

These figures cannot be taken to indicate that when certain States nominally adopted prohibition they strictly enforced it, whilst the other non-prohibition States increased their consumption in corresponding measure. The only reasonable explanation is to assume that after the introduction of prohibition the drinkers continued to indulge their habits with comparatively little check, though they had to do so clandestinely, instead of in the saloons. Once a man has acquired a habit which gives him pleasure, he will not lightly give it up, whatever the law may say to the contrary. It may be accepted that the mere act of introducing prohibition in a State of itself indicates a considerable measure of public support, and it is highly probable that it would be found, were statistics available, that States which passed prohibition laws had, previous to their passage, a considerably smaller alcohol consumption than those which did not. But what is the immediate effect of the passage of a prohibition law in checking alcohol consumption? This question can to some extent be answered from our information relating to the effects of national prohibition.

#### THE EFFECTS OF NATIONAL PROHIBITION ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION.

Exact information concerning the effects of national prohibition upon alcohol consumption is naturally unobtainable. Except for the dwindling stocks of liquor possessed by private individuals before prohibition came into operation, and the minute quantities still permitted on doctors' prescriptions, the alcohol consumed must come into the country by smuggling