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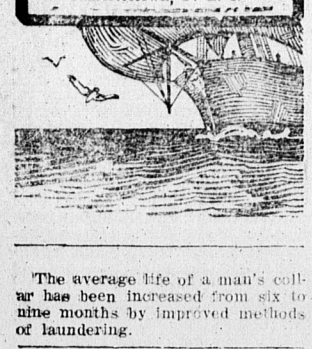


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AGENTS


## These Disillusioned Highbrows

Condensed from The Independent, April 9, '27.)

Frederick L. Allen.

I sometimes wonder what sort of picture of our times will be presented by the historian of, say, the 24th Century. It will make so much difference what sort of evidence he gets his hands on! Suppose for instance, he finds buried in some ruin a package of rotogravure Sunday supplements: will he not set forth the sober conclusion that the principal American occupations in 1927 were laying corner stones, placing wreaths, pinning medals, playing leapfrog in one-piece bathing suits, and doing classic dances on the lawn in Greek costume?

Suppose he happens upon the advertising pages of a popular magazine: will he be able to escape believing that the American family of 1927 dressed happily together in the bath-room, welcomed their guests in the cellar before the oil furnace, and spent the day with one foot on the running board of a sleek automobile, with a palatial mansion in the immediate background?

But suppose, on the other hand, the 24th Century historian takes at their face value the books and magazine articles produced today by our disillusioned young urban highbrows, that school of hard knockers who, inspired by Mr. Mencken and Mr. Sinclair Lewis, are bent upon persuading us how vulgar, depraved, and uncivilized we are. There, I submit, is a truly terrifying prospect. Reading the jeremiads of our hard-boiled intelligentsia, what will he think of us? It is a fantastic picture which will be unrolled before his eyes—of a nation whose business men are boors, whose clergymen are hypocrites engaged in illicit amours, whose leading citizens are inflated bigots, and whose country people are pious morons; of a nation in which—to judge from some of its critics—there is not tolerance, almost no intellectual life, little decency, and no honesty except among those who declare that little decency to be a sham. The 24th Century historian will have to know how to take his evidence with a grain of salt.

A new school of biography has arisen; the new biographer turns our good men and true into whited sepulchres and turns a flattering light upon the more dubious figures of history. We are taken on many a sight-seeing tour through the slums of sex, and we applaud as the most amusing heroine of the year the blonde mistress of a button manufacturer. We are persuaded that it is sex that makes the world go round; that religion and idealism are merely the result of psychological sublimations; and that a reformer—in the space of five years the term has become one of contempt—is merely the creature of his own inhibitions and unsatisfied sex instincts and Sadistic impulses.

If you want to see this new style at its noisiest and yet its best, glance at any article in which Mr. Mencken really lets himself go. I have before me an editorial in a recent Mercury. Of the President Mr. Mencken says, "Even the Babbits of the land have begun to see that he is a hollow and preposterous fellow, without anything in his head properly describable as ideas, and with notions of dignity and honor indistinguishable from those of a country book agent." Even an irreconcilable Democrat must admit that the author of that sentence is not overexercising his judicial faculties. Mr. Mencken prettily refers to the Coolidge propaganda in the newspapers as "the Coolidge garbage that has drenched the country," and says of it: "So the avalanche of goose-grease began, with the lesser sheets following with their squirts of rose-water and vaseline." Try to imagine any of the 19th Century apostles of exquisite and gracious English writing that sentence, and you will see what Mr. Mencken is contributing to American literature. He does not woo us with soft phrases, he shouts his denunciations; reading an article by him is like hearing a whole piano piece played fortissimo.

That style of Mencken's has had an extraordinary influence upon the young writers of the country. Not only does everyone who writes for the Mercury seem to fall into the same tricks of exuberant phrasing; any editor will tell you that in many a manuscript which may never have been intended for the Mercury and may never be published anywhere he detects what is doubtless intended to be the Mencken touch. A clergyman is called an oily clerico, his sermons are flapdoodle for the prurientos, farmers are yokels, public officials are mountebanks, and social workers are hired snoopers. These literary camp followers do not share the uncanny ability of their leader; they have merely acquired from a study of his work the idea—which he would repudiate—that good writing consists in calling names as violently as possible.

