

the states that have progressed in such degree as this, are in a noticeable minority. Missouri is with the minority. Massachusetts was the pioneer state in public utility regulation. She passed a law in 1885, of limited benefit, but it was the initial step. She stopped with that step, however, and not even the hard two year's fight made in that state by the progressives under Governor Foss has been able to move her to further action.

In 1905, New York established a commission to regulate gas and electric rates. And the same year, LaFollette's fight of several years in Wisconsin, resulted in the establishment of a railroad commission.

In 1907, both New York and Wisconsin took a long step forward and placed the full control of all public utilities in the commissions already established. In Wisconsin, the commission retained its title of the "railroad commission" and we have the anomaly of finding control of gas, water and electric companies, telegraph and telephone companies vested in a railroad commission.

In 1909, the agitation for state commissions was nationally general and was generally fruitless. Bills were introduced in most state legislatures and everywhere failed of passage. In Connecticut and New Jersey, the demand was especially insistent. In New York, the best efforts of Gov. Hughes only resulted in the appointment of a committee to consider the placing of telegraph and telephone companies under control of the commission and to report in 1910.

In 1910, New Jersey and Maryland fell into line, and New York extended the control of her commission to include the telegraph and telephone companies. The New Jersey law, as might be expected, was weak. The Maryland law, on the contrary, was carefully drawn to include the best of the New York and Wisconsin laws and is probably the best law on the subject that is on the statute books of any state to-day.

In 1911, the harvest was ripe. New Hampshire, Kansas, Ohio, Oregon and Washington all established commissions. And in Illinois, Iowa and Pennsylvania, the bills were intro-