

BUFFALO**a REFERENDUM LEAGUE.****b MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.**

By **ROBERT S. BINKERD**, Secretary Municipal League of Buffalo.

The Municipal and Referendum Leagues took an active part in the municipal election of last November. The Referendum League ran three unsuccessful independent candidates for Alderman, and secured the submission on the voting machines of the question, "Shall the City of Buffalo own a municipal electric lighting and power plant?" About 12 per cent. of the citizens voted on the proposition, four-fifths of the vote cast being in the affirmative.

The Municipal League followed the well-known Chicago plan and ran no independent candidates, but investigated and published the records of party candidates. Of twelve candidates for Alderman recommended six were elected. Notable victories were secured in the defeat of two boodle candidates for nomination in the Sixth and Twenty-fifth Wards, while in the final election an indicted boodle Alderman in the Fifth Ward was defeated. The greatest victory, however, was the defeat of "Honest John" Martin, of the Twentieth Ward, one of the worst figures in the Common Council. His former plurality of 656 was changed to defeat by 45 votes.

Out of thirteen candidates for supervisor recommended six were elected, and at the primaries the former leader of the Republican gang was defeated for renomination. The independent conduct of the new supervisors has had a tonic effect on that board.

The league set out to elect one assessor and to defeat another, and succeeded. The recommended candidate received the highest vote cast, 39,000, and the condemned candidate the lowest vote cast, 23,000.

For Councilman the league recommended only two candidates, one of whom received the highest Councilmanic vote cast, the other running at the head of the Republican Councilmanic candidates. Both of the league's recommendations for morning justice were elected by large majorities.

No attempt has been made to organize a distinctly municipal party. The idea of independent voting in municipal elections is just beginning to take hold of Buffalo, which is not yet sufficiently awakened. The presence of about 80,000 Poles and 20,000 Italians creates a serious problem, while the large German vote moves slowly to independent action.

The Municipal League is a permanent organization, carefully watches the work of the city and county governments, keeps up to date the records of all officials, and stands ready at any time to crystalize public sentiment and action against bad measures.