third of these received "suspended sentences"; and one was even "reprimanded," probably for getting caught rather than for committing the burglary.

This could all be enlarged upon; but let us compare some "enforcement" in America with some other countries.

Cleveland in 1918 with only one-tenth the population of London, had twice as many murders as London had.

Los Angeles in 1917 with only one-twentieth the population of London, had 10 more murders than London had.

London in 1922, had 17 homicides, only 9 of which could be chargeable as murder. New York in 1921 had 260 murders, and Chicago had 137; while throughout all England and Wales there were only 63 murders.

Robbery—In 1921, in all England and Wales there were 91 robberies; in all of France there were 121; in New York City, in 1922, there were reported 1445; and in Chicago the same year 2417.

Burglary—In 1921, in all England and Wales 113 persons were tried for burglary, and 105 or 92.8 per cent convicted. In New York county, there were 2,660 burglaries reported; 565 tried, and 349, or 61.5 per cent, were convicted.

Henry Barrett Chamberlain, member of the Chicago-Crime commission, read a paper before the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology in 1920. He called attention to the appalling lack of law enforcement in Chicago relative to murder and the various forms of theft; as well as to other crimes. He criticised severely the "scandalous conditions" of some of the methods in which the proceedings in the courts were handled. He further made these pertinent and

pungent comments: "Chicago pays a high price for its indifference to the administration of its public affairs. ***What we need is a radical change in public opinion, a courage born of intelligent conviction. The man or woman who believes that the existing criminal class can be tolerated and that 80 per cent can be converted into useful citizens is a dreamer with a faith in and a hope for the utterly impossible."

Is it not well to remember that the Constitution of the United States has been "Supported," and is likely to be for some time yet to come; if not in one way, then very likely in some other way. Stay with it.

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Chicago Flapper Is Sensation in Races Pasadena Contests

PASADENA, Calif., July 11. (United Press)—Shattering two world records, Helen Filkey, famous Chicago Athletic club Diana was the sensation today of the annual A. A. U. women's track and field championships.

The slender, dark eyed little amazon set new records in both the 60-yard high hurdles and the 100 dash for women. She skimmed over the hurdles in eight and two-fifths seconds in the final event this afternoon, one-fifth of a second faster than her record-breaking time in the preliminaries this morning. The former record in this event was 8 4-5 seconds. She clipped the cen-

tury event in 11.4 seconds, 5-10 seconds faster than the former world mark.

The Pasadena Athletic club, with 29 1-2 points, won the meet. Egraka A. C. was second with 23, and the Chicago A. C. third with 15.

Other results were Chicago A. C. 15; Vallejo A. C. 11; Patterson, N. J. A. C. 9; Savage School, New York city, 10 1-2; San Jose A. C. 3; Anaheim, Calif. A. C. 1; Montebrook A. C. 2; Prudential Life Insurance company, Newark, N. J. 3; Lufenburg A. C. 2.

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