

*Baltimore Morning Herald*  
*January 16, 1901*

*Senator and Solicitor*

*Mr. Olin Bryan's Two Positions Questioned*

*Council Raises a Point*

*Solons Discuss Park Tax Computation*

*Railway Will Answer*

*Grade Crossings Furnish the Subject of a Resolution of Inquiry*

The status of Mr. Olin Bryan as State Senator from the third legislative district was raised in the First Branch City Council by Mr. Howser, Republican, last night.

Mr. Bryan draws \$3,000 a year from the municipality as first assistant city solicitor, and the point in question is whether in accepting that office he did not vacate the post of State Senator. Mr. Howser wanted Attorney General Rayner to pass on the question, but consented to the reference of his resolution to a special committee, composed of Messrs. Touchton, Wilson and Grecht, Mr. Wilson being the democratic member.

Mr. Howser was asked why he introduced the resolution. He answered that he thought one man should not hold two offices. It was the general opinion that the action was inspired by Republican leaders with the object of preventing an extra session by throwing a doubt on the power of the Democrats to cast 14 votes for the proposed bill to disfranchise illiterates, Mr. Bryan's being the 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Park Tax*

Early in the evening Mr. Howser moved that the journal of December 22 be corrected by expunging a paragraph which said that a resolution had been passed requesting Comptroller Smith to secure certain information concerning the park tax paid by the United Railways and how it is computed, on the ground that it had not been passed.

Earlier in the day Col. Milton Offutt, counsel of the company, sent a letter to Mr. Smith offering to furnish the Council with the information, but calling attention to the fact that the resolution had not passed the Council, but was withdrawn by the councilman who introduced it.

Mayor Hayes sent for Colonel Offutt, and they, with Mr. Smith, had a conference, during which Colonel Offutt promised to give the required information.

The First Branch was in ignorance of this when Mr. Howser's motion was being discussed. Mr. Donnelly, who had introduced the resolution, claimed that it had passed; that

President Gephart has told him it was useless to call the roll because there was no opposition. Mr. Gephart denied any knowledge of the matter except that he knew, as Mr. Donnelly admitted, of one resolution of a similar character having been withdrawn. Mr. Gephart, however, voted to sustain the journal.

Mr. Howser's motion was passed—12 to 9. The branch also tabled—18 to 5—another resolution asking for the same information, introduced by Mr. Donnelly.

### *Against Grade Crossings*

Mr. Howser introduced a joint resolution, which went over under the rules, which explains itself:

“Resolved by the first and second branches of the City Council, That a committee of three from each branch be appointed, who, together with the city engineer, shall constitute a committee to consult with the several steam railroad companies coming into Baltimore as to the best method of doing away with grade crossings in order to avoid the numerous and terrible accidents that so frequently occur in our city of Baltimore, and that the respective presidents of the said branches name the members of this committee.”

### *Proposed Parks*

On motion of Mr. Grecht, the First Branch tabled the ordinance to appropriate \$18,000 to establish a park of six acres in South Baltimore, between Carroll and Riverside parks. Mr. Howser said the appropriation was insufficient to buy the land. The branch finally passed the measure to establish a park west of Gwynn's Falls.

### *Index Clerk*

President Wilmer, of the Second Branch, announced that he had appointed Mr. John W. Travers index clerk of the council journal. The salary is \$250 a year. The appointment is made annually.

### *New Measures*

The following new measures were introduced:

By Mr. Horst—Resolution permitting the American Ice company to erect a skeleton frame.

By Mr. Donnelly—Resolution of inquiry as to the amount of park tax paid by the United Railways.

By Mr. Howser—Resolution requesting an opinion from the attorney general as to whether Mr. Olin Bryan has or has not vacated the office of state senator. Resolution to appoint a commission to devise means to abolish grade crossings.

### *Finally Passed*

The following measures were passed finally:

Ordinance to pave Montford avenue,. Between Townsend and Gay streets, with vitrified brick at the expense of the abutting property owners.

Ordinance to provide for a park west of Gwynns Falls.

Ordinance to pave Bayard street, between Herkimer street and Columbus avenue, with asphalt blocks.

Ordinance to pave Chestnut and Locust streets, between concord and Mills streets, at the expense of the Merchants and Miners' Transportation Company.

Mayor Hayes notified the first branch that he had approved the following measures:

Ordinance to request Congress to deepen the channel in Spring Garden.

Ordinance to prohibit tampering with the manholes of the city conduits.

Ordinance to request Congress to give the city the marble columns in the old custom house.

Ordinance to appropriate \$10,000 for decorating the courthouse.

Ordinance to authorize the inspection of buildings to give permits for the erection of signboards.

The council will meet again next Monday night.