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## Ohio's Suffrage Leader on Direct Legislation

Harriet Taylor Upton

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# OHIO'S SUFFRAGE LEADER

—ON—

## DIRECT LEGISLATION

The Cleveland Press of October 31, contains the following article by Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, President of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association:

The Ohio Woman Suffrage Association after careful consideration, voted at its recent state convention to ask the constitutional convention for the submission of the woman suffrage question as a separate proposition.

Women are as keenly interested in the new constitution as are men. Indeed, when I see how indifferent men have been in the selection of candidates in some counties I am disposed to think women are showing more interest.

\* \* \*

Most suffragists are interested in the progressive questions which will be discussed by the constitutional convention. The Ohio Woman Suffrage Association has for years been on record as favoring the initiative and referendum. Several times this association has taken a poll of the state legislature on this question and has turned the information so gained over to men having official charge of the direct legislation movement in the state.

In more than one county the suffragists have played no insignificant part in inducing legislators from these counties to "see the light."

\* \* \*

One of the strongest advocates of the initiative and referendum in the state today got his first information along this line from the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association. As a member of the legislature he wrote the presi-

dent of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association saying, "I do not understand what you mean by the terms 'initiative and referendum' but am willing to learn. Please send me some literature."

The suffragists are as much interested in the initiative and referendum as ever. They do not wish to endanger the constitution by insisting upon having the word "male" as it applies to a qualification for electors stricken out. They will simply ask that the question of permitting women to vote on all questions on equal terms with men be submitted to the voters of the state as a separate proposition.

In other words they ask that the principle of the referendum be applied to this question of votes for women, and they expect the members of the constitutional convention to vote favorably on this proposition.

Women have not been thoughtless or selfish or grasping or cruel in the past, nor will they be so in the future. But this is their chance—the chance of a score of years—and they are going to take advantage of it. The women have no money, they have no machine, they could not barter if they would. They are not unmindful of the forces arrayed against them and yet they are reasonably confident of success in the constitutional convention. Why?

Because they believe the men of Ohio are as just and fair as men of California and they believe the women of Ohio are as trustworthy as the women of California.