The Archive of American Journalism *H.L. Mencken Collection*

Baltimore Morning Herald January 22, 1901

Stands Firm for Olin Bryan

Council Ignores the Howser Resolution

To Disqualify Him

Vote was 22 Yeas Against One Lonely Nay

Solons Appoint a Committee to Confer With Railroad Companies—New Measures

With rare good humor and singular unanimity the first branch councilmen decided at their meeting last night that they would not join Mr. Howser, their confrere, in his attack on State Senator and Assistant City Solicitor Olin Bryan.

As told in the Herald, Mr. Howser offered a resolution a week ago calling upon Attorney General Rayner for an opinion as to Mr. Bryan's eligibility as a legislator. This resolution was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Touchton and Grecht, republicans, and Mr. Wilson, a democrat. Last night they submitted their report. It was brief and unfavorable. No reasons for their action were stated.

After Mr. Lamm had moved that the report be adopted Mr. Howser, the father of the resolution, arose to interrogate the committee regarding its action. But President Gephart ruled that they might remain silent, if they chose to do so, and they straightway chose. Then the roll was called and 22 members voted aye. Mr. Howser alone cast a negative ballot. As he did so his colleagues gave him what is known in vaudeville as the merry ha-ha.

And thus a cute little political plan from which much was expected went aglee.

His Honor's Veto

From the mayor the council received a veto of the ordinance amending the ordinance for repaying Brunt street. "It was not properly advertised," said His Honor.

Grade Crossing Conference

The Second Branch adopted the First Branch resolution to appoint a committee to confer with the representatives of the steam railroads and the city engineer relative to the abolishment of grade crossings.

New Measures

In the First Branch Mr. Watts introduced a resolution advocating the centralization of street repairing under one department head. At present the city engineer, the subway engineer and the water engineer have parts of the work in charge. This leads to frequent confusion.

Mr. Watts, at the request of the S.P.C.A., also introduced an ordinance providing that all wagons shall bear the names of their owners in letters at least two inches high. This is intended to lead to the ready identification of drivers who are cruel to their hoses.

Mr. George Miller introduced an ordinance changing the name of Chesapeake street, from Baltimore street to the city limits, to Kenwood avenue.

Sewer Ordinance Passed

The Second Branch passed the ordinance providing for the construction of a sewer in the bed of Canton street, between Elliott and Boston streets.

Appropriation Increased

On motion of Mr. Grecht the First Branch amended the South Baltimore park ordinance by increasing the appropriation from \$18,000 to \$25,000.

To Meet February 4

The Council adjourned to meet again Monday, February 4. No meeting will be held next Monday because the solons desire to have the decision of the Court of Appeals in their case against the mayor at hand before they consider the various improvement ordinances now in dispute.