**April 3, 1932**

Dear fellow countrymen and countrywomen, I greet you with the words: Praised be Jesus Christ!

“Rome is burning. The city is on fire. May the gods rescue Rome.” The Romans were fleeing from the city. Here and there people were erecting tents under which whole families were to find shelter. Others settled down under the sky, shouting, calling on the gods, or cursing the fates. In the general terror it was different to inquire about anything. Some lost their speech from fear; others liked around with eyes half bewildered from terror. Disorder and outcry increased every moment. For the barbarians and slaves the burning of Rome was at once the end of slavery and the hour of revenge. Men of this will and unrestrained crowd raged, thinking that the hour had come in which they were free to reward themselves for years of misery and suffering. It was a terrible spectacle. Despair, tears, pain, groans, wild delight, madness, rage, and license were mingled together in that immeasurable chaos. Above this hearing, mad human multitude roared the fire, surging up to the hill tops of the greatest city on earth, sending into the whirling throng its fiery breath, and covering it with smoke, through which it was impossible to see the blue sky. The shout “Rome is perishing!” did not leave the lips of the crowd, who assumed a threatening attitude. It was repeated most generally that Caesar had given command to burn Rome. Rage seized the populace at the thought of this, and Nero? He, in the meantime played and sang hymns- which he composed himself, while the fire circled dreadful wreaths of flame wider and wider. ‘America is burning! The country is on fire! May God rescue America!” Our country is in the hands of strongly and cleverly organized murders, robbers, kidnappers, gangsters, racketeers, and criminals of different kind who have no regard and respect towards any law and who break even the holiest of laws. Criminal enterprises bribe the federal state and city authorities. Grafting like leprosy covers the backs of the officials. Add to the unemployment, hunger and despair of the American citizens and what have you? A moral fire in human minds and hearts. In the meantime, our authorities sing and play to songs and music composed by themselves. Our law-givers, appoint a commission to investigate, and then with folded arms and an ironical smile on the lips, listen to reports and advices and all this goes to the waste basket. The administration plays the role of a good Samaritans, but to their own citizens it is heartless step-fathers. Bands of gangsters, human leeches, parade around the streets of cities and towns, and live upon income extorted unjustly and dishonestly. Millions of dollars are lost in bottomless pockets of brigands and scum of our society. To what heights of boldness and insolence some carry their demands is proved the best in the kidnapping of our noted aviator Charles A. Lindbergh’s child. And yet in one year, for ransom, over four hundred persons were kidnapped in the United States. The whole legislative system is breaking down. Four thousand policemen, detectives and other guardians of public safety, drop their hands and surrender themselves to bands of gangsters. The people looking at such lawlessness, such moral fire, which foretells disaster and ruin of the country, curse and despair, while our lawgivers, on the contrary, sing calmly about respect towards laws, welfare, wealth and natural resources of the United States. Before the homes of the country more and more emphatically famine appear, the crisis does not pass away, depression continues, the deficit of city, state and federal treasuries increases, taxes grow, and the citizens scornfully break the laws disregarding their importance and meaning. And the senators and congressmen, looking at that fire, continue playing discreetly with sepulchral silence. Among the ulcers covering the American society, there is one which is the mother of all others, one loathsome, offensive, poisonous and ignominious, and that is the theme of today’s speech.

**A Noble Experiment**

Allow me to be clearly understood in this matter. I am an open for of drunkenness, as well as a stubborn and public enemy of Prohibition. Our Lord Himself says in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 21, verse 34: “"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.” The Apostles of nations warns the drunkards against eternal damnation, in his first letter to Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 9: “Do not be deceived…drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God.” In order to insure the nation, we must avoid drunkenness, for through drunkenness the nation degrades, weakens and exposes itself to ruin. I am, therefore, a stubborn enemy of prohibition, because that “noble experiment”, transformed the American nation into an army of drunkards, criminals, murderers, grafters, burglars, bandits, kidnapers, and gangsters, because that “noble experiment” swallows the enormous capital, lowers the morals of the individuals and society, destroys the dignity and sanctity of authority and law, undermines the nation’s health, ruins it, causes death, poisons the happiness of elders, and inculcates in the young generation a strange, pagan and wild impression of human life; it is the source of all crimes, root of transgressions, confused minds, loss of innocence, will full madness, ugliness of morals, disgrace of life and corruption of soul. Prohibition is an illegal child, it is a monster of bigotry and heretical and pharisaical sectarianism. In the footsteps of prohibition, follow events of horror and pain, ruin and sickness, poverty and want, tears and blood, ruin and death. Truth, justice and patriotism perish.

The noble experiment had as its father the Anti-Saloon League and as its mother the Women Christian Temperance Union. It was introduced into America, January 29, 1919, and began its activity at 12 o’clock January 16, 1920. This “noble experiment”, or the 18th amendment prohibits the manufacture, sale and transportation of intoxicating liquors; in addition to this the Volstead Act explains that an intoxicating drink is one which contains more than half per-cent of alcohol. It does not forbid, however, the use of alcoholic drinks.

