CRIME IN THE WAKE OF PROHIBITION.

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Prof. Robert H. Gault, psychologist at Northwestern University and chairman of the Chicago crime commission's committee on the origin of crime, classifies the failure of the authorities to enforce prohibition as the greatest present incentive to lawlessness. "An enormous number of otherwise law abiding citizens in Chicago and elsewhere," he states, "are violators of either the letter or the spirit of this law, regarding it as an infringement of their constitutional rights, despite the upholding of its constitutionality in the highest courts of the land. . . . It was estimated recently by one authority that the manufacture of 'home brew' distilled liquor and other alcoholic beverages is going on in two out of every five homes in the country."

No doubt it is incorrect to set up the liberty to drink as a constitutional right since the eighteenth amendment has been written into the only constitution we have. Yet prohibition is a violation of an even more important code of personal freedom, a code which has behind it so much cultural tradition, historical association and genuine human desire that enforcement is rendered well nigh impossible except in isolated communities. If the memories of the race could be blotted out the task of abolishing alcohol would be simple. As it is we have a law on the statute books that few respect and few who want to break it obey. Nothing more dangerous to national morale can be imagined; nothing better calculated to encourage contempt for all law was ever devised.