Today marks the anniversary of what President Hoover has referred to as "an experiment noble in motive." We may agree that it was fine in motive, but we have suffered a terrible, convulsive, nauseous, gone, money spent for drinks diverted to better channels, jails depleted, crime, suicide, and insanity increased. Life was mean and everybody better in every way. All this was to have been done by the simple ex- action of enacting a law against alcohol and hoping to bring about a dramatic change in behavior. The law was to come in and everybody was to drink less, live better, and the country would become more moral and better in every way. The experiment was proclaimed to be an absolute failure, and not in any one section of the country but all over.

The excuse congressmen and legislators may have had for voting to write a police regulation was the advice of all the experts, the people who think and argue and reason, and who know better judgments, was that this regulation commanded the support of the great majority of the American people and would command their hearty support. The experiment was expected to produce more substantial than the clamorous shoutings of a highly organized minority. Whatever measure of support the prohibition movement had had in the latter part of the law's existence was proclaimed to have been steadily diminishing, not in any one section of the country but all over.

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