

to form an opinion of the working and results of the popular vote. As to the moral effect which the exercise of this institution has had upon the people, we are assured that it is admitted to be salutary even by adversaries of democratic government. The consciousness of individual influence as well as the national feeling is declared to have been strengthened, and the fact of a large, and on several occasions, increased participation of the people, in the vote, is quoted as tending to prove that their interest in political questions is growing keener.

"The application of the referendum as worked in Switzerland, and the issues raised by it, are so easy to understand, and in most cases so independent of party manœuvres, that public opinion acquiesces at once in the result, and the general feeling entertained in the country with reference to a particular question, finds its accurate, and for the time being final expression." "The initiative is essentially a powerful engine in a democratic direction. By means of it legislative bodies, mostly composed of persons belonging to the well-to-do class, can be compelled by the people, to take up and put to a vote, matters which without it, would in all probability, never be brought to the front."

"The members of the Federal Council, we will venture to affirm, yield to no government in Europe in devotion to their country, in incessant hard work for a poor salary, and in thorough honesty and incorruptibility."

Other authors who speak from actual observation say:

"There is manifest an independence of party which impels the voter to support that which he believes to be in the interest of the community

irrespective of party alliances, and thus the real will of the people is ascertained. Its effect upon the political machinery is that it reduces the necessity of prominent political leaders to a minimum, and politics consequently ceases to be a trade; for the power of the politician is curtailed, and there is no money in the business. The referendum has struck a blow at party government, in the narrow partizan sense, whose business is to oppose, never to co-operate. The political field there has not been yielded to adventurers. Nowhere in the world are the government places filled by men so well fitted for the work to be performed. The referendum is fatal to anything like extravagance in the management of public funds."

"It disarms instantly and kills remorselessly all manner of jobs, and forbids favors lavished upon one district at the expense of the rest. While in our system class interests are mostly paramount--under the referendum this is not so. By it every measure is disposed of upon its merits and the will of the people becomes law."

By a vote of the people taken in July of this year, it was decided to extend the operation of the initiative to federal legislation. Heretofore this provision has been in force only in the cantons. This is the best proof possible of its satisfactory operation.

We believe that now is an opportune time in which to begin an active agitation in favor of the introduction of those reforms here. Will you co-operate with us? All who will do so should communicate with

F. E. TITUS,

100 Church St., Toronto,
Provisional Secretary, Referendum Com.
TORONTO, Nov. 16th, 1891.