

The Colorado Bill

A bill for an act to submit to the qualified voters of the state of Colorado an amendment to section 1 of article V. of the constitution of the state of Colorado, providing for the initiative and referendum.

Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

Section 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state of Colorado, at the next general election for members of the general assembly for their approval or rejection the following constitutional amendment which, when ratified by a majority of those voting thereon, shall be valid as part of the constitution.

Sec. 2. The section 1 of Article V. of the constitution of the state of Colorado be so amended as to read as follows:

Section 1. The legislative power of the state shall be vested in the general assembly consisting of a senate and house of representatives, both to be elected by the people, but the people reserve to themselves the power to propose laws and amendments to the constitution and to enact or reject the same at the polls independent of the general assembly, and also reserve power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section or part of any act of the general assembly.

The first power hereby reserved by the people is the initiative, and at least eight per cent of the legal voters shall be required to propose any measure by petition, and every such petition shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. Initiative petitions for state legislation and amendments to the constitution, shall be addressed to and filed with the secretary of state at least four months before the election at which they are to be voted upon.

The second power hereby reserved is the referendum, and it may be ordered, except as to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, and appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of state and state institutions, against any act, section or part of any act of the general assembly, either by a petition signed by five per cent of the legal voters or by the general assembly. Referendum petitions shall be addressed to and filed with the secretary of state not more than ninety days after the final adjournment of the session of the general assembly, that passed the bill on which the referendum is demanded. The filing of a referendum petition against any item, section or part of any act, shall not delay the remainder of the act from becoming operative. The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by, or referred to the people. All elections on measures referred to the people of the state shall be held at the biennial regular general election, and all such measures shall become the law or a part of the constitution, when approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon, and not otherwise, and shall take effect from and after the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor, but not later than thirty days after the vote has been canvassed. This section shall not be construed to deprive the general assembly of the right to enact any measure. The whole number of votes cast for secretary of state at the regular general election last preceding the filing of any petition for the initiative or referendum shall be the basis on which the number of legal voters necessary to sign such petition shall be counted.

The secretary of state shall submit all measures initiated by or referred to the people for adoption or rejection at the polls, in compliance herewith. The petition shall consist of sheets having such general form printed or written at the top thereof as shall be designated or prescribed by the secretary of state; such petitions shall be signed by qualified electors in their own proper persons only, to which shall be attached the residence address of such person and the date of signing the same. To each of such petitions, which consist of one or more sheets, shall be attached an affidavit of some qualified elector that each signature thereon is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be, and that to the best of the knowledge and belief of the affiant, each of the persons signing said petition was at the time of signing, a qualified elector. Such petition so verified shall be prima facie evidence that the signatures thereon are genuine and true and that the persons signing the same are qualified electors. The text of all measures to be submitted shall be published as constitutional amendments are published, and in submitting

the same and in all matters pertaining to the form of all petitions the secretary of state and all other officers shall be guided by the general laws, and the act submitting this amendment, until legislation shall be especially provided therefor.

The style of all laws adopted by the people through the initiative shall be, "Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado."

The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by this section are hereby further reserved to the legal voters of every city, town and municipality as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character in or for their respective municipalities. The manner of exercising said powers shall be prescribed by general laws, except that cities, towns and municipalities may provide for the manner of exercising the initiative and referendum powers as to their municipal legislation. Not more than ten per cent of the legal voters may be required to order the referendum, nor more than fifteen per cent to propose any measure by the initiative in any city, town or municipality.

This section of the constitution shall be in all respects self-executing.

Sec. 3. Each elector voting at said election and desirous of voting for or against this amendment shall deposit in the ballot box a ticket whereon shall be printed or written the words, "For the amendment to section one of article five of the constitution providing for the initiative and referendum," and "Against the amendment of section one of article five of the constitution providing for the initiative and referendum," and shall indicate his or her approval or rejection of the proposition by placing a cross (X) after one of such sentences. The vote cast for the adoption or rejection of said amendment shall be canvassed and the result determined in the manner provided by the laws of the state of Colorado for the canvass of votes for representative in congress.

Sec. 4. In the opinion of the general assembly an emergency exists, therefore this act shall take effect on and after its passage.

The Colorado bill is an exact copy of the Oregon law.

"TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE"

The San Francisco Star is one of America's strongest democratic newspapers. Referring to the nomination for governor, by the republicans, of Hiram W. Johnson, the Star says that it was "a victory not alone for the republican insurgents, but for all the people," adding: "Right triumphed over wrong, and manhood over money."

