

to prepare the required amendment for submission to the people. It is then submitted to the popular vote and if it receives the support of the required statutory majority of people and of Cantons it becomes law. The final referendum is obligatory in every proposal to amend the Constitution. [*Deploige: Referendum in Switzerland*, pp. 128-131.]” *

In the case of ordinary laws passed by the Federal Legislature, a referendum can be demanded either by 30,000 citizens or by Eight Cantons, unless the Federal Assembly declares the law to be urgent. The Assembly has declared that a referendum cannot be demanded upon the annual budget, treaties, approval of a Cantonal Constitution, decision on a question involving a conflict of authority, subvention voted for the construction of roads or the diking of streams, etc.† Laws to which the referendum is applicable do not take effect till ninety days after their passage through the Assembly, so as to give time for the necessary demand.

It will thus be seen that there are two forms of Referendum in Switzerland—the *Obligatory* form, in which a referendum is ordered by the Constitution in certain cases; and the *Optional* form, in which the referendum only takes place when demanded in the proper way. The Federal Constitution provides only for the *Optional* form in the case of the revision of laws passed by the Federal Legislature. The demand which is necessary in the case of the *Optional* form is known as the *Initiative*.

In some of the Cantons, however, the *Obligatory* form of Referendum is applied also to ordinary laws passed by the Cantonal Legislature. As a matter of fact, about half the Cantons have the *Optional* and the other half the *Obligatory* form for expressing the popular decision on ordinary laws. All have the *Obligatory* form for revisions of their Constitutions. [*Vide*, on the whole subject, *Deploige: Referendum in Switzerland*; and *Lowell: Govts and Parties in Continental Europe*, Vol. II., Chap. XII.]

* *Ann. Const. Aust. Const.*, p. 995.

† *Lowell: Govts. and Parties in Cont. Eur.*, Vol. II., p. 253.