

insertion of the usual clause to this effect, and cannot be referred to the people under the Amendment; except that any law making an appropriation to a public institution *in excess* of the next previous appropriation for the same purpose, can be so referred to the extent of the excess, and to that extent cannot become effective until the first day of June, but to the extent that such appropriation does not exceed the next previous appropriation for the same purpose it can be made effective at once.

No law embraced within the fourth class, "licensing, regulating, prohibiting, or referring to local option the manufacture or sale of malt or spirituous liquors" can be referred to the people under the Constitutional Amendment. Whether or not such a law can, in any event, and independently of the Amendment, be passed without a referendum, is a question which may hereafter arise directly, and, therefore, I do not think that I should express any opinion upon that question at this time.

Any law which does not fall within one of the above four classes, can in no event take effect before the first day of June. In such case a clause in the law providing that it shall take effect from the date of its passage, or at any time before the first day of June, would, in my judgment, be simply nugatory, and the law would take effect on the first day of June, notwithstanding such clause.

If such law contains no clause at all as to when it is to take effect, then, in my judgment, it will take effect, under the Constitutional Amendment, on the first day of June, unless previously referred to the people. In order, however, that there should be no possible question about this, I think it better to add a section to all laws which are not embraced within one of the above four classes, to the effect that "This Act shall take effect from the first day of June, 1916."

Very truly yours,

ALBERT C. RITCHIE,
Attorney-General.

[Which was read and ordered printed in the Journal.]

ORDERS.

On motion of Mr. Brown it was ordered that Mr. Williams be excused from today's session on account of important business.