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### A Test of the Referendum

(Herbert S. Bigelow in the Cleveland Press.)

Last winter the initiative and referendum was urged before many legislatures. In Ohio the fight was especially bitter.

"Danger, dynamite and disaster," was the answer of politicians to the arguments of the new plan.

Oregon has just held a general election at which the initiative and referendum was given a thorough trial. The people of other states say what men shall make our laws. The people of Oregon say what laws shall or shall not be made.

The politicians urged that the people would vote blindly and without understanding on laws submitted to them, but the Oregon election disproved this and showed that the people of that state have outstripped us all in the actual realization of government of any by and for the people.

At the election Oregon voted upon nineteen different measures. The Ohio and other politicians have been busy all winter explaining what a mess the Oregon people would make of this. Let us see.

Of these nineteen measures nine were rejected. So much for their prediction that the people could not discriminate but would vote everything up or everything down at the behest of a political machine or a party press.

"But," said the politicians, "the people are chaff. They will take up with every new craze." And they never failed to remind the Ohio farmer that in Oregon the initiative had been used to bring the single tax to a vote.

But the people voted the single tax down, just as they voted woman suffrage down. With the initiative and referendum you cannot get ahead of public opinion.

"But the people of Oregon are already tired of their experiment." Do

you believe that? Then how about this? There were four measures submitted which provided for a still further extension of popular control over government, and every one of these was carried.

The "recall" was adopted. This is the power of the people to dismiss a public servant in the middle of his term. "Proportional representation" was adopted under which the old rule or nothing will be abandoned and minority parties will be given due representation in state legislatures. An act was adopted which aims at giving the poor man an equal chance with the rich man at primary elections. And also an act commanding representatives to vote for the candidate for United States senator receiving the highest number of votes at the primary election, even though he should be on one political faith and the legislature of another.

"But look at that university appropriation bill!" cried the politicians, "What if the people of Oregon should vote that down?"

But they didn't. The Oregon legislature had made an increased appropriation for the State university and also for the State militia. The people granted the former and denied the latter. "All the money you want for education, but none for war." That was the answer of the people of Oregon to their legislature.

This legislature, by the way tried to increase its own salary, but the people vetoed it. Three dollars a day was the stipend. Beggarly, no doubt. But the people are entitled to their own opinion as to what an Oregon lawmaker is worth.

"Well, it's unconstitutional anyway." No doubt you hope so, Mr. Politician. But until the supreme court decides it we shall take the word of Supreme Justice David Brewer, who says:

"The initiative and referendum make public opinion the controlling factor in the government. The more promptly and fully public affairs carry into the effect such public opinion, the more truly is government of and by the people realized."

### Labor and the Saloon

(By the Rev. Chas. Stelzle, Member of the Machinists' Union.)

My father was a brewery worker and later a saloon keeper. Then he was the owner of a brewery. I mention these facts not because I am particularly proud of the distinction but because I want it understood that I know a few things about the inside of the saloon proposition, particularly as it has to do with the human side. I know the fallacies of the average saloon reformer. I know the trials of the man who is in the saloon business. I know also, the trials of the man who is the victim of the saloon or drink habit.

Therefore, I believe that I am entitled to say some things about this problem. In this and future articles I desire to discuss, simply, and from

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a practical standpoint, this momentous question.

Like the sweep of the prairie fire the spirit of temperance in America is licking up saloons and attendant enterprises. Probably one-third of the voters in this country have declared that they no longer want the saloon and all that it has stood for in recent days, and the end is not yet. This result has not come by the agitation of prohibition fanatics. It has come because hard-headed folks have recognized an evil which the saloon keeps persistently ignored or flaunted into their faces. These voters finally became tired of it. It is possible that in some sections there may be a reaction, but unless public sentiment is changed very decidedly in the near future, the death knell of the saloon has been sounded.

But who are the people who are bringing all this about? It hasn't been the church people, always, because they are not in the majority in any city, although they may have been responsible for it, indirectly.

Recently in an Ohio industrial town made up almost entirely of workingmen and their families, these workers closed up every saloon in the place. It would never have been possible had not the workingmen done the job. The sentiment in favor of more temperate living has been agitated by the toilers, as never before. Particularly is this true in the ranks of organized labor. Nearly every labor temple in this country prohibits the sale or use of intoxicants on any part of their premises. Resolutions in favor of cutting out the use of beer and whiskey has been passed by the score in the meetings of local labor organizations. National bodies have taken similar action in some form, in several cases declining to give the member or his family the benefit of the sick or death funds, in case he was injured or killed while intoxicated. The decree has gone forth that local labor meetings must not be held in halls which are back of or over saloons.

