

tial elections of the United States. But it is in Norway that the Referendum has had its greatest growth outside of Switzerland. The liquor question is there continually voted on by the people as is also municipal taxation and appropriation of money and bonding.

If the Referendum were introduced into Canada it would greatly aid the coming of the co-operative commonwealth. I believe this because I believe the doctrine of evolution is applied to politics and reform matters as well as to other things. The theory of evolution is applied to political progress just the same as it is applied to the development of the physical side of man or any animal, or to the development of plants or any other growth—in a short step at one time, and the accustoming of the people to that step,—so that from it they can proceed to another. Every little advance gained is ground for further advance, and if Direct Legislation can be gained it can be used as the lever to gain other things; and Direct Legislation gained will be a means for practically applying a large amount of steam now dissipated in the air, which makes a great display but does no work.

Another great benefit that Direct Legislation would accomplish is that in separating the discussion of measures from that of candidates for office, it will enable us to choose better officials. For instance, I am convinced of the honesty, ability, and good intentions of a certain man. I would be proud to vote for him if we had Direct Legislation, because I would feel sure that he would honestly strive to do his duty there, and that I would have an opportunity to nullify any measure which he might advocate in the legislature, but which I felt to be wrong. Now under the present uncontrolled representative system, I must vote for a man who believes in Direct Legislation, even though his qualifications as a legislator are far inferior. De Tocqueville says that the only way to interest people in government is to make them partakers in it.

Why should not the Referendum be a success if introduced into this progressive country of ours? The majority of the people are interested in it and are making it a subject for discussion. The simplicity of this method of legislative control, the utter and immediate abolition of venality in legislative bodies, the elimination of "boodlers" from legislative halls, the bringing of the government to the theory of its founders, appeals to the average citizen, and to obtain advocates it is only necessary to obtain auditors to an explanation of what it means.

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