

by those citizens who, because of their intelligence, their heredity, and their interest in the material welfare of the Commonwealth, are the 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.

ELECTION LAW.

The pledge made by me during the canvass, second only in importance to the one just referred to, and which success at the polls has transformed into a binding obligation, promised such amendments of the election law as would insure the counting of the ballots in accordance with the intention of the voter

Therefore, I urge the Legislature to so amend the present election law as to provide that each ballot shall be counted in accordance with the intention of the voter, for all those offices for which it is possible to clearly ascertain that intent, unless it is manifest from the appearance of the ballot that distinguishing marks have been intentionally placed by the voter thereon for the fraudulent purpose of enabling that ballot to be identified.

I am, however, absolutely opposed to any amendments of our Election Laws which will in any way lessen the securities which now exist for a fair ballot and an honest count.

If a Constitutional Amendment is passed by this Legislature allowing the People to fix the qualification of the voters, and these amendments to the Election Law are made, the plighted faith of the Democracy will be redeemed.

CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.

The greatest menace to-day to a Republican form of government is the power of money, corruptly used for