

"We believe that the political destinies of Maryland should be shaped and controlled by the white people of the State, and while we disclaim any purpose to do any injustice whatever to our colored population, we declare without reserve our resolute purpose to preserve in every conservative and Constitutional way the political ascendancy of our race."

In my acceptance of the nomination for Governor, I defined my position upon this plank, and in my inaugural address I referred to the same in these words :

"Of all planks in the platform, that which became paramount in the campaign demanded the elimination of the ignorant, unreflecting, irresponsible voter. The result of the election demonstrates that a large majority of our best citizens favor such election reform. They demand that the State shall be governed by those citizens who, because of their intelligence, their heredity, and their interest in the material welfare of the Commonwealth, are best fitted to properly, patriotically and wisely exercise the high duties of citizenship."

"This result can only be attained by an amendment to the Constitution fixing a higher standard of qualification for the exercise of the elective franchise. I believe that an amendment to the Constitution, upon the lines which I have suggested, expressed in clear, definite, simple terms, should be submitted to the people of Maryland."

I have not changed my views on this question since I became Governor; but have become more earnestly in favor of an amendment which will accomplish the results so generally desired.

The amendment proposed by the bill passed does not, in my judgment, do this.

The educational requirement therein is not conservative or definite, but is vague and uncertain, and is liable to cause grave abuses through the prejudices, the whims and the partisan zeal of the registration officers.

Any educational requirement or qualification adopted should be defined in precise terms in the amendment