

Marshall Weekly Dem. News  
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V. V. HUFF DRAFTS  
IMPORTANT BILL

Marshall Attorney Entrusted With  
Preparation of Alien Voter  
Bill

Virgil V. Huff has returned from Jefferson City, where he spent several days in work connected with the State Legislature. While there he prepared for presentation to the Legislature a joint and concurrent resolution to be presented to the House and the Senate providing for the submitting to the voters of the state an amendment to the state constitution prohibiting all persons, except native born or fully naturalized citizens, from voting. Mr. Huff was appointed by the War Committee of the State Bar Association to draw this amendment, as he raised the question at the meeting of the Association last September. At present foreign born persons may vote after making their declaration to become citizens and after taking out their first papers. If this amendment is adopted, no person of foreign birth can vote until the full process for naturalization has been completed, and no person can vote in Missouri except citizens.

While in Jefferson City, Mr. Huff also attended the meetings of the Public Service Commission Committee of the New Constitution League of Missouri. This committee is composed of Judge R. S. Robertson, city counselor of Sedalia; Virgil V. Huff of Marshall; Charles L. Faust, city attorney of St. Joseph; J. F. Osbourn, mayor of Joplin; Fred A. Moon, city counselor of Springfield; R. J. Brownlee, mayor of Brookfield; Lewis O'Connor, mayor of Hannibal; and O. G. Boisseau, mayor of Holden. This conference prepared two bills for presentation to the Legislature. The first bill provided that the Public Service Commission should not have jurisdiction to change or alter any franchise or contract entered into between a city and the public service corporations in such city, and should have no jurisdiction to change or alter rates

fixed by franchise or contract with such city, except within the limits provided in such contract, and that the commission should not have jurisdiction over municipally owned plants. It further provided that the commission in case of necessity should investigate and recommend rates where contracts were involved, but that the city should consent to any change in the contract before such finding should be valid.

The second bill provided that rates fixed by franchise and contract in any city theretofore should be fixed by the Legislature as the statutory rates within the city where the company operated, and that all increases beyond such contracts be accounted void, and the original contract rates be restored.

The purpose of these bills relating to public utilities is to prevent the setting aside of contracts and contract and franchise rates by the Public Service Commission, without the consent of the city involved.