A Writer Gives His Reason for Opposing Prohibition

To the Editor of The Courant:

I note with apprehension and disgust the story of the darkly shooting of Negroes and women in the State of New Jersey supposedly by a killer from Georgia. The killer apparently thinking that the victims had seen him doing the butchery a man whom he or some of his cronies had ridiculed for believing they might expose him and his crime, apparently had the nerve to close their mouths. There are those who might say, “What can two less ‘niggers’ do count. Well, they were flesh and blood, if their skin was black, and life may have been as sweet and dear to them as to you or me. The police might have made any difference if it had been my wife and my child or any other two persons who happened along at that time. Would the whole State have stopped to ascertain if we were white or black, if we were rich or poor, or how we were dressed? Should any colored man’s life be at stake, and one or a dozen more wouldn’t count. No, sir, but that one of us may be the next to be made a target of the one of these modern desperadoes.

It is high time that the public spirited men and women of the nation rise up in their might and power that control our political and economic destinies that this prohibition experiment cannot continue. As a father of a very large percentage of our present day grafters and hucksters be done away with, as a deadly menace to our social, political, and economic well-being.

While I am willing to concede the sincerity of some ardent followers of the prohibition cause, I do not know some who preach dry and drink, even as it may, prohibition is fast becoming a vital menace to our social structure and economic well-being, and I trust that the time the public took notice. I have yet to read or hear an explanation if the causes of increasing crime other than prohibition.

Mr. Ingersoll gave a concrete explanation of any single crime as great as prohibition for his increase of all. Its ban.

Racketeering is an outgrowth of prohibition, an outcome of bootlegging and interstate trade in alcoholic beverages. Today we have all forms of racketeering, kickbacks, murders, Inquisitions of all kinds and other things too numerous to mention, all directly attributable to racketeering. Just consider the murders committed by the Al Capone crews. Seven in one night in Chicago by one gang. Did we have the Eighteenth Amendment before the Eighteenth Amendment was passed we did not.

Personally I am not opposed to prohibition because I drink, but I do not and never have. My opposition is based, now as before, on a part of the Constitution, on the ground that it is an unconstitutional, illogical and unintelligible piece of legislation passed at a time when the people were wrapped up in what at that time they thought to be their patriotic duty, their patriotic duty to be hoodwinked by the cunning intrigue of some of the alchics. I do not believe that a prohibition law was what they needed and I would give for their best interest in the stress of the area.

I do not mean to say that we are now spending $25,000,000 a year on an unenforceable law. Let all those who are so hard working and laborers to spend, work and talk a little more than they do to the innocent people to become temperance and by kind and decent means show to them that they do not need to drink alcoholic beverages to live and have health and happiness.

This, and I sincerely believe there would be no less than drinking. Crime and in the next ten years the State is now.

Let’s keep this question before the American public. Let’s have a referendum vote of the people and as soon as possible. It now. It may not be put off any longer. We may be sorry if we do not too late.

A TRUE REPEALER.

Hartford, April 8, 1922.