Capt. Stayton Founder of Association Against Prohibition Says Membership Is 760,000

Receipts Now Nearly $500,000

Those Formerly Engaged in Liquor Traffic Can Contribute but Have No Right to Vote

Washington, June 30.—(Associated Press).—Turning its spotlight on the political activities of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, the Senate campaign funds committee learned today that it is paving the way for referendums on the wet and dry issue in six states besides New York and Wisconsin where elections have been ordered.

Captain William H. Stayton of Smyrna, Md., founder of the association, said these states are Illinois, Missouri, Colorado, California, Montana, and Nevada, each of which has an initiative and referendum clause in its Constitution. Petitions are now being circulated, he added, with a view to forcing the issue at the polls.

Has 760,000 Members. Appearing in response to a subpoena, Stayton occupied the stand during two sessions and under questioning by Senator King, democrat, Utah, told of the political activities of his organization and disclosed that it is a growing concern with 760,000 members and that its receipts now are close to half a million dollars a year or about on a par with those of the Anti-Saloon League.

Senator Reed, democrat, Missouri, chairman of the committee who has conducted the bulk of the examination since the inquiry began three weeks ago, said he had been "laboriously" called a wet and so turn over the questioning of Stayton to some dry member so that there could be no charge of any effort to cover anything up.

Wheeler a Spectator. Wayne A. Wheeler, general counsel of the Anti-Saloon League, who already has submitted to the point of questioning by Reed and whose examination will be resumed this week, was an interested spectator on the front row while Stayton was telling of the inner workings of the anti-organization enemy of the Anti-Saloon League.

While the committee was inquiring for the first time into the operations of wet organizations, the Senate voted in an additional $40,000 so that it can carry its investigation into Illinois and a number of other states where charges of slush funds have been or may be made as the senatorial campaign progresses.

The investigators hope to conclude the present phase of their inquiry, dealing primarily with the Pennsylvania primary, by the end of this week and begin hearings in Chicago in July on the Illinois senatorial primary in which it has been charged $5,000-odd was spent on behalf of Senator William B. McKinley, republican, and
Frank L. Smith, his successful opponent.

Stayton was on the stand today less than two hours and will be recalled later after books of his organization have been audited by representatives of the committee. To Senator King's rapid fire questions, Stayton gave such a fast volley of answers that even the official stenographer had difficulty in keeping up and finally the Utah Senator had to request that he speak more slowly.

Association Non-Partisan.

Stayton said his organization was non-partisan, supporting republicans and democrats alike in either the primaries or general elections—the one requirement being that the candidate be favorable to repeal of the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act. Committees of the association co-operate with committees for the candidates he explained, and the association sends out literature and arranges mass meetings.

This was done in Pennsylvania, he said, testifying that $3,500 was sent to Charles S. Wood, Pennsylvania representative of the association, to arrange for mass meetings and that letters were sent to the association's 30,000 members in the state urging support of Representative William S. Vare for the Senate over Senator Pepper and Governor Pinchot.

Candidates Sized Up.

The small group of spectators got a laugh out of Stayton's recital of the descriptions of the candidates contained in a form letter mailed from headquarters in Washington to Pennsylvania. Stayton said that as near as he could recall the candidates were sized up in that letter about as follows:

Pinchot, possessed of "intellectual infirmities" which did not commend him to the voters; Pepper, "lacking the moral courage" to take sides on the wet and dry issue, and Vare had associated with "a somewhat vicious element in Philadelphia and would have to bear some of the odium of that," but possessing the moral courage to take sides on the prohibition question.

Stayton told the committee he served as head of the association without pay; that the membership represented a cross section of the American people, and that recently it had been decided to accept contributions up to 5 per cent. of the monthly total from those formerly engaged in the liquor traffic, but without giving them the right to vote.