DRY LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Declares Violators Should be Given Jail Sentences.

To the Editor of The Courant:—

I have read with much interest the letters and comment on the liquor question appearing from time to time in your paper. This practice has caused me at last to offer some comment on the subject as I view it. The writer is thoroughly familiar at first hand with the use and traffic of and in liquor, so he should be able to state some truths regarding same.

Some five years ago one of the proprietors of a notorious drinking club in one of our large cities remarked to me that the fines for liquor violations were a joke—"What we are afraid of is going to jail. Nearly all of us in this line of business have been in jail and know what it means. A fine means nothing to us. We can make that up in a night or less if we get a sucker in the place. But if we knew that one conviction meant a year or two behind the bars, hardly one of us would stay in the game..."

To me this is the answer to enforcement. Prohibition if enforced would be beneficial but as it is has become a menace. The scum of the earth have taken to bootlegging and running joints and speakeasies. The youth of both sexes drink as never before and get the stuff from the most disreputable characters and are thus brought in contact with them.

To these conditions we have the best of lawyers aiding the lawbreakers with full influence and ability. A fine is opposed and that settles it with the violator going back to his game. It has become more profitable and more popular to break the law than to keep it.

When the best citizens and the leading business men and the principal ministers of the gospel stop tempering and aiding by their wishy-washy attitude the operation of speakeasies under their own noses and get together and show some kind of a solid front against the open and encouraged breaking of the liquor laws and campaign for prison sentences there will be a decided improvement.

Much has been said about the interference with personal rights as being a cause for the breaking of the law. In my opinion this is the small part of the cause. Those persons selling the stuff have capitalized the weakness of human nature, especially susceptible in the young. By having their demands secreted and selling what is supposed to be unlawful but officially winked at they cater to the adventurous. The present vast traffic in liquor is not because of the sales to so-called drunks as they always will get the stuff. It is based upon the sales to a great class of young as well as older persons who have come to feel that to drink under the present conditions is quite smart and the real spartan thing to do.

The liquor seller is a lawbreaker. When he is handled as such, given a stiff jail sentence and not given every attention and civility the community affords, he will return to the hole from which he has emerged and liquor violations will be a minimum.

N. B. KRAUSE.

Hartford, May 28, 1928.