

*Baltimore Morning Herald*  
March 19, 1901

*Anti-Secret Session Ordinance Rejected*

*Fist Branch of the Council Would Not Agree to the Second Branch's Nullifying  
Amendment—Infectious Diseases Hospital Ordinance Introduced*

Mr. Howser's anti-secret session ordinance came to an untimely end last night in the first branch of the council—the place of its origin.

This measure, in its first form, absolutely forbade municipal boards to hold secret meetings. In committee it was amended so as to permit of trials of employes in camera, and in the second branch it was further amended so that secret sessions might be held "for the consideration of any matter."

Because they believed that the latter change entirely destroyed the intents and purposes of the measure 16 members of the first branch voted against it. During the rollcall there was a spirited debate, and as a result of the arguments presented President Gephart changed his vote from "aye" to "nay." The solons who voted "aye" were Messrs. Preller, Donnelly, Brown, Wilson, Ford, Morgan and Galvin. Mr. Howser, the father of the ordinance, cast his vote against it. Later, a committee consisting of Messrs. Sproesser, Horst and Howser was appointed to confer with the second branch for the purpose of deciding upon mutually satisfactory amendments.

*Infectious Diseases Hospital*

In both branches Health Commissioners Bosley's infectious disease hospital ordinance was introduced. It appropriates \$25,000 for the purchase of a lot for the hospital and the beginning of work upon the building. An unpaid commission of six members, with the mayor ex-officio, is to select the lot and draw plans for the building.

*To Improve Fire Service*

An ordinance, which may give Fire Chief McAfee an opportunity of carrying into effect one of his pet schemes for the improvement of the fire department, was introduced in the second branch by Mr. Guyton. It is briefly entitled an ordinance authorizing the board of fire commissioners to put down a "dry pipe," the cost not to exceed \$3000.

In explaining the ordinance Mr. Guyton said for the present the matter would be largely experimental. The idea is to put down a series of large mains from the harbor, through the central part of the city. In case of fire the fireboat could pump water from the harbor through the "dry pipes" to the scene of the conflagration. With the present fireboat it is thought the water could be

pumped as far as German and Howard streets, and forced to a height of 90 feet. The “dry pipe” is in successful operation in Detroit, Milwaukee, other Lake cities, New York and Philadelphia.

*To Tax Private Streets*

In the first branch Mr. Touchton introduced a resolution directing the Appeal tax Court to assess and collect taxes upon the beds of all private streets. At present it is impossible for the city to regulate the repair of such thoroughfares. The levy of taxes upon them, it is thought, will cause their owners to transfer many of them to the city. This will enable the city engineer to take charge of them.

*Next Meeting Monday*

The council adjourned to meet again next Monday at 5 P.M.