But it is not the style of the school of hard knockers that is most instructive; it is their attitude toward life. Look at almost any book or magazine article or book review by a young American writer who wants to show that he is right in the swim of modernity. You will find it assumed that the United States is shot through with hypocrisy and stupidity and meanness; and that the enormous majority of Americans are beneath the notice of civilized man, except as a butt for his gibes. And what, you may wonder is to be done about this distressing situation? Why, nothing, it appears. The civilized man would never try to improve anything. If he did, somebody might think he was one of these uplifters. Let the uplifters concoct their futile remedies; he stands aside in the superiority of disillusion. He realizes that the only way to overcome the tedium of life is to amuse himself by scoffing at it. The only pleasure left him is heaving a verbal tomato at a respected citizen. That, he feels, is a gesture becoming a member of the intelligentsia.

In so far as the movement has deflated our windy pretensions it has been vastly valuable. American sentimentalism needs an antidote, frequently and skillfully administered. Yet even the feeblest of patients cannot live on a diet of antidotes—and we are being offered so little else these days! Contemplating the flood of pessimistic and calumnious literature that is now pouring from the presses, one suspects that the pendulum has swung about far enough. It is almost time that the debunkers were themselves debunked.

They seem very sure that they alone are the intelligentsia. But is the average American really such a hopeless idiot? Perhaps the hard-boiled who wax vindictive about intolerance might practice a little more tolerance themselves in connection with this average American. And perhaps they might realize that the really intelligent man is cautious in his judgments, and that the really civilized man is courteous.

But I venture to suspect that before long there will be little need of debunking these writers who wear dingy blue glasses. Their own success will be their undoing. Their public will tire of seeing itself butchered to make a highbrow holiday. The books of the 1920's will gather dust on our shelves, and once in a while we shall smile at them and say, "Whew! how they all lit into the United States in those days!"

## CONSERVATIVES MAY HAVE THE LARGEST GROUP

### Provincial Elections to be Held in Manitoba June 30th — Conservatives Putting up a Winning Fight.

(Special to the Guardian)

TORONTO, Ont., June 8. —"In addition to Western Conservative Senators, the three Prairie Provinces may send, collectively, 36 delegates and 216 alternate delegates to the Conservative National convention at Winnipeg, October 11th, and judging from the enthusiastic meetings of officers spoken to in Winnipeg, Regina, and Calgary last week, look for them to send their quotas complete," said John R. MacNicol, D minion organizer, who returned from the west yesterday.

"When one considers that in provincial elections Alberta uses that tricky, shifty system of voting, proportional representation, in the city ridings, and in the rural ridings that still more nefarious method to responsible government, the alternative vote, the work achieved by the Conservative Leader, Hon. A. A. MacGillivray, M. P. P. is very encouraging".

"In Saskatchewan, if Regina is an indication, the Conservative position is not at all hopeless. The local Conservative leader, Dr. J. T. M. Anderson, M.P.P. recently gave the Liberals a severe jolt by capturing another seat in Saskatoon.

"In Manitoba in the provincial elections to be held June 30, the Conservatives are putting up a winning fight, and unlesss those fake systems of voting ("P R" and the alternative vote, in use in Manitoba) again make an expression of public opinion impossible, Major Fo s Taylor, D. S. O., the Conservative leader, will, if is generally conceded, have the largest group of followers in the next house."

## Dominion Will Be Represented At Naval Conference

(Special to the Guardian)

WASHINGTON, June 9. —Canada has notified the United States government that the Dominion will be represented at the naval limitation conference at Geneva. Responding to President Coolidge's invitation which was addressed to the British Empire, Canada will send Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice to Geneva where he will join the British delegation as a Minister of the Crown specially representing Canada.


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## Some Evil Consequences of Prohibition

BY R. McL. ENMAN

ARTICLE ONE

About a year and a half ago this writer ran a series of articles in a New Glasgow, N. S., paper under the heading, "Critical Comment on U. S. Prohibition." Since that time the writer has collected additional mateal on the subject from various sources. With as much condensation as possible, a series of articles starts off today with views of clergymen of various denominations.