It is an interesting fact that practically every one of the thirty or more labor members of the British Parliament are total abstainers. There's a reason for all this, which cannot be altogether attributed to the fanaticism and unreasonableness of the professional temperance agitator. These actions have been taken as a result of considerable observation and experience, and some calm, clear thinking.

The Winnipeg Trades Council has received an invitation on behalf of the Taxation Commission to express its views and make suggestions on the subject of civic taxation, the executive committee has replied that it is not in the present system to object to and has named four representatives to appear before the commission. The general recommendation of the Trades Council is along the line of lessening taxation on industry and increasing it on land values.

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### Trade Union Cards

**INTERNATIONAL OPERATIVE Plasterers' Association**, local meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Pres. E. Chillingworth; Sec. A.R. Cooper; Treas. Fred. Iles. Secretary's address: A. R. Cooper, Box 706, Regina, Sask.

**WOOD, WIRE and METAL LATH-ers International Union**, meets first and third Wednesdays in Trades Hall, Scarth street. President, J. C. Martin; Sec.-Treas. R. Tucker; Cor.-Sec., G. Skinner.

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHER- hood of Teamsters**, Local No. 123, meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Trades Hall. President, Wm. Murphy; Vice Pres., T. Anderson; Fin.-Sec. J. G. Noonan; Rec. Sec. W. Brown. Secretary's address: J. E. Noonan, Box 212, Regina, Sask.

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHER- hood of Electrical Workers**, Local No. 572, meets semi-monthly. President C. W. Cook; Vice Pres., W. Simmons; Sec., T. Walshe Turner; Fin.-Sec. H. Lamberton. Secretary's address: T. Walshe Turner, Regina.

**REGINA TRADES AND LABOR Council** meets second and fourth Saturdays in Trades Hall. President, Thos. M. Molloy; Vice Pres. Jas. D. Simon; Sec.-Treas., Hugh Peat; Rec. Sec., T. Walshe Turner; Warden A. S. Wells, Statistician W. E. G. Cocks. Secretary's address: Hugh Peat, Box 39, Regina.

**TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION**, 637, meets first Saturday in Trades Hall. President J. M. Norris; Vice Pres., Thos. M. Molloy; Fin.-Sec., Jas. D. Simon; Rec.-Sec., W. Stevens; Sgt.-at-Arms, E. Fauch. Secretary's address: Jas. D. Simon, P.O. Box 838, Regina, Sask.

**BRICKLAYERS AND MASONS' International Union of America**, Saskatchewan No. 1. Meets every Tuesday in Trades Hall. President B. McFadden; vice president, R. Ray; treasurer, A. B. Dunnett; rec.-sec'y, J. Kitchenmaster; Fin.-Sec. A. W. Chambers; assistant sec. A. Howard. Secretary's address, A. W. Chambers Box 911, Regina, Sask.

**JOURNEYMEN STONE CUT-ers Association of North America**, Regina branch meets every first and third Wednesday in the month. President, Wm. Todd; Secretary, David McKenzie, Box 899, Regina, Sask.

**AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF Carpenters and Joiners**, local meets semi-monthly, in Trades Hall. President, J. Burland; Secretary, A. S. Wells; Treasurer, B. Simmons; Secretary's address: A. S. Wells, Box 614, Regina.

**UNITED ASSOCIATION JOUR- neymen Plumbers, Steam Fitters and Gas Fitters of America**, meets second and fourth Mondays in Trades'

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**PAINTERS, DECORATORS AND Paperhangers of America**, local meets in Trades Hall, 2nd and 4th Mondays. President, Nick Kauth, vice pres., J. E. Watson; Rec. Sec., Wm. E. Gregley, P.O. Box 1065; Fin.-Sec. Wm. E. Cocks, P.O. Box 1015.

**SHEET METAL WORKERS IN- ternational Union**, local meets once a month. President, J. Morrison; Vice Pres., Jas. Henderson; Rec. Sec., A. Fisher; Treas., Geo. Dickson; Fin.-Sec., H. Chalmers. Secretary's address: A. Fisher, box 26, Regina, Sask.

**UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF Carpenters and Joiners**, Regina, No. 1867, meets every Thursday night in Trades Hall. President D. E. McLean; Vice Pres., Albert Phillips; Treasurer, — James; Rec.-Sec'y, F. J. Richards; Warden W. A. Fahey; business agent, F. J. Richards. Secretary's address: F. J. Richards, Regina, Sask.

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