Mr. Ball, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 14.]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred the bill (S. 14) providing for the election of a Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The committee is of opinion that the disfranchised people of the District of Columbia are entitled to a larger measure of self-government than provided in S. 14 for the election of a Delegate in Congress.

Because of the uncertainty of enactment of a constitutional amendment at this time, which would bestow upon Congress the power to allow the District of Columbia Senators, Representatives, and a vote in the Electoral College, and realizing that should such an amendment be passed by Congress by the required two-thirds vote, a long time, possibly several years, would necessarily elapse before such amendment could be ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the States, the committee believes that for the time being election of a Delegate in Congress from the District of Columbia is necessary for at least the partial participation of the people of the District of Columbia in the National Government, and that Congress should provide, through S. 14, as soon as possible for election of such District Delegate.

Residents of the District of Columbia, under our system of political liberty and manhood and womanhood suffrage, in fairness are entitled to all the political privileges and rights enjoyed by all other citizens of the Republic, provided that exercise of such rights and privileges does not interfere with complete congressional control of the District of Columbia, a Federal District established as the seat of the National Government, which should by right be under the control of Congress. But without disturbing or interfering with such congressional control there is no good reason why the people resident
in said District of Columbia should not be allowed, as far as possible, the same political rights and privileges of all other American citizens.

A Delegate in Congress from the District of Columbia would serve as a representative from the District people to keep Congress authoritatively informed of the legislative needs of the District of Columbia, and in these functions such a Delegate would be of great assistance to Congress in all matters of District legislation.

The committee believes that while the District of Columbia, both for its own legislative good and the legislative good of Congress, should as speedily as possible be allowed a Delegate in Congress, that permission to elect such Delegate will not be full satisfaction of the claims of the people of the District of Columbia to their rights of representation in Congress. The committee believes that S. 14 should be immediately passed by Congress as a preliminary act toward ultimate full representation in Congress.

It can not be denied that the District of Columbia is the only capital city or Federal district in the whole world without some sort of representative government in the various legislative assemblies of all the nations. Such a condition in the District of Columbia, the Nation's seat of government, with approximately 450,000 intelligent, patriotic, and prosperous people resident therein, is a strange anomaly in this modern age, and seems repugnant to our republican system of representative government.

I am agreed with the foregoing except that I do not think the Senate should act until the House has acted.

W. L. Jones.