DENOUNCED BY EPISCOPALIANS

Dr. James Empringham, who at the time of making the statement given herewith was national secretary of the Church Temperance Society of the Episcopal Church of the United States and is a former vice president of the Anti Saloon League, in February, 1926, said:

"I started out a year ago to gather material for a pamphlet to show that prohibition was a success. I have not finished that pamphlet. My survey behind the scenes of enforcement in Chicago, the South, Baltimore, Philadelphia and other cities showed me that I had been a darned fool to give up a good church and a big stipend to make the world better overnight.

"We thought that a law would be better than education to stop drinking. I admit that we made a mistake."

Dr. Empringham said he favored a modification of the present United States prohibition law for the following reasons:

"1. Because the effect of prohibition has been to put an end to scientific temperance teaching.

2. It has discouraged the consumption of wine and beer and increased the demand for distilled liquors which today are mostly poisonous.

"3. It has resulted in increased drinking among young people.

"4. It has brought about disrespect for all laws.

"5. It is class legislation discriminating in favor of the rich.

"6. In our survey we found intemperance increased."

Following is the opinion of Rev. Charles Fiske, Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Central New York:

"I have come to the conclusion that the Volstead Act has resulted in worse drinking conditions among young people than we had before, that it has increased enormously among them the use of strong distilled liquors often poisonous and dangerous, that it has corrupted officials, has brought about an increased disrespect for law, and is class legislation discriminating against workmen in industrial cities, worst of all discriminating in favor of the rich, who can get what they want, and against the poor."

OPPOSED BY ROMAN CATHOLICS

Through Cardinal O'Connel, the ranking prelate of the Roman Catholic church in the United States, his church has announced its opposition to compulsory prohibition. The Cardinal says:

"Christendom's moral reformers tell us that Rome is the scarlet woman, but they find that she is quite prettily clad in pink when they want her to march in temperance crusades.

"Not that the church needs persuading to fight against intemperance. From the days when St. Paul warned the Ephesians not to be drunk with wine, the church's pastors have dealt faithfully with this ugly vice but—and here is the real principle—'abuses non tollit usum' (the abuse of a thing does not destroy its use)—ale, wine, and their like are not in themselves evil. They have their lawful uses, ranging down from the supreme honor paid to wine along with bread as the matter of the Holy Eucharist to their general work of moistening and enlivening the laborer's rough fare.

"Unhappily this is not the view of some Protestants with whom we are asked to associate ourselves for temperance progress. In living the hoary heresy of the aquarians, they would banish wine from the sacrifice of the altar, as the neomanichees, and would have us err and stray with them in the mazes of false physics and false metaphysics.

"To those appeals the Catholic Church cannot accede. Voluntary total abstinence she applauds as in the case of a strong willed man who renounces fermented liquor for the sake of a weak-willed brother."

"But compulsory prohibition in general is flatly opposed to Holy Scripture and to Catholic tradition.

"Moreover, it is grossly untrue to say that pathology and dietietics have brought in a verdict of guilty against the beverages of the old world.

"It has been made clear a thousand times that we will work with our separated brethren as temperance men, but not as the tools of those whose confessed policy is world-wide prohibition by installments.

"Prohibitionists having formed the bad habit of misrepresentation, will continue to represent the same attitude. They have made misrepresentation their all-the-year-round practice. Go with them a mile and they will boast that you have gone with them twain. Promise to work with them by education and moral suasion for the general virtue of temperance and they will ultimately compromise you with compulsory total abstinence."

Archbishop Messmer of the Milwaukee diocese, who is the oldest Roman Catholic bishop in the United States, characterizes the prohibition law as "an attempt to ram morality down the throats of the American people."

Other prominent Roman Catholic clergymen, such as Rev. Joseph A. Ayd, professor of sociology at Georgetown, Md., University; Rev. Father D. J. Kavanagh, parish priest of San Francisco; Rev. Father J. E. Burke, C. S. P., St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toronto; Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, O. M. I., D. D., Roman Catholic Bishop of London, Ont., and Right Rev. Alex. MacDonald, who last summer wrote an able anti-prohibition article in the Antigonish, N. S., Casket, could be quoted at length if space permitted.

