“Inherently Bad, and Bad Only”

A History of State-Level Regulation of Cigarettes and Smoking in the United States Since the 1880s

Volume 1

An In-Depth National Study Embedding Ultra-Thick Description of a Representative State (Iowa)

Soda Creek Sam, of Jordan, Montana—"'Fer Cat's Sake!"

Marc Linder
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Iowa City 2012
The process of legislation is influenced by so many different factors that the history of a single bill, if given in detail, might fill many volumes.¹

But if a writer should be quite consistent, How could he possibly show things existent?²

Your correspondent has called upon him [Karl Marx] twice or thrice, and each time the Doctor was found in his library, with a book in one hand and a cigarette in the other.³

There is no doubt in my mind that in some future time a healthier group of humans will look back with horror and amazement on these three or four centuries when people voluntarily committed a slow form of suicide through smoking, and foisted a noxious environment upon the non-smoking companions. These future citizens will regard ours as a primitive, unhealthy, unintelligent era, inexplicable except for the greed of those who manufacture cigarettes and the governments which derive revenue from taxation thereof.

I couldn’t say that when I was Surgeon General. But I wanted to.⁴

¹H. H. Dodd, “Working of the Legislative Mill,” HCT, May 4, 1921 (1:5) (reprinted from an unidentified issue of the Elma New Era that is no longer extant). Horace Dodd was the chief sponsor of the bill that repealed Iowa’s quarter-century statewide ban on the sale of cigarettes, about which, unfortunately, he wrote neither volumes nor even a brief newspaper article. See below ch. 15.

²Lord Byron, Don Juan, Canto the Fifteenth, lxxvii (1824).

³“Karl Marx: Interviews with the Corner-Stone of Modern Socialism,” CT, Jan. 7, 1878 (7:1).

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