WETS CASTING MOST REFERENDUM VOTES

2,166 Ballots Favor Prohibition Modification, 29 Against

Out of 2,166 ballots so far collected in Hartford by the National Liberal Alliance, which is seeking a trial referendum vote in Connecticut and other states on the “wet” and “dry” question, 2,137 were for modification of the Volstead Act, liberalization of the eighteenth amendment and opposed to “blue laws.” Figures were made public yesterday by Edward Kearney, Connecticut representative of the Alliance. Only twenty-nine votes were “dry,” twenty-five of which were cast by men and four by women. One hundred and eleven women voted “wet.” One hundred and eighty-nine ballots were cast in the city by out-of-town residents.

The Alliance started its work in Hartford Tuesday morning, and more than 15,000 ballots have been put out. The 2,166 ballots collected are only a small part of those awaiting to be tabulated. Collections will be made every two weeks.

“We wanted to show Hartford how the people really stand on this question,” Mr. Kearney said yesterday referring to the figures compiled as a test tabulation to convince.

“There is no canvassing about this referendum. It is not merely the expression of ‘wet’ sympathizers. We will welcome representatives of the local prohibition party or of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union to be present when we count ballots. We will also furnish temperance societies with ballots in order to get their vote.

After Hartford County is covered, work will be started in other counties of the state simultaneously. The local campaign has started off so auspiciously, Mr. Kearney said, that Francis Clay Harley, national chairman of the alliance, who paid a fleeting visit to Hartford last week, will return this week to superintend activities for a few days.

By tomorrow the lobbies of the local hotels will be more charming for the presence of six Boston girls who will collect ballots. Miss Anna Servant, formerly of the Ziegfeld Folies, will be in charge.

Alliance headquarters have now been established at the Hotel Bond Annex.