

respected people of the community. They know that it can only be maintained at all by the most brutal, most stringent and most repulsive of methods. They see employed in its service the vilest of human creatures, the paid informer—the man that lacks even the honor that prevails among thieves—the man who carries down through the ages the part of Judas Iscariot. This they see and upon this they act. The law has become something to be despised, to be broken or evaded at will, the source of adventure or of profit, but no longer based upon the plain teaching of right and wrong.

Can you blame any youth if he grows up with a confused sense as to obedience to the law? He knows that the most conspicuous and the most discussed law on your statute book is a sham and a lie. He knows that it is broken everywhere. He knows that the methods used in its enforcement are often despicable. And he knows that there are enlisted in its service some of the most contemptible characters that walk the earth—the spies and informers that are the ears and the tongue of prohibition.

That is the spectacle you are giving to your young men. What, think you, will be the result? You have broken with liberty, you have done with the morality of Jesus Christ that relied ever upon the moving spirit, you have seized the sword to smite off the ear of your opponents—force, force and power, and the tyrant's brutal delight in coercion, that is what the prohibitionist has chosen.

The sharper the tyranny the quicker the cure. But this I do know: that a law based upon a lie shall sooner or later be dashed to pieces against the impregnable power of truth.