

appropriation for the expense of the work will be submitted to you.

I invite for it your prompt consideration.

AMENDMENTS OF OUR ELECTION LAW

2d. These proposed amendments do not contemplate the passage of an entirely new election law, nor the alteration of any of its material provisions which have stood well the test of experience. But there are very serious defects in it which should be promptly and thoroughly remedied and it is for the correction of those defects that the proposed legislation is urged.

Notwithstanding the high hopes which were entertained at the time the Australian ballot system was first adopted in Maryland that it would ensure the secrecy of the ballot and put a stop to bribery and corruption in our elections, all candid men now admit without hesitation, after an experience of ten years, that these hopes have not been realized.

The radical changes made by our law in the original features of the Australian system with a view the better to adapt it, as was claimed, to our situation, have proved in some respects most unfortunate.

Indeed, it is now clear that if this system is to be retained, we must repeal these ill-advised changes and restore the law to some degree of its original simplicity.

Without this restoration, the primary purposes of the system, viz : the securing of the secrecy of the ballot the exercise of intelligent discrimination in voting and the extinguishment of bribery and intimidation at the polls will continue in large measure to be defeated.

The bill which will likely be submitted to you and whose prompt enactment I earnestly recommend proposes that hereafter the official ballot shall not contain upon it any party emblem or pictorial representation whatever and that the names of the candidates shall not be printed as heretofore in parallel columns under their respective party emblems. but that it shall contain the names of all candidates who are duly nominated according to existing law, arranged in uniform order as prescribed by the several Boards of Supervisors of Elections