Current Comment

For Repeal

(New York Herald Tribune)

We believe in temperance. We believe it will never be achieved in any effective or satisfactory way under the "experiment"—"noble in purpose" as it may be.

The "experiment" has been tried. It has failed. The evils it was intended to abolish have not been eradicated—for the unregulated "speakeasy" has been substituted for the saloon. And there have come other serious evils as a direct result of constitutional prohibition, such as excessive drinking in the home and disrespect for law and order.

There are those who still think constitutional prohibition is right and eventually could be made successful, but their number is becoming less day by day. We believe this method of seeking temperance is fundamentally wrong as a proposition in government; that no permanent progress can be made toward temperance until the problem is approached in another way.

Therefore we advocate the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and the return of control to the States, with the Federal Government giving its aid to the States to maintain such systems as their citizens may determine through their various legislative bodies.

We believe the Republican party in New York State should think this problem through intelligently and take an honest, courageous stand, unmoved by the subtle calls of expediency. Candor and courage always will win in the end. Evasion or straddling, through fear of vocal and insistent minority and unofficial groups, unable to understand the progress of thought and unwilling to abandon a wrong and unworkable system, will lead to nothing but failure and impotence.