

and directs that the election shall then be proceeded with, as near as may be, with duplicates, for which it provides.

The time lost was lost by just such misadventure as is contemplated in that section and in the absence of injury, which I have shown could not have resulted, could not and does not invalidate this election. (McCreary on Elections, section 445.)

All had an opportunity to vote and, if they did not, must abide by the result of the poll. (McCreary on Elections, sections 132 to 135.)

If this precinct had been largely Democratic, sufficiently so to overcome any Republican majority in the rest of the county, I apprehend the Judges of Election in this district would have found a more liberal intendment in the law, and would have held the election.

But a liberal construction of the law was not even necessary, for we shall contend,

3d. That under a proper construction of it, the ballots offered were legal ballots. What is an official ballot under the law and why does it prescribe that there shall be an official ballot?

An official ballot is one that comes from the hands of the officers authorized by law to prepare the same, and the ends it is designed to meet are, to prevent bribery and repeating, and to secure secrecy, and thus to arrive at a fair and free expression of the people's will. This is the first and last purpose of all election laws. They are but the machinery, a means by which this result is, or is attempted to be attained, and the fundamental purpose of such laws must never be lost sight of in their construction, but must be furthered by every reasonable implication. To do this what does the present law of Maryland provide with regard to the ballot? It provides that it shall be printed on white paper with black ink, that the names of the candidates of the respective parties shall be printed in parallel columns, &c., and gives specific directions as to the whole make-up of the face of the ballot. It also provides that it shall have printed on its back the words "Official ballot for," followed by the designation of the polling place for which it is prepared, the