

The Initiative and Referendum in the Country

A Great Campaign for "Club and Poker" System is Being Made in Many of the States of the Union --Nine Have Already Adopted It--Status of the Movement as Found After a Canvass of Every State

THE ROLL CALL OF STATES

1. Adopted: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Nevada (referendum only)—11.

2. Time set to be acted on by legislature: California, Nebraska, North Dakota—3.

3. Is an issue and has been declared for by one or both leading parties, or by legislative candidates of one or both leading parties: Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Wisconsin—9.

4. Not an issue: Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia—25.

5. Has been an issue and was rejected: Delaware—1.

The initiative and referendum is no longer an issue in Nebraska. There is no doubt that the next legislature will make arrangements for giving the people a chance to vote on its adoption because the platforms of both parties have declared for it.

Delaware is the only state in the union in which a referendum is not required for the adoption of constitutional amendments. Many states have for many years referred matters of local government directly to the people. The big issue before the people of many states right now is the initiative and referendum on all legislation.

Eleven states have already adopted the initiative and referendum; one, the referendum only. In many other states the issue is being fought out, with one or both of the leading parties favoring it, and in these states the legislatures now being elected will enact, defeat or shelve such bills.

The roll call of states reveals a rapidly growing sentiment in favor of the initiative and referendum. This is the nation-wide struggle for this popular legislation:

Arkansas—Adopted by a majority of about 20,000 on September 12, 1910. (Constitutional amendment.)

California—Never been considered by legislature. Republican platform favors it. Question will come up in next session of legislature, January 1, 1911.

Colorado—The initiative and referendum, submitted by a special session of the legislature in the form of a constitutional amendment, carried at the last election by a vote of 3 or 4 to 1.

Florida—Never been considered by the legislature. Some discussion of it. May be brought up at next session of legislature, April, 1911.

Idaho—Never been considered by the legislature. It is now an issue. Democratic platform declares for it. If they control next legislature, will probably be enacted.

Illinois—Never been considered by the legislature, but republican and democratic platforms declared for it. At the last election the people voted "yes" by 2 to 1 on the question of whether or not they wanted a constitutional amendment providing for the initiative and referendum to be submitted to popular vote.

Kansas—All party platforms promise its submission to the people as a constitutional amendment. It will unquestionably be adopted.

Maine—Adopted by popular vote September 14, 1908.

Massachusetts—Has been considered in the legislature for many years, but has never passed more than one house. No probability of its adoption in the near future.

Missouri—Missouri adopted it by constitutional amendment in 1908. Similar to the Oregon plan.

Montana—Montana adopted it by constitutional amendment in 1907.

Nebraska—Considered by the last legislature (1908), accepted by the house, rejected by the senate. The rejection by the legislature made the question an acute issue in the state. The

PROPHETIC WORDS OF LINCOLN

"I heard President Lincoln tell General Grant and General Meade toward the end of the war that the initiative and referendum was bound to become universal in the United States," says A. H. McCormick, Kansas legislator and union army veteran. "In General Meade's tent, while waiting during a thunder shower, and after I had delivered a message to the general, President Lincoln, evidently continuing a conversation interrupted by my arrival, turned to General Grant and said: 'General, the day will come, but it will not be in your day or mine, when every state in the union will have the initiative and referendum. When that day comes the people will rule; the people will rule.' As he said this he brought his fist down on the table with such vehemence that he overturned the ink bottle."

A POKER AND A CLUB

Initiative—If the lawmakers of a city or state fail to enact laws demanded by the public, a petition signed by a certain percentage of voters is filed and the proposed law is said to be initiated. The people then vote on it at the next election, or at a special election, and if it carries, it is law, in spite of the legislature. Referendum—If the legislature or council enacts a law which is not liked, a petition may be filed and the operation of the law is suspended until it can be referred to the people at a general election. Then, unless a majority vote for it, the law is a dead letter. The initiative cures the bad habit of letting good laws die in pigeonholes. It is a good poker for use on lax law makers. The referendum ruins the business of the lobbyist and grafter, because a crooked legislature cannot "deliver the goods." It is a fine club for use on crooks. These two weapons of popular government are especially useful in the matter of franchise grabs and crooked tax laws.

three parties—republican, democratic and populist—have declared for it in their platforms, and it will undoubtedly be submitted as a constitutional amendment to the people by the next legislature, January, 1911.

Nevada—Referendum provision adopted March, 1909. No provision for initiative.

North Dakota—Both party platforms declare for it, and it will probably come up in next legislature, January, 1911.

Oklahoma—Included in the constitution of the state on its admission to the union.

Oregon—Constitutional amendment adopted by the people by vote of 62,024 for to 5,668 against it, June 2, 1902.

Pennsylvania—In 1907, bill to establish it passed the house, went to the senate and died there. It is not now an issue, but at the primaries last spring several legislative candidates were nominated with it as one of their planks.

Rhode Island—Bills introduced have all died in committee. Democratic platform declares for it.

South Dakota—Legislature of 1897 submitted constitutional amendment to people. Adopted at general election November 8, 1898, 23,816 for, to 16,483 against. Next legislature passed

act, approved March 3, 1899, carrying into effect the provisions of this constitutional amendment.

Utah—Constitutional amendment adopted in 1900.

Washington—Defeated in the legislature of 1907. May be presented at the next session, January, 1911.

Wisconsin—Passed by senate at 1909 session of legislature, defeated in house. Will undoubtedly be adopted by next legislature. LaFollette's republican platform promises it.

Wyoming—Considered by legislature 1892; killed in committee. Democratic platform declares for it. Republican platform ignores it. Possibility of action by next legislature.

Arizona—The democrats have won a majority of delegates to the constitutional convention in session now, and they are pledged to put the initiative and referendum and recall into the state constitution.

New Mexico—Constitutional convention convened October 3. The democratic party favored initiative and referendum. The republican party neither favored nor opposed. The issue will be submitted separately to a vote of the people.

In only one state has the question been put before the people and been defeated. That was in Delaware a few years ago. In every other state where the voters have had a direct say-so about it the initiative and referendum has won easily.—From the Omaha Daily News.

"THE WORLD DO MOVE"

Governor-elect Eugene N. Foss of Massachusetts created a sensation when he issued a statement demanding that Senator Henry Cabot Lodge withdraw from the field for re-election. In the event of a refusal Mr. Foss declared he would go into every section of the commonwealth in a campaign to defeat the senator. Mr. Foss' statement in part follows:

"In the name of the majority of the sovereign people of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, I demand that Henry Cabot Lodge surrender his seat in the United States senate by withdrawing from his contest for re-election.

"His election to the senate would be a repudiation of the great victory of the people at the last election. He was on trial as much if not more than Governor Draper, and if he had been the candidate my majority would have been double what it was.

"The issues on which the fight was made, on which I was elected, were on honest tariff revision downward, lower duties on the necessities of life, free raw materials, an untaxed food supply, reciprocity with Canada, and more democracy in our form of government.

"We all know where Senator Lodge stands on the issues and where he has stood all these years. To elect him would be a step backward and Massachusetts has never learned to walk backward.

"I shall never sign his credentials except at the end of a campaign which will make the last one look like an afternoon tea party.

"He must surrender or fight. He must defend his position before the people. The people of Massachusetts will not permit him longer to manipulate the legislature. I am ready and if he does not retire will be on the stump in every section of the state, and we will find out where the people stand.

"Senator Lodge is not in touch with the new order of things, with the progressive spirit of the times. He does not represent the people, the men and women in the ordinary walks of life."