NEW CONSTITUTION

Leaders in State Speak Plainly in Asking Voters to Defeat Proposed Code

"IS STEP BACKWARD"

Ickes Scores Revision of Judicial System

Tuesday, December 12, is election day in New Trier township, as well this would have to be done over again as throughout the state of Illinois.

On that day Illinois votors will be asked to vote for or against the adoption of the proposed new Illinois state constitution. Polling places will be the same as in the general election on November 7.

Many arguments, pro and con, have been heard and read in recent weeks and months, and leaders generally agree that the proposed organic law is at best a series of compromises and that the proposed document is little better, if actually any improvement, over the constitution now in force.

Many thoughtrur persons in the country town districts of Chicago are convinced that the new constitution is not good. That it contains many provisions that would, if accepted by the voters next Tuesday, work an unwholesome, if not positively harmful influence, that would be a powerful weapon in the hands of political groups.

Distinctly Worse

"The proposed constitution is distinctly worse than the present constitution," says Prof. Charles H. Merriam of Chicago University. "It would be a long step backward."

Continuing, he says: "The effect of adoption of the proposed constitution would be to re-establish a cumbersome tax system favoring very large ircomes; to strengthen the courts at the expense of the legislature and the people; to weaken the legislative body by an unfair system of representation gerrymandering many of the progressive districts in the state; to obstruct popular control through the initiative and the referendum; and to prevent adoption of a more liberal constitution in the near future."

Congressman Richard Yates, in a telegram to the Chicago Evening Journal last week, dealt a severe blow to the proposed basic law when he said, in treating the document in its entirety:

"No new constitution ought to be adopted unless it is a substantial improvement and no new constitution ought to be adopted simply because the old one is old, any more than we ought to repeal the national constitution simply because it is old.

"I am, therefore, against the new thing because its chief reason is that it is new.

"Second, I am against it because it is not a substantial improvement; that is, because its advantages do not outweigh the disadvantages.

"Third, I oppose it because all its advantages can be obtained by amending the old constitution.

"Fourth, I oppose it because it makes the judicial department too strong.

"Fifth, I oppose it because it looks to a reapportionment of the legisla- Gives Sex Hygiene Talk ture, both senate and house of representatives, which reapportionment is not as fair as the present apportionment. The present apportionment has lasted for twenty years and is satisfactory universally.

"Sixth, I oppose it because it is full of uncertainties. The old constituion has been construed and interpreted line upon line, precept upon precept, but it has taken 90,000 Supreme Court decisions to do it. All before we could know what the new constitution means.

"Meanwhile, no one would be benefited except those who thrive on uncerainty."

Harold L. Ickes of Hubbard Woods, on of the leading exponents of progressive government, in referring to the section of the proposed constitution having to do with the revision of the judicial system, says:

"One of the worst features of the new draft is the section revising the judicial system of the state. The judicial department is attempted to be built up at the expense of the executive and legislative departments. Secure from popular control, our judges are to be endowed with autocratic power over the property and lives of the people.

"And to make this power secure and its abuse both certain and safe, the court is given the distribution of more political patronage than the governor of the state now enjoys. It will be an engaging sight, if this proposed constitution becomes our basic law, to see the Supreme Court house besieged by politicians insisting on jobs for hungry placemen.

"The people of Illinois have already had bitter and shameful experience of courts degraded by politics. It is not to be believed that they will drag the entire judicial system of the state into such a mire."

Dealing in particulars, those opposing the proposed basic code have summed up the situation as follows:

"Why I shall vote NO December 12 on the proposed constitution:

1. It will give the courts as great an autocratic power over the lives, the rights and the property of the people of Illinois as that wielded by any autocracy.

2. It gives the state's attorney and attorney-general power to arrest and

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prosecute citizens without indictment. One man will have the power now exercised by twenty-three.

3. It will increase the taxes of the poor and take them off the richevery person earning \$10 a week or more will have to pay an income tax or the multi-millionaire will pay no income tax.

5. It will do many other drastic and revolutionary things, all calculated to weaken the power of the people and increase the power of privilege.

Before K of C Council

A lecture on sex hygiene, illustrated with stereopticon slides, will be given Tuesday evening, December 12 at the meeting of Ouilmette council, Knights of Columbus, at Jones Lodge hall. The talk will be given by a speaker from the Illinois Social Hygiene league.

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