The adherents of this noble experiment proclaimed fourteen dry beatitudes. 1) The end of drunkenness. 2) Complete decline of deaths due to alcoholism. 3) Decrease of crimes. 4) Evacuation of prisons and reform schools. 5) The end of liquor trade. 6) Abolition of saloons. 7) Decrease of insane asylums. 8) Better example for the young. 9) Greater safety and protection for travelers. 10) Money wasted for drinks, will be used for purchase of more valuable articles. 11) Lowering of taxes. 12) Prestige of the United States. 13) Enhancement of wide human principles fro which all civilized nations strive. Each of these beatitudes of prohibition I shall take separately and explain them. 1) Prohibition did not do away with drunkenness but increased it. Mrs. Robert W. Lovett of Boston, speaking in Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit Mich., on Dec 1, 1931, said, “Drunkenness is on the daily program. And then woman were dragged into this question. Before we knew that we could trust our daughters, but today girls themselves organize parties under the motto. “B. Y. O. L.” (Bring your own liquor). Let us look over the statistics, which show us that in 1920, in 385 cities and villages, 201,339 were arrested for intoxication, and since prohibition we have the following figures.

In 1921, 266,576 were arrested.

In l922, 358,599 were arrested.

In 1923, 421,637 were arrested.

In 1924, 426,309 were arrested.

In 1925, 436,743 were arrested.

In 1926, 452,186 were arrested.

In 1927, 466, 806 were arrested.

Let us glance into the city of Washington, which ought to be a model for all the inhabitants of our country. The records of the Police Bureau show that in the year 1920, 73 juveniles, i. e., between the ages 17 and 21 were arrested for intoxication.

In 1921…..182

In 1922…..166

In 1923…..220

In 1924…..269

In 1926…..332

In 1927…..414

In 1928…..390

In 1929…..368

And all this in the capital of the country, in the shades of the White House in a city of a half a million inhabitants. There has been increase of more than 500% of juvenile drunkards. Yet the blind adherents of prohibition claim that it is a noble experiment. 2) The Census Bureau could not furnish complete statistics of deaths due to alcoholism. It has, however, statistics from the following states: California, Washington, Montana, Utah, Colorado, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the District of Columbia. In these states, for every ten thousand inhabitants up to the time of Prohibition, the number of deaths were decreasing, and since Prohibition were increasing from 1.2% to 5% per cent.

1920 ………. 660

1921............ 1,114

1922 ……… 1,753

1923 ……… 2,297

1924 ……… 2,324

1925 ……... 2,728

1926 ……… 2,960

1927 ……… 3,150

1928 ……… 4,627

1929 ……… 4,329

Add to this the number of deaths resulting from the so called “cirrhosis of the liver” which is due to alcoholism. The number which in 1920 was 6,241 for every hundred thousand inhabitants was steadily increasing until it was 8,377 in 1929. All these are results of the praiseworthy experiment. 3] Did the number of crimes decrease since Prohibition was put into effect? Perhaps on the Moon but not in America. Two or three years ago a Federal Prohibition Administrator, stated in Washington that out from the 3,000 prohibitions officials, 872 were suspended for accepting bribes. Three inspectors with an annual pensi9on of about $3,000 to $4,000 could have bank books with the deposits of $193,553.22, $102,829.45, $40,410.75.

The Illinois Association for Criminal Justice in its 1928 report wrote, “Of all the organized classes of criminals the most dangerous are these that make, send and sell alcoholic drinks. In the Cook County, the gangsters committed 74 murders in 1926, flights and quarrels were the cause of 90 deaths in 1926 and of 111 in 1927. Drunkenness was the chief cause of the murders. It was easier to buy intoxicating drinks in 1927 than in 1926” finishes the report. Do not forget the numerous thefts, plunders, and kidnapping of young people and children for ransom. 4} Prohibition has filled completely prisons reform schools, hospitals, and insane asylums and is forced to build new ones. The Census Bureau shows that in 1920 all the Federal prisons had 4,728 inmates. And in

