

**MAUD POWELL ON PROHIBITION
1919 ?**

Prohibition is not the solution of the liquor problem. Education is, but is too slow a process for immediate results. Meantime, close the saloons, put an exorbitantly heavy tax on all alcoholic drinks, especially whiskey; prohibit the sale of liquor to minors; prohibit the sale of liquor at restaurants and all other places except as taken during bona fide meals; punish every degree of drunkenness, and, above all, establish organized community meeting places in ample numbers all over the country—bright, cheery buildings that will attract the idlers, the drifters and the workingmen after their day's grind, and afford them opportunity for every decent outlet of human energy. What a work for the social welfare women workers (in the camps) to carry on, now that we are demobilizing!

As to the second question: I cannot see that national prohibition can make much difference one way or the other in our musical life. We musicians are not a race of drunkards and can feel no more than a slight irritation at being deprived of a quiet glass of beer after a strenuous, perspiring concert. (By the way, many clever, perfectly good women all over the country are learning to make beer at home!) Alcohol does no one any good, but a glass of beer probably does less harm than a cup of coffee taken at a late hour after an evening of physical and mental strain. The few musicians who mistakenly think they need whiskey will probably get it as other mortals do, by hook or crook, in spite of laws. And bad stuff it will be, which will harm the individual musician who swallows it. But that will not affect the whole clan of us at all. We will go on our same joyous, temperamental, uphill and underpaid way as of old.