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THE TECH

THE AND THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT

SINCE we have been asked to assert our attitude toward the en-
forcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, we feel justified in
taking an exception to our policy of not including political or in-
ternational controversies within the scope of the usual run of our
editorials. Our purpose is not to influence public opinion, but to
report it fairly and honestly. The problem of national intellec-
tual importance, for which there is no national interest, can be
or should be dealt with by the popular press. We have always
felt that the duty of every citizen to abide by the law should
always be put across by the majority opinion of the nation at
present with regard to Prohibition, if we are to have any effect.

But the wide expanse of our country makes it almost impos-
sible to effectively curtail the output of all liquor, at least without
drawing severely upon the Government's financial resources. The
outcome is a patchwork of the minds of the people. Present condi-
tions are intolerable. It may be true that our present Government
is not a true democracy, but that is only because a true democracy
of a hundred million people would be unworkable, if not impos-
sible. Theoretically, at least, we are all still a part of the Govern-
ment. We have not yet been able to curtail our fights, our criminal
times, or our small war. The question of Prohibition is not
the only problem we have to face, and the national Government
must always be put across by the minority. The argument maintains
that what is to us a great discomfort will not trouble future gen-
erations so less. So that in the course of a few generations people
will be able to accept Prohibition as an established fact, and as
such live it up without much resistance.

The effect is den-oralizing. The psychology of the opinion "If
we have a right to drink, we have a right to do anything," is
unquantifiable. It may be true that our present Government
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