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Charles Rich '26

THE TECH AND THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT

SINCE we have been asked to assert our attitude toward the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, we feel justified in taking an exception to our policy of not including political or international controversies within the scope of the usual run of our editorials. We are of the belief, moreover, that in many cases of national importance college opinion throughout the nation can be of some value, notwithstanding the disdain and indifference with which it is reviewed—if, indeed, it be listened to at all. The trouble probably lies in the fact that college opinion is too inclined to be radical, and is formulated by men well versed in abstract theories, but not experienced in the practicality of these theories. In other words, college men contract an idea, think they see both sides of it when in reality they only perceive one, and nurse it affectionately until they are taught its defects through its confliction with facts.

Prohibition to date has not been a success. Perhaps it has removed the liquor curse from the poor by causing the price of the liquor which is obtainable to soar above their financial reach. But because this liquor is still obtainable, the effect has been merely to shift the curse upon those who have sufficient means to supply themselves with it.

Were it possible to absolutely prevent the sale of all liquor in the country the problem would be simple. No matter what is the majority opinion of the nation at present with regard to Prohibition, there is a great deal of logic in the idea that great reforms must always be put across by a minority. The argument maintains that what is to us a great discomfort now will trouble future generations less and less. So that in the course of a few generations people will be educated to accept Prohibition as an established fact, and as such it will be lived up to with no resistance.

But the wide expanse of our country makes it almost impossible to effectively curtail the output of all liquor, at least without draining severely upon the Government's financial resources. The outcome is therefore in the minds of the people. Present conditions 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 millions of people would be unwieldy, if not impracticable. Theoretically, at least, we are all still a part of the Government. And yet we gallantly challenge the Government to a battle of wits, of which we are the victors if we are successful in obtaining a quart through some illegal medium.

The effect is demoralizing. The psychology of the opinion "If you want to make a man want something, take it away from him," has been proved correct. And now it is no uncommon sight to see high school youths and even girls of fifteen years delighting in "getting a lid on" and laughing deridingly at a certain Mr. Volstead.

Engineers deal with facts. The Eighteenth Amendment is not a possibility to conjecture on. It is an established part of the Constitution of the United States, and as long as it remains a part of it, —and there is at present no reason for thinking it will not always be a part of it hereafter—it is the duty of every citizen to abide by it. President Coolidge is entirely right in his statement:

"Free government has no greater menace than disrespect for authority and continual violation of law. It is the duty of a citizen not only to observe the law but to let it be known that he is opposed to its violation."

It is high time for people to cease taking Prohibition as a joke. They must have impressed upon them the realization that in buying liquor they make themselves traitors to the statutes of their own government. Some theatrical circuits excluded Prohibition jokes some time ago. It would have a great effect upon the morals of the people if all newspapers, magazines, and humorous publications were to do the same. These organs are in no small way responsible for the lack of respect for the Constitution now so evident in the wilful and wholesale disregard of its last Amendment. They can do much to cultivate the right attitude in the minds of the public if they so desire.

INTERCOLLEGIATE

COLLEGE BALL AT BUFFALO

A College Ball is to be held at Buffalo, N. Y. on Christmas night, Dec. 25. The affair is to be held at the Hotel Statler under the auspices of the Scalp and Blade, which is an organization composed of college men from Buffalo attending the leading colleges of the country. There is a chapter of Scalp and Blade here at Technology.

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The NEWSPAPER VOO DOO

By Eric Hodgins '22

Managing Editor of the Technology Review

Some years ago (I am a none too accurate historian but I should set the date as the spring of 1922) a group of young men who were practicing the arts and leaving a study of the sciences to less richly endowed minds, met in Walker 306 to discuss a problem. The problem was this: given an issue of Voo Doo, which at great trouble and expense we had written drawn and caused to be printed, how were we to broadcast the news of our achievements so that the student body would swiftly make a beaten track to our stand in the Main Lobby as soon as we placed our product on sale? We had laid our egg, you see, and we wished to put our cackle through several stages of amplification, that it might sound above the static of the T.E.N. The T.E.N.'s circulation department was wearing white sweaters with cerise arm bands at that time, as I remember, to make their labors more conspicuous, and staging dog fights, potato races and games of Post Office in the lobby better to promote an undergraduate appreciation of their magazine. We wanted some attention, too, and we hoped to get it without losing our dignities, which we prized. We wanted publicity in THE TECH.

Does that seem to you a simple problem? It did not to us. A hard boiled young gentleman named Albert Jesse

(Continued on Page 4)

"BRIXTON BURGLARY" IS WEEK'S PLAY AT COPLEY

This week the Henry Jewett Repertory Company is offering "The Brixton Burglary," a farce in three acts by Frederick W. Sidney. One is rather disappointed at so obvious a mischance as this play seems to be, and one feels that after all, the English may not have a sense of humor. The story tells of the usual misunderstandings which arise from an extended series of lies caused by a burglary in a nearby town, and an evening spent by a totally married man among only partially married women. At last it becomes so involved that the author himself seems to lose his way in his own maze, and the audience is left to suppose that all ends well. Perhaps this is the best way, after all, for the humor is everywhere so forced, and the play so slow of movement that by the end of the third act one feels rather sad.

May Ediss, as Petunia, the usual comic maid, shares the best work with Alice Bromley Wilson, the mother-in-law, while E. E. Clive, the hero, does extremely well in the part of a worried husband. These rolls are well supported by Charles Hampden, Harold West, and Violet Page. One might say that this is a mediocre play, quite well acted.

W. W. R.

"EAST IS WEST" SHOWS BITS OF GOOD ACTING

"East is West" at the St. James this week is a fairly good comedy-drama. The chief fault with the play is that the transition from comedy to drama and back again is too sudden and too often.

The play is the story of a young American who saves a Chinese sing-song girl from being sold into slavery on a loveboat and takes the girl back to America.

Edward Darney, as Charlie Yang, does the best acting in the play. His interpretation of the Chinese restaurant keeper and tong man keeps the audience in a continual gale of laughter. Adelyn Bushnel as the Chinese sing-song girl flies into several passions very realistically. The rest of the cast forms an effective though colorless background. Ralph Remely in the prologue gives a good rendering of the loveboat proprietor.

W. L. S.

Play Directory

COLONIAL: "Helen of Troy, N.Y." Musical comedy.
HOLLIS: "So This Is London." Cohan comedy.
PLYMOUTH: "The Love Child." Last week.
SELWYN: "The Song and Dance Man." Cohan in title role.
SHUBERT: "Mary Jane McKane." Last week.
SYMPHONY HALL: Tonight, Harvard Glee Club.
TREMONT: "Lollipop." Ada May Weeks.
WILBUR: "The Lady in Ermine." Good play with good music.

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