

and thus be placed beyond the power of any election officer to do injustice by partisan or unfair action.

The fundamental right of a citizen to exercise the privilege of suffrage should not depend upon the opinion of any set of election officials as to the reasonableness of his interpretation of any clause of the Constitution.

Another class of persons should be given the right of suffrage, those who have a material interest in the welfare of the commonwealth, who pay taxes and thus aid in defraying the expenses of the State and local governments, and whose thrift means so much for the prosperity of the State.

The man who, by his industry, frugality and business judgment, accumulates property and acquires his home, should have a voice in the management of public affairs. He can be counted upon as a good, law-abiding citizen.

This property right to register will encourage thrift, industry, and the making of good citizens, and will hold out to the uneducated, who now have no property and who could not qualify as voters under the amendment proposed, a hope of future enfranchisement.

If the reasons I have given appeal to your judgment, sufficient time remains in which to pass a bill embodying the principles above set forth.

Referring to the other proposed amendment to the Constitution, providing for funds for good roads, I wish to say that if it is duly presented to me, it will receive my approval.

EDWIN WARFIELD,

Governor of Maryland.

Mr. Perkins submitted the following report:
To the Senate of Maryland,

The report of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments to which was referred the message from the Governor of Maryland under date of March 30th, respectfully report.