

Baltimore Morning Herald
January 15, 1901

“Get Together,” Says Gephart

Councilman Talks of Fight With the Mayor

First Branch President

Address at Peabody Heights Association Banquet

Mr. Hayes Not Present

His Honor Had Expected to Be on Hand, But Did not Appear

Because Mayor Hayes found it inconvenient to break bread with his neighbors and do battle with his arch enemy, President W. Starr Gephart, of the First Branch Council, the first annual banquet of the Peabody Heights Improvement Association was not as gay an affair as it promised to be.

Peabody Hall, St. Paul and Twenty-sixth streets, was the scene of the feast and 9 P.M. was the hour. The mayor had expected to drop in, after lecturing to his law class, to respond to a toast to “Our City.” Mr. Gephart was slated to answer for “Our Solons,” and, as the speeches were to be consecutive, it was thought that they might be rather exciting. But at the last moment His Honor found that he could not be on hand.

Mr. Gephart was there, however, and in accordance with the program he made a speech. Mr. W. O. Atwood, the toastmaster, introduced him as “The Star of the Council,” Mr. Gephart said, in part:

“As long as I am in the Council I will stand for good streets, new schoolhouses and everything calculated to improve our beautiful city. (Applause). During the last few months I have felt the public pulse. I know that the taxpayers want low taxes, but I also know that they don’t want taxes so low that the city must stagnate.”

Mr. Gephart then discussed the need of a sewerage system, and later talked of the charter. “Nobody,” he said, “really knows what the charter means. But the mayor-council fight may tell us, and, at any rate, its outcome will enable future councils to know ‘where they are at.’”

In conclusion Mr. Gephart proposed a toast. “Here’s to the mayor and the council,” he said. “May they get together as soon as they can.”

Speeches were also made by Congressman-Elect A. A. Blakeney, Comptroller James H. Smith and Messrs. Thomas S. Potts, Harry N. Abercrombie and Allan Cleveland. Before the banquet the following officers of the association for 1901 were elected:

President, W. O. Atwood; vice-president Dr. J. W. Gascoyne; secretary, Allan Cleveland; treasurer, George Filbert; executive committee, William T. Parrish, Wilbur N.

Barnes, George E. Eddy. Harry N. Abercrombie, Millard F. Burgess, Wiliam S. Norris and L. P. Matthews.

The following new members were elected: N. W. Graham, Joseph W. Brooks, dr. Ernest King and Joshua A. Bates, Jr.