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HOW MINORITY CAN CONTROL AMENDMENT

EXPLAINED BY PROFESSOR

Dr. Colegrove Discusses Change in Constitution Before Institute of Government at Evanston

How actually a comparatively few state senators and members of the lower houses of state legislative bodies can control the amendment of the federal constitution was pointed out rather expressively by Dr. Kenneth W. Colegrove, professor of political science at Northwestern university, in a discussion of the constitution before the Institute of Government last week in one of its closing sessions in Evanston.

"A small number of state legislators can determine the fundamental law for 118,000,000 people," he told the delegates. "Statistics have shown that when an amendment proposed by congress is before the state legislatures, it is possible for 673 state senators and 1,643 state representatives, or 2,316 legislators in a total of 7,403, to ratify the amendment. Furthermore, to block repeal of any amendment requires only 167 votes in the senates of thirteen small states."

Here Dr. Colegrove spoke of various attempts to alter this process, saying in part:

Attempts to Remedy

"To remedy these defects the most notable solution in recent years is the amendment offered in 1912 by Senator La Follette. He propounded (1) that a majority of both houses of congress, or ten state legislatures or a majority of the electors in ten states be sufficient to propose any amendment to the several states; (2) that the ratification in the states be by popular vote at the next regular congressional election; and (3) that the proposed amendment should become law if ratified by a majority of the states, provided the total popular vote for the amendment were a majority of the total votes cast.

"The La Follette amendment has much in its favor. Certainly it eliminates the criticism that the American people have no direct voice in making the supreme law of the land. On the other hand, it very largely destroys the peculiar balance of states which is one of the traditional features of our federal system.

"The ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment in Ohio graphically illustrates the divorce of the people from constitution-making. The constitution of Ohio reserved to the people the legislative power of referendum on the action of the general assembly when ratifying any proposed amendment to the federal constitution. Under this provision, after the legislature had ratified the Eighteenth Amendment an effort was made to hold a referendum. The case finally came before the Supreme court, which held that the constitution of Ohio could not lay down any requirements regarding ratification of a federal amendment within that state. This case, known as Hawke V. Smith, ends all hope of ratification by referendum, unless the amending process is charged by a new amendment.

Made Democratic Plank

"In 1924, the referendum process of amendment was written into the national platform of the Democratic party by a plank reading: We favor granting the right to the people of the several states to vote on proposed constitutional amendments." A year later came the Garrett-Wadsworth amendment, proposed by Finis J. Garrett, of Tennessee, in the house of representatives, and by James W. Wadsworth, of New York, in the senate. This proposal makes it mandatory that at least one branch of a ratifying legislature must have been elected subsequent to the submission of the amendment by congress. It permits a state to require that the act of ratification by its legislature be subject to referendum. It also gives a ratifying state the right to

reconsider its vote at any time before three-fourths of the states have ratified or more than one-fourth have rejected; and it brings to an end any congressional proposal by providing that any amendment rejected by more than one-fourth of the states must be submitted a second time before further action.

Lacked Support

"The Garrett-Wadsworth amendment was supported by a considerable number of Republicans and Democrats, and was actually reported by the judiciary committee in the house. But it lacked the necessary two-thirds vote in the house and senate. There is some hope that the proposal will be urged in the future. Obviously it offers the people the opportunity of voting on amendments without greatly changing the amending process. It is a forward-looking reform.

ANNUAL RODEO SHOW AUG. 20 TO 28, PLAN

Third Feature of This Type in Chicago to Be Better Than Ever

Chicago's third annual Rodeo, the most spectacular world's championship sporting event, will be held this year from August 20 to 28 in Soldier Field, Grant Park, it is announced by the domestic and foreign commerce committee of the Chicago Association of Commerce. Tex Austin of Las Vegas, N. Mex., will again be in charge and there will be \$40,000 in prize money, belts and trophies for the winners, \$5,000 more than last year.

Last year's champion cowgirls and cowboys will be here to defend their titles against the greatest ropers, riders and steer wrestlers from all over the western country.

The Chicago Rodeo in the last two years has attracted thousands of visitors from all over the United States and has netted approximately \$150,000 in profits. This money is spent by the domestic and foreign commerce committee to advertise Chicago as the great central market and the greatest summer resort city in the world.

With the completion of Soldier Field and its greatly increased seating capacity, arrangements are being made to take care of a total attendance this year of from 350,000 to 400,000 persons.

USE OLD RAILS FOR HIGHWAY CROSSINGS

The Illinois Traction System, which operates more than 500 miles of track in this state, is using old electric railway rails for surfacing their tracks at highway crossings. It is found that the rails can be supplied cheaper than concrete or other forms of crossing material and they will last much longer. The old rails are laid side by side, parallel with the track, forming a steel surface for highway vehicles.



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SLOPPY SENTIMENT SHOULD BE CURBED

BAWLING PACIFISTS SCORE

Writer in National Republic Says It Is Time to Spank Detractors of Everything American

A great many of our alleged liberal statesmen have been pained by the action of Great Britain in sending a warship into Nicaraguan waters and have expressed wonderment that such a thing would be done.

Well, if these gentlemen are looking for a reason they ought to be able to find one close home, says the National Republic. Ever since the United States intervened to protect American lives and property in the Central American republic, many of these liberal statesmen have been criticizing the United States government, have declared that our policy is ruthless and imperialistic, that the revolutionists ought to have free hand, that there is no danger to foreign property, that the marines must be recalled and that even if there is danger, Americans have no business being there and our government ought not protect them and their investments, which, so the so-called liberals declare, are probably illegitimate anyhow.

Now if the British government thinks this is the sentiment of any considerable class of our citizens then it would have abundant excuse to send a cruiser of its own into Central American waters. Great Britain has always followed the laudable custom of looking after its citizens whenever they are in danger, and if its officials believed there was any doubt as to whether the American government's policy would stand, because of lack of support at home, they would naturally want to be in position to look after their own nationals.

Fortunately the American policy will not be changed and it is not likely that British marines will have any excuse for landing in Nicaragua. Uncle Sam is abundantly able to look after things there. In fact, the British, by serving notices that British interests must be protected have strengthened the position of the American government and put the soft pedal on its critics.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS SHOW TRAFFIC GAIN

Electric railways in the United States and Canada made, in 1926, an average monthly traffic increase of 1.24 per cent over the corresponding month for the previous year. In the first month of 1927 this increase continued at the rate of 1.30 per cent. Gains in the New England section, the "Mid-West," and Canada have been most marked, while there is still a slight loss in the northwest and the south. Two hundred and eighty miles of new single track were laid, and the mileage of electric railway operated bus lines doubled itself in 1926, increasing from 3,086 to 6,570.

Chicago's electric railways carried 1,733,556,236 passengers during 1926, a gain of more than 4 per cent over 1925.

SILK PRODUCTS GAIN LARGELY IN VALUE

According to government figures of manufacturers the value of silk products during the past year amounted to \$808,979,399. This is an increase of nearly 39 per cent in five years. When considering the present time as the age of silk one should also remember that rayon, the silk substitute, is perhaps more commonly used than the real silk itself.

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