1921 ………. 5,268

1922 ………. 6,395

1923 ………. 7,062

1924 ………. 7,752

1925 ………. 8,872

1926 ………. 8,750

1927 ………. 9,192

1928 ………. 9,944

1929 ………. 12,293

According to the statistics of the same Bureau there were in all the American prisons 81,959 inmates in 1923; and 109,346 on Jan. 1, and out of these 4,363 were women. At present prisoners than combined the number of prisoners of England, France, Germany Poland and Sweden. For the support of prisons, prisoners, officials and judges, the Federal government gave the colossal sum of $52,786,202.94 in June 1930. Then the Census Bureau shows that in 1928 there were 264,226 patients in the insane asylums; that in 1930 about 16,000 people died of a certain contagious disease; that at present over a million people are under the care of doctors because the disease has crept into the ranks of our high school youth. The government is building new prisons, insane asylums and hospitals. The governments of countries that have no prohibition are closing their prisons and selling them at auction. 5) The liquor trade is steadily increasing since 1920. Only a few days ago Col. Amos Woodcock, a dry federal commissioner in his report covering the period from July 1, 1030 to March 1, 1932, states in violation of the Prohibition laws were sentenced in the whole for 14,425 years of imprisonment and to pay fines amounting to $5,140,074. In the last few days, the newspapers reported that the federal agents have confiscated in San Francisco a two story garage containing $150,000 worth of Bombon and Scotch Whiskey and have arrested 14 people. In 1931 with the permission of the dry government, they produced in seven distilleries, 2,435,631 gallons of whiskey for medical use. Last Sunday, March 25, the federal agents seized at Stamford Conn. a ship, six trucks and whiskey worth $400,000 and arrested 48 bootleggers. In the House of the Representatives at Washington, William Z. Hull, a Republican from Illinois, says upon the evidence furnished by director Woodcock that in the dry United States, there are made illegally 35,000,000 barrels of beer, and 35,000,000 gallons of whiskey. Add the thousands of gallons smuggled in from England, France, Canada, Italy, and other countries. The “Drys” have eyes but they do not see. 6) Prohibition did not do away with the saloons but rather multiplied them. Major Maurice Campbell the former Prohibition Administrator in the state of New York, in an article found in “Repeal” writes “that in 1931 there were in the city of New York 36,000 “speakeasies,” 52,000 in the state of New York, and 222,000 in the United States. The Prohibition Bureau in the official report states, that in ten years the federal authorities have seized 1,893,392 illegal distilleries. Another official, General Lincoln Andrews, reported that about 18,934,960 distilleries in the United States are working day and night making whiskey only. And what should be said about the million gallons of champagne, wine, and liquor? Nearly nineteen million homes, basements, attics and barns were converted into distilleries, breweries, wine-taverns and saloons. Who can give an exact number of the hiding places, burrows and blind pigs? The police have arrested in Evanston, Ill., a fourteen year old boy, Robert Roman, who came to school intoxicated. Few bottles of wine were found in his desk. He confessed that he was making wine in the cellar of his home and was selling it to his companions, and steady adult customers. And so he was a fourteen year old saloon keeper. On Jan 3, of this year, two fourteen-year old bartenders were arrested in an aristocratic palace in Devon, Pa. Police claim that the guests were of the best families from the higher society. Yes, Prohibition has closed the doors of thousand public saloons. And that is a noble “experiment”. 7) How can we after eleven years of trying out the “noble experiment” claim that it is a good model to the young generation, when our young people violate this law everywhere and upon every possible occasion. Mrs. Robert W. Lovett claimed that Prohibition is the chief cause of the breaking down of our families. The children see their parents violating his law. It is enough to read the headings of the newspapers, “Intoxicated girls were arrested after the party,” “High School Students on a drinking-bout,” “Mother and son arrested for drunkenness” etc. She added that she read in a certain newspaper the definition of the 18th amendment which gives women the right to get drunk like men.” Such are the enormous and beneficial results and such a perfect model of virtue in the “noble experiment” for our young generation. 8) Does the Prohibition protect the travelers? In 1920 there were 723,221 registered automobiles; 1476 chauffeurs lost their driving permits that is, 20 for every 10,000 automobiles. In 1928, there were 1,920,215 registered automobiles; 8,217 lost their license due to intoxication that is 43 for every 10,000 automobiles. Here again the noble “experiment” must blush at its own results. 9) Prohibition did not increase bank deposits. During the nine years preceding Prohibition the deposits increased by 70.5% and after the adoption of Prohibition during the first nine years by 39%. 10) No money was saved as a result of Prohibition. Neither the government nor the state, nor the individuals can invest their money in valuable articles. The year 1917 is a typical example, then the Federal Government collected from the taxes on beverages 343,000,000 and the people consumed $1,474,000,000 worth of drinks. Statistics show that in the year 1927 dry American citizens have consumed

Beer ……………… 630 million gallons………………….…………$945,000.000

Wine ………………150 million gallons………………………….….300, 000,000

Strong liquors …......180 million gallons………………………..…..2,700,000,000 Together……………………………………………………………$3,945,000,000

And from this the government did not receive a penny in taxes. This sum amounts to eleven times 343 million dollars according to the anti-prohibition figures. According to the statement of Prof. Erwin A. Seligman of Columbia University the above sum could be changed into 1,280,000,000annunal federal taxes and 220,000,000 state taxes. Add $50,000,000 necessary annually for the support of the Prohibition Bureau and see what financial gains the federal government, the state and the nation. And so for the money saved thousands go to Canada because liquors there are much better and cheaper. The national budget for the fiscal year 1932-1933 for the enforcement of laws (prohibition and others) was $101,300,100. This also is one of the beneficial results of the “glorious experiment.” For tonight I let the curtain fall on the farce, entitled the “Noble Experiment,” that is being played for the past twelve years, and which ends in a sad tragedy. The dry hydra ends in a financial and moral catastrophe.