

portunity to secure popular judgment upon his measures if a certain per cent. of the voters of his State deem the same worthy of submission to popular vote. The Referendum prevents misuse of the power temporarily centralized in the legislature."



Unquestionably the Referendum will tend to purify politics and elevate government. Under the Initiative and Referendum it would no longer pay rich corporations to buy franchises from legislatures, because the legislature could not settle the matter; the people have the final decision, and they are so many that it might cost more to buy their votes for the franchise than the privilege is worth. Why not adopt that method which will minimize the possibility of Big Business controlling law-making functions?

We all know that a powerful lobby is continually at work in State and national capitols. In whose interests are they laboring? Not in yours and mine—the great mass of voters. They are in the employ of business interests. It costs money to employ clever lawyers for the purpose of safeguarding monopolistic privileges.

It is to make ineffective the work of these paid hirelings that Direct Legislation aims. Their baneful influence over legislation is felt by the housekeeper and the voter. It is an influence which negatives the will of thousands of honest voters.

The fundamental political argument for Direct Legislation is that it is necessary to true self government. It is the only practicable means of destroying the great law-making monopoly which holds us in its grip today, and which is not only a terrible evil in itself, but the prolific parent and protector of other monopolies and oppressions.

If the control of affairs is put into the hands of a few men for life, without responsibility to the controlled, everybody recognizes the fact that the government is an aristocracy. If the control is put in the hands of a few for two or three years without responsibility to the controlled during that time, there is an aristocracy as much as before. To have a government by the people, the legislative agents must be subject to the control of the people every moment. If for one instant they cease to be subject to the orders of the people, for that instant they cease to be servants, and become sovereigns in place of the people.

VICTOR E. FEHRNSTROM.



The more society is improved and education perfected, the more equality will prevail and liberty be extended.—Aristotle.

CONDENSED EDITORIALS

A HIGHER KIND OF POLITICS.

Louis F. Post, in the Chicago Daily Press of August 24.

Who is to be the next President makes little difference, compared with the kind of laws we are to have. So watch Ohio, the State that is going to talk about law-making for herself before she helps again at President-making for the rest of us.

Ohio will talk for herself, but she will talk to us all. And her voice will be the voice of her people, not of her "Jackpotters."

Her Constitutional Convention, presided over by Herbert S. Bigelow, a fundamental democrat, has whipped into shape 41 amendments to the Constitution of the State. Her voters are to say on the 3rd of September whether or not those amendments are the kind of laws they want.

They will decide such questions as these: A three-fourths vote for jury verdicts? No death penalty? Reasonable hours, pay and conditions for labor? Conservation of natural resources? Easy and safe transfers of real estate? No prison-labor by contract? Regulation and limitation of the liquor traffic? An easier way to amend the State Constitution?

They will also decide the question of woman suffrage. Six States already allow women to vote at all elections—Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and California. Will Ohio be the seventh?

And they will decide the question of home rule for cities. Shall every Ohio city have the right to make its own charter by the vote of its own inhabitants, and to manage its own light, heat and traction services as most cities are now allowed to manage their own water supply?

The Ohio voters will also decide the question of adopting the Initiative and Referendum, one or the other of which, or both, have been adopted in more than a quarter of the States—South Dakota, Utah, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Oklahoma, Maine, Missouri, Michigan, Arkansas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and California. By the Initiative and Referendum, representative government may be prevented from representing private instead of public interests. If representatives pass laws the people don't want, the Referendum would empower a majority of the people to say, "Veto!" If representatives refuse to pass laws the people do want, the Initiative would empower a majority of the people to say, "Let them be laws nevertheless!"

Watch the September election returns from Ohio, and see what kind of thinking on those subjects the "Buckeyes" are doing.



'An Arab said to his son, "O my child, in the day of resurrection they will ask you, 'What have you done in the world?' and not 'From whom are you descended?' That is, they will inquire about your virtue, and not about your father."—Saadi.