

motive in the retail sale of liquor. The report ends with two further conclusions: first, that taxation should be levied with the primary objective of social control, not revenue; and, second, that education in its broadest sense be relied on more than legal coercion in the creation of a sober nation.

American liquor legislation in the past has been guided chiefly by emotion; it is to be hoped that post-repeal problems will be dealt with more on the basis of reason and experience. The present report is a step in this direction, both in focusing attention upon the problems and in bringing together factual material and specific recommendations in clear and concise form.

For the work on the factual part of the report, there can be only praise; with the insistence that the motive of private profit be eliminated from its control, there should be unanimous agreement; concerning its specific recommendation of state monopoly or management of the liquor business, there are bound to be conflicting opinions. One is led to wonder, too, whether local option will not play more of a rôle than this report implies. The heterogeneity of our population and the diversities in our life constitute a background of many colors against which the liquor problem, and a great many other problems, must now and for some years to come always be considered. This background looms large in explaining the failure of prohibition, and no post-repeal policy of liquor control which ignores it is likely to succeed. Its presence makes our liquor problem a unique one, limiting the significance of the experience of other countries, and precluding general satisfaction with any one plan.

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WILLEY, MALCOLM M., and STUART A. RICE. *Communication Agencies and Social Life*. Pp. xv, 299. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1933. \$2.50.

As an outgrowth of the research undertaken in connection with the section of a similar name written for the *Recent Social Trends in the United States*, the two authors of this monograph are presenting here a more detailed and more documented study

of their findings. The agencies of transportation covered include: the railroads, steam and electric; the motor vehicle; highways and highway utilization; waterborne and air traffic. And there is a chapter on touring and travel. Under agencies of communication are included only—and naturally—those involved in point-to-point communication: the postal service, telegraph, cable, and wireless services, and the telephone. A third section deals with the agencies of mass impression such as the newspaper and the periodical, the motion picture, and the latest comer in the field, the radio.

The upshot of the functioning of all these agencies, according to the authors, is two contradictory tendencies: on the one hand a reënforcement of community patterns with a perpetuation and intensification of localism; and on the other, a tendency to standardization over wider national and international regions.

The nature of the approach to the study of *Recent Social Trends in the United States* precludes any attempt on the part of the authors to interpret the data which they have so assiduously collected and so admirably presented. Having beforehand excluded any reference to the content of these communications, it makes it difficult to go any further in their analysis than they have gone. For the benefit, however, of our understanding of the significance of the phenomena of increased and accelerated communication and transportation, it is to be hoped that the authors will find it convenient to give us such an interpretative study.

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HEDGER, GEORGE A. (Ed). *An Introduction to Western Civilization*. Pp. xi, 854. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Company, 1933. \$3.50.

The fourteen authors of this composite volume have taken as their point of departure a quotation from Petrarch, in which the great Italian humanist declared in effect that no longer could any man hope to encompass all the knowledge that was accumulating; the age of specializations was at hand. They see and state clearly the truth of this. but go further to indicate that