



# **GOVERNOR WILLIAM GLASSCOCK AND PROGRESSIVE POLITICS IN WEST VIRGINIA (WEST VIRGINIA & APPALACHIA)**

*GARY JACKSON TUCKER*

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From 1909 to 1913, Governor William Glasscock served the state of West Virginia as an ardent progressive and reformer. In his inaugural address he proclaimed government "the machinery invoked and devised by man for his benefit and protection" and good government the guarantor of the happiness, prosperity, success, and welfare of the people. *Governor William Glasscock and Progressive Politics in West Virginia* recounts the life and work of West Virginia's thirteenth governor. Born during the Civil War, Glasscock witnessed a country torn by sectional, fratricidal war become a powerful industrial nation by the turn of the twentieth century. Author Gary Jackson Tucker demonstrates how Glasscock, along with others during the Progressive Era, railed against large and powerful political and economic machines to enact legislation protecting free and fair elections, just taxation, regulation of public utilities, and workmen's compensation laws. Never hesitating to use the power of the state to stand firm against racism and mob rule, and placing his own personal safety in jeopardy, Glasscock won the praise and admiration of average people. Glasscock's four years in office took his own health and financial security from him, but left behind a better government—a good government—for the people of West Virginia.

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