

Sides Find a
"Kick" in the Church
Dry ReportCONCLUSIONS OF THE
"CHURCH DRY" REPORT.

(Concluded.)

of this type are little more than the New York City of Directors than they are the blotters of police stations. Their experience and their opinions are not to be easily or without protest. But it is a question of making responsible changes in the law. The opinion of that class, which the Massachusetts referendum of the last year, which made Indiana safe from bootlegging and enabled Michigan to defeat a referendum to get an expression from the return of the saloon. The report will be of distinct service to the evasions of the law, and the evasions can not be made, or that the law can not be enforced, is to confess that the Government is less than a limited number of people who are willing to become lawless in order to gratify their desire to fill their pockets. That is to confess the impotence of the law in the face of organized crime. Any expenditure is too great to keep the nation from treading the path of Prohibition's strong-arm, declares the Birmingham-Herald. "Prohibition is in a state of confusion, but unless we are to stray in our observations, we are already emerging from the place of it," remarks the Denver Mountain News, which believes the dry law "will win, ultimately the support of the majority." The Federal Council's report is the thought that Prohibition is a ground in public favor, and to warrant belief in its material modification if the same were submitted to a referendum. The Washington Star, Eighteenth Amendment is "the cause of a century of agitation at the evils of intemperance," says the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "it is ever repeated or the standard it modified, the change has come about through a like feeling." The church report on Prohibition, "despite its pessimism," is of value to the nation "if it will wake up the forces of law and temperance to the duty of vigilance," remarks the New York Observer. And the World Republican, after reminding that "all reforms have passed through a disillusionment stage after realization in practice," goes on to say:

Many other attempts to up-
holding Prohibition must be as-
sured neither all good nor all bad.
It must be made clear that the
evils of it outweigh the disad-
vantages. To that end, the possi-
bility of authoritative information
giving its effects should be far
organized than they are to-day.
Report of the Federal Council of
Liquor is notable for its admis-
sion that all statistical data bearing
on the subject are defective, incom-
plete and untrustworthy if considered
in final judgments. Even
the matter of testing public opinion
admitted that the question is in
doubt. Wherever necessary, the State
Federal Governments should be
able to collect more accurate sta-
tistics and such agencies as the Fed-
eral Council of Churches should be
encouraged to pursue continuously
Prohibition in its sixth year
even careful investigators have
been unable to find authoritative
definite information concerning
the amount of alcoholic drink now
consumed in the license era.
Much there can be little doubt that
volume has been enormously dim-
inished in the United States as a
whole.

Any system of liquor-traffic regu-
lation is sure to develop defects. Mas-
sachusetts' high-license system be-
cause of its defects, probably, in America at
large, yet under it drunkenness
decreased and the crime of bootleg-
ging was not so common. The con-
clusion is we are inclined to
support of the Massachusetts com-
mission for the study of the liquor
problem, which was appointed by Governor
McCarthy. If we go back to the high-
license system we shall not only con-
fess to make progress but we shall
also have a system under which pro-
hibition has been stopped. The only alterna-
tive suggested to-day is a gov-
ernment monopoly of the liquor-traffic,
which would mean putting the Post-
office into business on a \$5-
million scale in comparison with
the small scale of the present
system. The only alternative
to the merits of Prohibition, as the

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far tested, are of sufficient social
and economic importance to the nation
to make its abandonment in the im-
mediate future out of the range of
probability.As a sequel to their report, a
Washington dispatch tells us, the
Federal Council will launch a cam-
paign "to intensify the teaching of
temperance by the churches."

Turning now to comment either un-
friendly to the dry law or skeptical
about the possibility of enforcing it,
we find many suggestions that the
laws be modified to legalize the sale
of light wines and beer. "Altogether
the report of the Federal Council is
highly confirmatory of the view that
the most pressing domestic problem
before the country to-day is how to
get rid of Prohibition in its present
extreme form and substitute for it
moderate regulation that will be ef-
fective because it will be able to com-
mand public tolerance and support,"
remarks the Detroit Free Press.
"Prohibition has accomplished nothing
for temperance," declares the St.
Paul Dispatch, which points out that
"we are getting worse results out of
an expenditure of \$20,000,000 for enforce-
ment this year than we got on an ex-
penditure of \$2,000,000 in the first
year of the experiment." "Slowly we
move toward the intelligent regula-
tion of the liquor traffic which will
give the poor man an equal chance
with the rich one, and put the kibosh
on poison labeled as beverage," says
the Camden Courier. "The report
does not on the whole give one great
faith in the ultimate victory of the
Prohibition law," notes the Washing-
ton Post, which goes on to say:
"But it does, speaking of the
saloon, give firm assurance that that
great evil is gone forever. This is
extremely gratifying."

"But Prohibition of all liquor traf-
fic and the dead saloon are two dif-
ferent and distinct questions. The
saloon is a physical creation that can
be legislated out of existence—forced
out even by public opinion. Prohibi-
tion, on the other hand, is a difficult
and dangerous experiment in legis-
lation, because it interferes with life-
long habits of temperate men who
feel that their personal liberty is in-
vaded."

"The suppression of liquor traffic is
a noble ideal; but the method un-
dertaken, it would seem from impartial
public information sources, is far from
being in harmony with public senti-
ment."

"The disappearance of the saloon
is one question, and the hundred-and-
one wretched tyrannies of the Vol-
stead Law constitute another and
entirely distinct question which
should be considered on its separate
merits," says the Syracuse Herald,
which adds: "It is the interpretation
of the Eighteenth Amendment by
Congress, and not the disappearance
of the saloon, that has provoked the
wide-spread and contemptuous dis-
regard for law which is now the sor-
row and dismay of all good citizens."
In an editorial headed "Prohibition
Illusions Disappearing," the New
York World says:

"Many Anti-Saloon Leaguers and
others think that enforcement can
yet be galvanized into effectiveness.
But the palpable fact is that an in-
creasing number do not. They feel
that if Prohibition drives ahead on
the old track, it will simply register
the familiar failures and pile still
higher the evils of bootlegging, rum-
running, hijacking, bribery and gen-
eral law-breaking. They are willing
to consider whether a legalization of
the lighter drinks will not lend itself
to a further protection against whisky
and other hard liquors. In short, they
are losing some of the illusions with
which they embarked, in such dis-
ance of individual and State rights,
upon the Prohibition experiment."

Much interest has been aroused by
newspaper rumors that the brewing
interests are working for a dry-law
compromise agreement with the Anti-
Saloon League under which they would
work to rid the country of strong
spirits in exchange for a modification
of the law to permit the sale of light
wines and beer. Advocacy of this
strange alliance by members of the
United States Breweries Association is
said to have been responsible for the
resignation of its president, Christian
W. Feigenspan, who is quoted as say-
ing that he believed the public would
resent such an alliance. In Mr.
Feigenspan's opinion, "beer will
come back in response to a general
demand; not because of anything the
breweries may do, nor by favor of
the Anti-Saloon League." Comment-
ing on the rumored negotiations,
Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel of
the Anti-Saloon League, is quoted in
a Washington dispatch to the New
York Times as saying:

(Continued on page 16.)