LUTHERANS OPPOSE PROHIBITION

Professor Theodore Graebner, editor of the Lutheran Witness, has stated through the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau of New York that his church opposes the prohibition law. He has cited Martin Luther, John Knox, John Wesley and other leaders of the reformation as drinkers of wine and beer, and says that "the insistence of some churches on total abstinence is a reversal of the point of historic Protestantism." He goes on:

"While solidly ranked on the side of law enforcement, the Lutheran Church is out of sympathy with the prohibition act and with the entire type of legislation which it represents. The Lutheran Church holds that everything not forbidden in scripture is permitted. The churches which have put over prohibition through the political organization, the Anti-Saloon League, hold that nothing is permitted unless specifically authorized in the Bible.

"These churches furthermore look upon the state as the secular arm of the church which shall enforce obedience to church regulations by the policeman's billy and handcuffs. The kingdom of God, according to these churches, is not peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, but is meat and drink to be regulated by the police authorities."

UPRIGHT MEN VIOLATE LAW.

Rev. W. P. Rankin, pastor of the Lord, Calif., Methodist Church, who is a voluntary prohibitonist, said on March 8th, 1926:

"The breakdown of law enforcement begins with the individual, and sentiment of the community affects the enforcement in that community. Some of our upright honest men not only violate the liquor law, but boast of it."

REV. DR. PARKHURST— PRESBYTERIAN

Many men and women of middle age will recall the famous "Crusaders against vice," Rev. Dr. Parkhurst of New York, whose sensational campaign against "protected" vice and lawlessness attracted the attention in the early 'nineties. His methods were drastic and he was much ridiculed, but he did do something toward cleaning up the Bowery and the Tenderloin in the days when Tammany Hall was by no means the resepctable institution that it is today. Many readers will be surprised to learn that Dr. Parkhurst is still alive and hearty at the age of 85 and a keen reader of the newspapers. It is years since his name appeared in the public prints, but not long ago a reporter of the "Herald-Tribune" managed to "dig out" the man who at the time he was Minister of Madison Square Presbyterian Church, was known as the "Militant Good Citizen." The old gentleman said that he could not feel that matters in New York had improved much since his day. Like many aged men he takes an exaggerated view of the indecency of modern dress," but he is tolerant enough to regard Fundamentalists as persons who make a fuss about nothing. He is on sound ground when he says that a city which possesses 22,000 speak-easies selling liquor in defiance of the law is not much better than the town of thirty-five years ago, whose dives he endeavored to clean out. All authorities on New York's social history admit that by his own enthusiasm he considerably diminished police alliance with graft, and that the results of his good work lasted a quarter of a century. But with prohibition most of the evils he combated started to come back, in greater force, and Dr. Parkhurst is not obvious to this fact.

He says he was long the enemy of the saloon, but that he always sympathized with the "tavern spirit" which draws men to drink in each other's society, and of the pet hobby of some later crusaders he has this to say:

"Prohibition is an awful mess. The law is un-American, and its system of enforcement is corrupt and tyrannous.

"I am in general agreement with the Eighteenth Amendment, but not with the Volstead Act. It runs counter not only to human customs, but to common sense as well. It is far too drastic.

"What to do about it? I am sure I don't know. It is beyond me. The mess is growing worse all the time.

"I have fought the saloons, but it was a great mistake to attempt to end the saloon suddenly and in such high-handed fashion. It caused too much public resentment—a resentment that is perfectly easy to understand.

"I believe that the reins should have been drawn tighter and tighter on the liquor business, until finally, perhaps, there could have been a prohibition law that would have merited and gained public support to make it work.

"As to what will be the fate of the present unworkable law— I don't know. Certainly it is having a bad effect. It injures the young, it corrupts the police and it is a prolific cause of dishonesty in public life."

