

Allen Ripley Foote organization) has made a call for funds, as reported by the Cincinnati Enquirer of the 4th. The call is signed by Allen Ripley Foote of Columbus, Edward L. Buchwalter of Springfield, H. E. Hackenberg of Cleveland, James J. Heckin of Cincinnati, George E. Pomeroy of Toledo, Leopold Raugh of Dayton, Samuel Scovil of Cleveland, Gilbert H. Stewart of Columbus and George W. Yost of Bellaire. [See current volume, page 176.]



Progressive Organization in Ohio.

In view of the approaching Constitutional convention for Ohio, a Progressive Constitutional League was formed on the 4th at Columbus. Herbert S. Bigelow presided. Letters were read from Senator Bourne and Senator La Follette. For permanent president of the League, Brand Whitlock, Mayor of Toledo, was chosen. Following are the other officials: Vice-presidents, John Frey (editor of the Iron Molders' Journal), L. G. Spencer (chairman of the legislative committee of the Ohio State Grange), J. B. Denny (professor of English literature at the State University), and Herbert S. Bigelow; secretary, Charles B. Galbraith (former State librarian); treasurer, O. J. DeMuth. The meeting at which this League was formed had been called by Elroy M. Avery. Herbert Bigelow and other representatives of direct legislation, labor and farming interests. [See current volume, pages 255 and 492.]



Direct Legislation in Maine.

The circumstances under which the first Initiative election in Maine is to be held next September, are described in substance as follows, by The Boston Common:

In September, 1908, the voters of the Pine Tree State amended their State Constitution so that the people reserve the power of Initiative and Referendum. The State legislature of 1909 enacted several measures which were carried to a popular ballot under the Referendum. The people vetoed every one of the measures so referred. That first practical application of the popular referendum was a distinct success. Early in the Summer of 1910 it was decided by several gentlemen that Maine needs an efficient Direct Primary law. It was decided that as several efforts to secure the enactment of such a statute by the State legislature had failed, chiefly due to the opposition of leading politicians, the Initiative should be invoked. A Direct Primary bill was drafted with much care, was circulated throughout the State, and the necessary 12,000 signatures were obtained. The proposed measure, backed by the 12,000 petitioners, was presented to the State legislature which convened in January of this year, and it was referred to the judiciary committee. At the committee hearing several gentlemen appeared for the measure, and two gentlemen spoke against it, but they advocated the enactment of another measure, known as the

"Pennell Bill," which provides that Direct Primaries shall control only the nominations of candidates for Congressmen, United States Senator and Governor. The legislature turned down the Initiated measure and enacted the "Pennell Bill," the Governor approving the latter. According to the State Constitution, the "Pennell Bill" was a competing measure and should have gone to a ballot as such with the Initiated measure, but the legislature decided that the "Pennell Bill" was not a competing measure and that it should become a law on July 1. The petitioners requested that a special election be called in case the Initiated measure should not be enacted without change by the legislature, and the Governor has complied with that request, naming the second Monday of next September as the date of holding such special election. The initiated direct primary law is very thorough, covering nominations for all State and county officers, United States Senator, Congressmen, and members of the House of Representatives and the State Senate. It embodies a corrupt practices act, which limits the amount of money each candidate shall expend for political purposes. It includes, also, a provision which makes it mandatory for candidates to file a sworn statement of their expenses in connection with the primaries campaign. The people of Maine are conservative, but also progressive. Long have they been tied to the bossed caucus and the bossed convention system. They are ready to break away and the application of the initiative affords them an opportunity to do the breaking away act at the polls. [See current volume, page 470.]



Commission Government for Cambridge.

Under the leadership of Professor Lewis J. Johnson of Harvard University, a group of progressive citizens of Cambridge, the seat of Harvard, have secured permission from the State authorities for submission to the voters of Cambridge for their adoption next November a commission government charter carefully drafted with reference to local concerns but on the general lines of the Grand Junction plan. [See vol. xii, p. 868.]



