

It will be noted that the volume of spirits fell off greatly between 1922 and 1924. This was owing to the increasing risks of confiscation. It was found to be more profitable to substitute concentrated alcohol for the more dilute spirits. Further evidence is furnished by the report of the Committee appointed by the Finnish Government.* The Committee admit that there has been a great increase in the consumption of alcoholic liquors, but they found it impossible to decide whether the quantity of alcohol now consumed is greater or less than in the pre-war period. The increase of serious crime is admitted, and in 1923, apart from offences against the prohibition law, nearly half the total number of offences were committed when under the influence of alcohol.† Another depressing feature of the report is the apparent increase of chronic alcoholism. On the other hand, the Committee consider that the position of the poorer classes of the community has improved during the prohibition period. In its general conclusions the Committee emphasise the fact that prohibition is not adequately supported by public opinion, and they do not think that complete success is likely to be attained unless the movement is supported by a deep conviction among the people of the reasonableness of the legal provisions.

It is evident that the sequence of events in Finland is similar to that observed in those towns in America where smuggling is most rampant. The Finnish coast, with its innumerable islets and inlets, is a bootleggers' paradise. Motor-boats can reach Esthonia, whence most of the smuggled spirit is imported, in

* Cf. "Monthly Notes of Temp. Legis. Lg.," 1926, p. 84.

† Koller, *loc. cit.*