

Organizing the Democratic Party.

United States Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma has begun the organization of Democratic voters throughout the United States into voting precinct (election district) clubs, for the purpose of enabling the Democratic party to control its own nominations. Urging the vital importance of the movement Senator Owen says:

The real political contest in this country is between the people and the holders of special privilege. Already the special interests are making secret efforts to control the regular Democratic organization, and will endeavor to name the Democratic nominees. For this reason the people must control the primaries, the conventions, the nominations and elections, and the men elected, in their own interest. In this contest the advocates of Privilege have large funds representing very great wealth, and an army of skilled workers and strikers, a powerful press, an army of beneficiaries, and will contest the field from end to end, while the people are unorganized. The present regular Democratic organization, consisting of national, State, county, city, township, ward, and precinct committees, and office holders, have no right and no duty as an organization to take sides or determine the nomination and election of their successors in office. The work of the regular Democratic party organization begins when the candidates shall have been nominated. The imperative need of the hour is organization of the people themselves, for self-defense in the governing business through the Democratic party. The party should be safe-guarded in every precinct, and from the precinct to the national convention. We propose such an organization, self-governing and self-sustaining, and we urgently desire endorsement and active support.

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The plan of organization is simple. It begins with the coming together of five or more Democratic voters in any voting precinct, and their forming a club under the name of The Democratic Precinct Club, of the Precinct of the Ward (or Township) of County (or City) of the State of Membership must be open to all Democrats who pay a yearly fee of twenty-five cents for the support of the club and approve its constitution, which requires—

The taking part in the nation-wide movement of patriotic Democrats for ensuring progressive control of the regular Democratic organization, from the precinct to the national convention, and thereby place in office within the party and nominate for public office none but trustworthy citizens, especially a progressive Presidential nominee, all of whom shall be pledged to the voters to support the following People's Rule program: (1) To promote the establishment of a thorough system of actual self-government within the party by the members of the party; (2) to promote the establishment of a thorough system of actual self-government by the people within the States and the nation; and (3) to so legislate and to so administer the laws as to abolish privileges in industry, thereby lowering the cost of living and

opening up the opportunities of life in full measure to the masses of the people.

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Each precinct club is federated with the other Democratic precinct clubs of its county, city and State, and also with those of the whole country, the national federation being called The Federation of Democratic Precinct Clubs of the United States of America. The executive work of each precinct club is under the direction of an Executive Council consisting of the president, the secretary, the treasurer and two other members, all subject to recall by a majority vote at any meeting upon due notice. Regular meetings are few, but there are liberal provisions for special meetings, either on call by the officers or on the initiative of members. The superior bodies of the organization up to and including the national Federation are under the constant control of the membership by means of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. Full information regarding this movement may be had by addressing Senator R. L. Owen, Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.

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The Liquor Question in Maine.

Nothing final can be reported on the proposed repeal of the prohibition amendment to the Maine Constitution, until the official canvass is officially announced. [See current volume, page 955.]

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First reports gave the victory to the liquor side by a small majority, but later ones threw the small majority the other way, and later still this result was disputed. The last of the unofficial reports, being an unofficial announcement of an official tabulation still subject to correction, gives the following results:

For abolishing prohibition	60,487
For continuing prohibition	60,461

Majority against prohibition	26
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Other Maine Referendums.

There were two referendums in Maine at the recent election, besides that on the Constitutional amendment regarding the liquor traffic. One was the question of perpetuating Augusta as the State capital. It was carried by 48,295 to 30,419—an affirmative majority of 17,876.

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The more important referendum, however, came before the voters under the recent Initiative and Referendum law of Maine. The legislature having refused for years to enact a direct primary law, the question was put by Initiative and is carried by 55,840 to 17,751—a majority of 38,089 in a total of 73,591 at an election at which the