

two or three hours, and can usually evade the Government patrol boats, though these boats have a higher speed. So widespread is the supply of liquor that it is said\* that a bottle of quite passable whisky can be purchased for about ten shillings, and a visitor to the bigger restaurants can obtain a whisky and soda without difficulty. Nevertheless, it is admitted by the severest critics of prohibition that it is unlikely that the law will be materially changed.

The real test of the efficacy of prohibition, both in Finland and in America, will come in twenty or thirty years' time, when the present generation of young people has reached maturity and power. Has this generation less opportunity of learning to drink alcohol than its predecessors? Taking America as a whole it is highly probable that the opportunity has been distinctly less, but the reverse appears to hold for Finland. A *questionnaire* was addressed to a large number of competent persons throughout the country, and the replies suggested that the youthful population now drink more than in pre-prohibition times.† Alcoholism is more particularly increasing in the country districts, though it may be on the decrease in towns. Should the younger generation fail to acquire a liking for alcohol, and the dry members of the community increase in number, they would impose their will more and more on the remainder. Smuggling and moonshining would diminish and ultimately die out, and the consumption of spirits would cease. Whether this condition of things will ever be attained without the legalisation of wines and beers, or at least of beers containing too little alcohol to render them intoxicating, is very doubtful.

\* *Observer*, September 5, 1926.

† Koller, *loc. cit.*