DRY LAW INCREASES DRINKING AND CRIME, SAYS ROCKEFELLER

Among the forceful declarations made by John D. Rockefeller Jr. in his letter on prohibition to Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler were the following:

"Although a teetotaler on principle and in practice, I have always stood for whatever measure seemed at the time to give promise of best promoting temperance."

"My hope is that the tremendous effort put forth in behalf of the eighteenth amendment by millions of earnest, consecrated people will be continued in effective support of practical measures for the promotion of genuine temperance. To that cause my own efforts will ever be devoted."

"I was born a teetotaler; all my life I have been a teetotaler on principal."

"Neither my father nor his father ever tasted a drop of intoxicating liquor, nor have I."

"My mother and her mother were among the dauntless women of their day, who, hating the horrors of drunkenness, were often found with bands of women of like mind, praying on their knees in the saloons in their ardent desire to save men from the evils that so commonly sprang from those sources of iniquity."

"When the eighteenth amendment was passed, I earnestly hoped that it would be generally supported by public opinion and thus the day be hastened when the value to society of men with minds and bodies free from the undermining effects of alcohol would be generally realized. That this has not been the result I have slowly and reluctantly come to believe."

"It is my profound conviction that these benefits [of the eighteenth amendment] are more than outweighed by the evils that have developed and flourished since its adoption, evils which unless promptly checked are likely to lead to conditions unspeakably worse than those which prevailed before."

"Drinking generally has increased: the speakeasy has replaced the saloon, not only unit for unit, but probably twofold if not threefold; a vast army of lawbreakers has been recruited and financed on a colossal scale; many of our best citizens, placed at what they regarded as an infringement of their private rights, have openly and unabashedly disregarded the eighteenth amendment; as an inevitable result respect for all law has been greatly lessened; crime has increased to an unprecedented degree."

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