Space does not permit quoting other American clergy who are diametrically opposed to the present prohibition law of that republic. Neither does it permit able quotations which this writer would like to give from the following Canadians: Rev. H. J. Cody, L.L., D. D., Toronto; Rev. T. W. Goodwill, Cobourg, Ont.; Rev. W. G. Martin, Brantford, Ont.; Rev. Canon H. P. Plumptre, M. A., rector of St. James Cathedral, Toronto; Most Rev. G. Thorneloe, D. D., D. C. L., archbishop of Algoma, Ont.; Col. Rev. Cecil David Williams, Dominion secretary of the Navy League of Canada; Most Rev. David Williams, archbishop of Huron, Ont., and numerous others.

Charlottetown citizens, in particular, and Prince Edward Islanders, in general, know from personal contact the exemplar caliber and ability of Rev. R. G. Fulton, who recently, decided that he could do more good to humanity as chairman of the New Brunswick Liquor Commission than in preaching the gospel.

This will be sufficient to prove that the "sky pilots" are by no means unanimous for prohibition as appears to be current belief in some quarters.

WAR OF THE CHURCHES

Commenting on the present situation in the United States, an editorial writer in the Sacramento (Calif.) Bee says:

"It seems as though the prohibition problem might be translated into a war of the churches.

"On one side are found certain evangelical denominations, battling in the name of Christ for the continuance and increased severity of sumptuary laws—statutes making that a crime which the Saviour not only commended but practiced: in which the founders of their own varying creeds saw no harm, but found much innocent pleasure and comfort.

"On the other side stand the Catholic Church, Lutheran Church and the great body of the Episcopal Church.

"And no matter of what faith an educated man may be—no matter if he have none—all acquainted with the Bible and particularly with the life and acts of Christ must acknowledge that, on this point at least, the hierarchy of those creeds follow where Christ Jesus led the way."

(Bobby—"How did the Sphinx get the credit of being so wise, papa?" Mr. Morris—"By keeping his mouth shut for three thousand years.")


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All-wool Windbreakers. Polo collar and tie, knit wrist and waist band. Fancy check patterns, in fawn, blue, sand and brown. Sizes 4 to 8 yrs. Postpaid. Special ..... $2.49
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Men's Cashmere Lisle and Cotton Sox in plain and fancy patterns. Just the right weight for present wear. Special..50c.
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33 inches wide, natural color, for underwear, curtains, children's wear, etc. PATONS

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24 inch Silk Leg. Pure thread silk reinforced with art silk, wide garter welt, four ply spliced heel and foot, run stop at top, a real value. All the new spring shades---peach, flesh, pearl, blond, blush, champagne, French nude, natural moonlight, black and white, etc. Postpaid ..... 49c pr.
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Mens' Suits $19.50
We make a specialty of Men's and Young Men's Fancy Tweed and Worsted Suits, in blues, greys and fancy mixed tweeds at $19.50. All the new Spring styles, single and double breasted models. A regular $25.00 value. Special.... $19.50
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20 of the season's latest shades *in an* extra good quality Crepe de Chene, suitable for afternoon and evening dresses, scarfs, underwear, linings, etc. We secured a very low price on this lot and now pass the saving on to you. Rose, blue, white, red, flesh, mauve, grey, sand, navy, brown, pink, black, etc. PATONS.

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## Trout Fishing Regulations

No person shall kill in one day more than thirty trout (30).

Everyone not being a permanent resident of Prince Edward Island, or the son or brother of a permanent resident thereof who fishes for or attempts to fish for any trout in the waters of Prince Edward Island without first procuring an angler's permit is liable to a penalty of twenty dollars ($20.00)—

Permits can be procured at Publicity Office, Charlottetown, costing two dollars ($2.00)—

The sale, purchase or export of trout, no matter where procured is prohibited, providing however, that any non-resident leaving the Province may take away the lawful catch of two days' fishing if the shipment is accompanied by a certificate to that effect from either the local fishery officer in whose district the fish were caught, or from the local station agent adjacent to the locality in which they were caught.

Tourists can obtain information as to where to fish &c., on application to the Publicity Officer, Charlottetown.

A. E. MORRISON,
Game Inspector.

June 9th, 1927.