At the same time the Star will support Mr. Bell, the democratic nominee. It explains:

"Theodore A. Bell represents all that Hiram W. Johnson does, in wishing his state to be free from Southern Pacific rule; and, in our opinion, Bell represents much more, in his advocacy of measures that will give us genuine government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

"Hiram W. Johnson would destroy the political machine that has so long menaced and managed the state. So would Theodore A. Bell; but the latter would construct in its place another machine that would be operated solely by the people, through direct legislation—the initiative, referendum and recall."

The Star is willing to give "honor to whom honor is due," and that this is a growing characteristic among weekly newspapers is one of the encouraging signs of the times.

A PRIZE WINNER, INDEED!

Here is an inspiring story from the local columns of the Chicago Record-Herald: "Washing and drying 200 dishes in thirteen minutes and nine seconds, Joseph Vogel, Chicago's champion dish washer, yesterday extended his championship to the middle west. His new honors were won at Clark Station, Ind., where he met and defeated Mrs. Mary Nelson in a contest for the middle west championship. Mrs. Nelson's time for the same number of dishes was fifteen minutes. Following the contest Vogel issued a challenge to the world."

This is a real prize winner. The contest in which these people engaged is so much more inspiring than the one in Nevada to which the world's attention was recently directed that it deserves something more than the inconspicuous position given to it in the columns of the Chicago newspapers.

FIGHT FAIR

Let us hope that the ears of the combatants will show no evidence of "bull-dogging" when the New York convention is over.

Democratic Victories

Frederick W. Plaisted, democrat, was elected governor of Maine, Monday, September 12, and the probabilities are that the Maine legislature will also be democratic. Representative John P. Swasey was defeated in the old Dingley district by Daniel J. McGillicuddy. Representative Edwin C. Burleigh in the Third district was defeated by Samuel W. Gould, democrat. The probability is that the successor of Eugene Hale in the United States senate will be a democrat. Maine's last democratic governor was Harris S. Plaisted, father of the present successful candidate, who was elected in 1881. William N. Pennell, democrat, was elected in the First district over Asher C. Hinds, famous as the parliamentary advisor of half a dozen speakers from Reed to Cannon.

In Arkansas Governor Donaghey and the entire democratic ticket was elected with the usual majority and an initiative and referendum amendment was adopted.

In Arizona the democrats elected a majority of delegates to the new constitutional convention. An Associated Press dispatch, referring to this victory, says: "The democrats made their campaign on a pledge to incorporate the initiative and referendum and recall in the state constitution. The republicans contended that these matters should be decided after the constitution is adopted. The Pueblo speech of former President Roosevelt, which was in part to the voters of Arizona and New Mexico, was interpreted by democratic newspapers of Arizona as a declaration in favor of the direct legislation principles, but the former president denied in telegrams sent to republican editors that his words had such meaning. He did not definitely commit himself on the issue."

BEEF TRUST INDICTED

A federal grand jury in Judge Landis' court in Chicago has returned indictments against ten high officials of the Swift, Armour and Morris concerns. There are three indictments against each, charging combinations, conspiracy and illegal monopoly. The men indicted are:

L. F. Swift, president of Swift & Co.
Edward Swift, vice president of Swift & Co.
Charles H. Swift, director of Swift & Co.
Francis A. Fowler, director of Swift & Co.
Edward Tilden, president of the National Packing Company.
J. Ogden Armour, president of Armour & Co.
Arthur Meeker, general manager of Armour & Co.
Thomas J. Connors, superintendent of Armour & Co.

Edward Morris, president of Morris & Co.
Louis H. Heyman, manager of Morris & Co.
The first indictment in detail charges all the defendants with engaging in a combination in restraint of interstate trade in fresh meats. The second charges conspiracy. The third charges the defendants with monopolizing the trade in fresh meats by unlawful means.

That the purpose of the grand jury inquiry was the indictment of individuals, rather than the packing corporations, was shown when Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, famous for the \$29,000,000 Standard oil fine, launched the investigation.

"It sometimes happens that a person about to violate the law takes a name other than his own," said Judge Landis in his charge to the jury. "John Jones, undertaking to counterfeit gold dollars, changes his name to John Smith or the Metals Fabricating company, and under that name does the thing forbidden by law. If your investigation discloses such a case, do not indict a mere alias, but follow the trail wherever it may lead, until you have identified and pointed out the real leaders."

LIGHT IN THE EAST

Have you heard from Maine? With a democratic governor elected in Maine and three democratic congressmen to one republican, the campaign of 1912 starts off well. If Maine and Vermont can be taken as an indication of the trend of sentiment, the democrats will have a larger majority in the next congress than they have had since the congress elected in 1890. If the democratic congress—which now seems quite certain, will be democratic—measures up to the expectations of the public, a great victory seems in store for our party two years hence. Let the good work go on.