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**PROMINENT JURIST DEFENDS PROHIBITION**  
 IN SPRINGFIELD JOURNAL

Judge Gemmill Writes Letter Denouncing Principles. Presents Statistics on Prohibition

Denouncing the statements of the National Association Opposed to Prohibition as false and misleading Judge William N. Gemmill, judge in the municipal court at Chicago has published the following open letter defending prohibition and seeking to refute the arguments offered by the opponents of prohibition.

Judge Gemmill's letter, as printed in the Springfield Journal, follows:  
 "National Association Opposed to Prohibition:  
 "Gentlemen:  
 "It seems to me it is the duty of some one to challenge your statements for they are false in almost every particular and where they are not false they are deliberately misleading.

"I desire to call your attention to just a few of the false and misleading statements. In the first place you say:  
 "It was promised that prohibition would save boys and girls from intemperance, but juvenile delinquency is reported to have increased 32 per cent during the last year. The bootlegger's bottle is leaving an inevitable and indelible impression on the child mind, etc."

"Juvenile delinquency has not increased 32 per cent during the last year, but in Chicago, as well as in other cities covered by my investigation I find the juvenile delinquency has greatly decreased during the last year and since the enactment of the prohibition law. If you want the facts concerning juvenile delinquency consult the man who is most familiar with them, Judge Victor Arnold, for many years the presiding judge of the juvenile court.

Judge Arnold's statement.  
 "The first five months of 1922 shows 525 boy cases and 225 girl cases, a total of 750 against 750 boys and 275 girls, a total of 1025 for a similar period in 1921, a decrease of approximately 25 per cent. Boys decrease 30 per cent; and girls' decrease 18 per cent.

"You say that prohibition promised from 60 to 80 per cent reduction in taxes, but taxes have increased from 100 to 300 per cent.  
 "Again you seek to deliberately mislead the public for you know the increase of taxes has been due to the war and the consequent increase in the cost of living. Prohibition has nothing to do with it.

"You say it was promised that prohibition would reduce the population of the jails, poor houses and insane asylums but that after two years of prohibition, the jails, poor houses and insane asylums are filled to overflowing.  
 "That, too, is a complete perversion of the facts. Twenty per cent of the jails of the United States have been without prisoners since prohibition went into effect; and in 80 per cent of them the percentage of the number of prisoners has been reduced anywhere from 15 to 80 per cent. I have not found a single state or a single prison where there was not a marked decrease in the prison population in 1919 and 1920. In most of the states there was an increase in 1921 over the year 1920, but with that increase the population is still from 20 to 25 per cent less than it was before the war.

"During the year previous to the enactment of the prohibitory law 169 persons died in the hospital in the Bridewell from alcoholism. Last year one person died in the same hospital of the same cause.  
 "You say prohibition promised a reduction in the cases in our criminal courts, but since the act went into effect there has been an alarming increase in the major offenses largely inspired by growing disrespect for the law, etc.  
 "Here again your statement is utterly false. In every large city in the United States there has been a decrease in crime since prohibition went into effect. In some cities it has amounted to 60 per cent. I have before me the records of all large cities of the United States obtained since the first of January, 1922.  
 In 1917 in Chicago there were 129,270 arrests for crime; in 1920 there were 87,197.  
 In 1916 in San Francisco there were 49,647 arrests for crime; in 1919 there were 26,673.  
 In 1918 in Buffalo there were 350,902 arrests for crime; in 1920 there were 24,436.  
 In 1918 in Baltimore there were 62,086 arrests for crime, in 1920 there were 41,988.  
 In 1918 in New Orleans there were 23,239 arrests for crime; in 1920 there were 15,097.  
 "Far more significant have been the arrests for drunkenness. You have deliberately tried to make it appear that there is more drunkenness in America today than there was before the enactment of the prohibitory law. You must know that such is not the fact. From all the cities covered by my investigation I find that from the last year prior to such enactment there was a reduction of arrests for drunkenness of over 50

per cent in the United States. The showing made by the larger cities is more than equalled by the smaller cities throughout the country. I have also collected data from many of these cities. It is fair to say that the reduction in the total number of arrests for intoxication in the United States since the enactment of the prohibitory law runs over 700,000 persons annually.

"You say that prohibition promised a more general regard for the law, but that never before has the law been so cheaply held among all people as now. There is no truth in this statement. Never before were our American citizens as clean and law abiding as they are today. We have much crime in America, but four-fifths of it emanates directly from the saloons that are still running in violation of the law and from the illicit sale of liquor. If your people would put forth as much effort trying to uphold and enforce the law as you do in trying to destroy it, we would have less crime.

"I notice that printed on your pledge you say: 'Beer, light wines, no saloons.' At least prohibition has had some effect upon your committee who now desire to go on record as being opposed to the saloons. I have no recollection of ever hearing of any of your committee taking that position before. At least you are following in some degree the enlightened sentiment of the world.  
 Yours very truly  
 (Signed) "W. N. Gemmill."

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**Electric Output in Kilowatt Hours Public Service Company of Northern Illinois**

1913	115,428,244
1915	192,914,677
1917	214,702,816
1919	326,687,051
1921	359,410,664

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS IS—**  
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16 Electric Generating Plants  
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 700 Miles Electric Transmission Lines  
 900 Miles Gas Mains  
 5,800 Square Miles of Territory Served  
 1,157,000 Population

**Demands for Electric Power Grow Faster Than Population**

THE CHART opposite shows how the output of the electric plants of the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois has grown in the past 10 years.

THE USES OF ELECTRICITY, as well as GAS, have multiplied so rapidly that the Company has an ever increasing business.

TO PROVIDE THE VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES electric power and gas manufacturing plants have been built and enlarged, hundreds of miles of electric and gas transmission and distributing systems have been constructed and the funds of thousands of investors employed at fair wages.

ALL ESTIMATES of future requirements for the Company's products indicate an even more rapid increase of public demands for electricity than in the past. The same is true of gas, which now has more than 1,000 industrial uses besides its employment in the households.

THAT BUSINESS in Northern Illinois is on the upturn is indicated by the fact that in the first five months of this year, sales of electric power by the Public Service Company have increased 24 per cent. Sales of gas show an increase of 12 per cent as compared with the corresponding period of 1921. This is proof of more and better business in the territory.

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