

Where the Voter Makes the Laws



Oregon's Success with the Initiative and Referendum.

Oregon is called the real republic of America. There, to a greater extent than anywhere else, the voters have come to their own rescue.

They make laws and they reject them. They select their United States senators and other officials, instead of leaving that important function to legislative and political cliques. They have routed party bosses and machines and have taken the actual reins of government firmly in their own hands. All this has been brought about by the adoption of the initiative and referendum.

The initiative is the power of the people to propose a law and pass it themselves without regard to the legislature. The referendum is the power to veto any law passed by the legislature.

Fourteen years ago some men at Milwaukee, Ore., read a book on Switzerland's form of self-government, "they began a movement which gradually spread all over the state."

Two or three years ago the passage of the initiative and referendum law, the press and the people discussed measures rather than means, policies rather than politics.

There is a long, knotty club over the legislature. If a law is passed which meets with popular disapproval, it may be suspended from operation by a referendum petition and knocked out altogether at the next election.

By the referendum the voice of the common people!

If a city council declines to pass an ordinance requiring a telephone in an independent telephone company, and the people of that city believe they want an independent telephone, that franchise

Surest Signs of Bilioousness

Among the earliest symptoms are furred tongue and dull headache. Then come dizzy spells, bad taste, queasiness, fever and cold sweats.

Finally, nosebleeds and vomiting make the condition of the sufferer almost intolerable.

The root of bilioousness is with the liver, which is clogged and can't keep bile from getting into the blood.

Nothing works with the certainty of Dr. Hamilton's Pills; they act directly on the liver, restore the bile to its proper course and prevent it from contaminating the vital fluid.

Of course the bowels are ordered and relieved by Dr. Hamilton's Pills. The kidneys receive new tone, the blood is renovated, and the result is a renewal of good health.

Stronger proof can't be had than the statement of Peleg Wickham, of New Haven, N.H., who says:

"Three months ago I had no expectation of ever getting free from periodic bilious attacks. They were brought by dizziness and dreadful headaches. If I stooped over my head would swim, and a nauseous feeling crept into my stomach. Mr. Hamilton's Pills fixed up my liver, drove all the bilious out of my blood, and made me well again in a few months. To-day I enjoy a good appetite, excellent digestion, and the best of health. Dr. Hamilton's Pills did it all."

No need for delay, the sooner you use Dr. Hamilton's Pills, the sooner will the brain, keen satisfaction of a healthy, well-regulated system, rule in your house. 25c. each, or five for \$1. at all dealers.

case is granted at the next city election.

By the initiative, the voice of the people again!

To-day the legislature is not organized with the sole view of electing a certain man—United States senator. Before the legislature meets, the common people have selected the man they want. The legislative assembly thus becomes as important in comparison to the direct primary election as is the electoral college to the November presidential election.

The direct primary is the logical sequence of the initiative and referendum, "and came two years after that law."

The last state to adopt the machine was made at the legislature of 1895, first following the passage of the referendum law as an amendment to the state constitution.

Laws "necessary to the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety" are exempt from action of the referendum in this amendment.

Cunning politicians saw their chance. Very bill submitted to either house of the legislature to amend the emergency clause. It mattered not whether it was a bill to expand the Columbia river or for a filibuster—there was the emergency clause—the motto was "necessary to the preservation of safety."

Governor George E. Chamberlain saw the danger. The people of the state had decided they wanted the referendum, yet wily schemers were attempting to circumvent the will of the people by a trick.

He acted quickly upon the legislators that he would veto any bill bearing suggestions from vicious minds of several communities. A new bill was then drafted embodying the suggestions, and this again went to the committee men. It was the same thing over and over for years.

Then came the Bryan campaign of 1896 and three interruptions. Some members of the committee, which had changed its name more than once, got into politics, and the amendment seemed at a standstill. But U'Ren, George Orion, a pressman, of Portland; Frank Williams, of Ashland, and others who were in the game to stay and weren't discouraged.

The first power by the people is the initiative, and required to propose any measure by such petition, and every petition shall include the full name of the proposer.

The second power is the referendum and it may be ordered (except as to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety), either by petition or by a vote of the legislative assembly.

The third power is the initiative and referendum, as the name implies, the right of the people to propose and adopt at the polls any act of the legislative assembly.

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