

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