In an interview in the Boston Traveler of May 25th, regarding this charter, Professor Johnson said:

There is a great deal of misconception about what the commission form of government is. Some people think Boston has it and others think it exists in Lynn. As a matter of fact they have nothing of the kind. The ideal is the greatest possible amount of responsibility with the greatest possible amount of responsiveness to the will of the people. Our charter provides for this. It has the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, but not tied up so that they are useless. They are in a practicable form so that they can be readily made effective when they are needed. Then we have adopted the preferential form of voting. This is the best way that has yet been devised for ascertaining the real choice of the people. Under the old scheme it happens again

and again that men are elected to office who have neither the respect nor confidence of the majority of the people. It is generally a choice between a lot of mediocrities and a lot of objectionables, with the result that some man is put into office through the manipulations of party machines and not at all according to the popular wish. One thing should be very clearly understood about the Cambridge charter. It is absolutely on the square. We have nothing to do with politicians, machines or any private interests. Cambridge has no room for bosses, caucuses or machines. We believe in the people, and we want them to have full power in directing their affairs. Under this charter the people will be in control as they are in no other city in Massachusetts. We do not care whether a man is a Democrat, a Republican, or what other party label he chooses to attach to himself as a private citizen. If he wants to serve the city there are only two questions to be asked: Is he honest and efficient, and do the people want him? We have made it as easy as possible for any man to have those questions answered. Anybody who can get fifty citizens to sign his petition can go before the people, and it is up to the voters then to decide on his merits.

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Mexico Settling Down Under New Regime.

General Porfirio Diaz, whose resignation as President of Mexico was reported last week, sailed with his family from Vera Cruz on the 31st for Havre, France, on his way to Spain. To the friends he left behind he declared that he would die in Mexico. [See current volume, page 514.]

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New provisional governors, appointed by Francisco I. Madero, Jr., are being placed at the head of various important States, among them Sonora, Sinaloa, Queratario and Durango; also Chihuahua, though Federal troops still maintain guard in that State. It is expected that before the month is out there will be new governors in nearly all of the twenty-seven States. The installations of the new governors are to be followed everywhere by State elections, according to Madero's plan. The Mexican Congress brought its spring session to a close on the 31st with the appointment of the permanent commission, composed of members of both houses, which will represent the body during the recess. The fall session will begin Sept. 15. The law providing for election of President and Vice-President was rushed through and passed under the terms of peace signed at Juarez. By official decree issued on the 2d by Provisional President de la Barra, a special Presidential election was called. In all States and Territories electors will be chosen Oct. 1, and these will select the successor of Porfirio Diaz on Sunday, Oct. 15. Governors are instructed to define and publicly announce prior to June 30 electoral districts in their respective States and Territories, using for purposes of apportionment the census of 1910. Francisco Madero left

Juarez for Mexico City on the 2d. General Bernardo Reyes, recalled from abroad by the Federal government to aid in the pacification of the country, arrived at Vera Cruz on the 4th. Both Madero and Reyes are expected to become candidates for the Presidency. [See current volume, pages 489, 514.]

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The current revolution in Mexico has taken on different forms and been under different leadership in the various sections of the country. Most of the insurrectionary movements have acknowledged, at least vaguely, the leadership of Madero, and are now settling down into the new order. One movement, however, has been from the first of different temper and with alien purposes. This movement, largely under American and Socialist leadership, has had for its field the peninsula of Lower California, which lies between the Gulf of California and the Pacific, and has but a narrow strip of land connection with the rest of Mexico. This peninsular insurrection now refuses to come into the general pacification. The situation came to a climax on the 2d when the insurrectos in Tijuana, after having severed connection with the Mexican Liberal party Junta, which has its headquarters at Los Angeles, declared the new Republic of Lower California, and elected Dick Ferris of Los Angeles as President. Ferris is reported to have announced that the red flag is to come down, and a new flag to rise in their new republic; that a constitutional convention is to be called, and that Madero is to be asked to recognize them. The military leader of these Lower California insurrectos has been C. Rhys Pryce, but during a current absence in Los Angeles, where he has been in conference with the Junta, Captain Jack Mosby has been elected as general in his place.

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The Portuguese Constituent Assembly.

The elections held in Portugal on the 28th and 29th resulted, as last week's early reports indicated that they would, in victory for the regular Republicans. The Constituent Assembly which has just been elected, has for its especial function the creation of a Constitution for the new Republic. A tentative draft of a Constitution has already been put out by the Provisional government, but this may be greatly changed in Assembly. [See current volume, page 516.]

NEWS NOTES

—The Congressional House committee on rules decided on the 29th to take no action on the Berger resolution providing for an inquiry into the arrest and extradition to California in connection with the Los Angeles dynamiting case of J. J. McNamara, the