

be prevalent by the Governor of this State in his published reasons for the Special Session.

The Reform League further asks that it be heard before the appropriate committee of your Honorable Bodies as to any other contemplated change in the existing Election Law. The League was organized in 1885, first of all, to secure fair elections; its prosecution of certain election officers in 1896 afforded unanswerable proof of abuses and crimes already notorious; the Registration and Election Laws of 1888 and 1890, although giving imperfect effect to its views, yet were enacted in consequence of its persistent advocacy of such reforms, and the Statute of 1896 was almost entirely its work. It may therefore without presumption request an opportunity for comment on whatever amendments may be now proposed to the last named Act, an Act under which five elections have been held in the State and a sixth in Baltimore city without, so far as its officers are aware, a single published charge of cheating or disorder or abuse of official trust at the polls.

The anxiety wherewith the League and all friends of good government and pure politics in Maryland have heard of an intention to modify a law which has procured such unwonted blessings to the people was increased by the inability of the Governor to furnish, when requested by the League's officers, the text of the amendments to be recommended.

There is therefore the greater reason why the League should be permitted to assist your Honorable Bodies by a candid and temperate criticism, inspired by no partisan prejudice or hope of personal advantage, of the amendments to this salutary statute which you will be asked to consider.

All of which is very respectfully submitted on behalf of the Baltimore Reform League.

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