

*Baltimore Morning Herald*  
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*Dove of Peace is Back Again*

*Mayor-Council Dispute is Ancient History*

*Solons Met a Waterloo*

*Principles of the New Charter were Fully Sustained*

*Council No Longer Power*

*Board of Estimates Is Now Real Council of State-Preparing for the Election*

To the man up a tree there was an element of the ridiculous in the over-whelming defeat suffered by the mayor's councilmanic enemies in their fight for the overthrow of the board of estimates.

Until the fell swoop of the Court of Appeals' decision sent them flying for cover they were as sure of victory as the mayor was uncertain. Two days before their Waterloo their adherents were offering odds that they would win. There was no shade of doubt in their hope; they were positive. And all the while the mayor occupied an uncomfortable seat upon the anxious bench, for, being a lawyer-and a good one-he well appreciated the snares and pitfalls that encumber the path of the litigant.

In Mr. Bernard Carter the councilmen rested their hopes. Until he assumed the captaincy of their ship they were rather doubtful. When he took charge they summoned courage. When Mayor Hayes expressed his belief that Mr. Carter was "the best lawyer in Maryland" they grew certain. Then came the earthquake, and Mr. Carter lost two big cases in two successive days.

*Victory for the Charter*

Fundamentally, the mayor's victory is a victory for the charter. The main question at issue concerned the powers and prerogatives of the board of estimates. Upon this board depends the entire instrument from the first section to the last. The makers of the charter, contended the mayor-who was one of them-aimed to limit the powers of the council. The councilmen, to whom such a position means the loss of all traditional patronage and influence, declared that this was not so. "It is false," they said in effect, and then they added, paradoxically: "If it is true, it is impossible, for the rights of the council are protected by the state constitution."

The Court of Appeals, after weighing these arguments, decided that the mayor's view was the correct one.

"The evident object of the board of estimates, as a feature of the charter." it said in its opinion, "was to provide a more orderly administration of the city's finances, to secure more

deliberate and careful judgment as to the expenditures of the public money and greater watchfulness over and economy in making this expenditure, thereby avoiding unnecessary taxation and accumulation of debt by reason of unsystematic methods. To reduce the amounts in the ordinance of estimates is the only power conferred upon the city council to control the judgment of the board of estimates. The Legislature has made an entire substitution for the body of laws which at the time of the adoption of the present charter regulated the powers of the "municipal government, and indicated its purpose to make a complete change of system."

### *Peace Reigns Again*

Now that the dispute is settled, once and for always, the councilmen who opposed the mayor seem disposed to bury the hatchet. This determination, in view of their crushing defeat, is not an evidence of disinterested generosity, but on the whole it shows that they intend to refrain from such small acts of vengefulness as might cause annoyance to the mayor and inconvenience to the public.

Much of the credit for the era of good feeling which seems to be dawning is due to the polite negotiations which preceded Governor Smith's call for an extra session of the Legislature. It is very apparent, from Mayor Hayes' subsequent utterances, that he was promised many things in return for his consent to the disfranchisement scheme. One of these things was the safety of the charter. Repeatedly the mayor has declared, within the last few weeks, that he, and he alone, will superintend the work of charter revision.

### *Once More Persona Grata*

Another of the "considerations" received by His Honor seems to have been his reinstatement into the party fold. Latterly there have been many evidences of a reconciliation. Last week President Gephart, of the first branch council, had a heart to heart conference with the mayor. A month ago Mr. Gephart announced his intention of fighting for a renomination and re-election in the spring upon a strictly anti-Hayes platform. Countless other straws have been fluttering in the wind during the week, and before the primary contest is on events will so shape themselves that there will be no contest at all.

Practically all of the first branch solons are candidates for renomination. Messrs. Sudler, Lamm, Reinhart and Galvin, of the Hayes camp and Messrs. Ford, Morgan, Couglar, Brown, Steinacker, Wilson and Watts, anti-Hayes men, are the most prominent. Of the second branch men Messrs. Hubert, Moylan, Frank and Linthicum—all opponents of the mayor—will end their terms in May. Each craves another term. Messrs. Wilmer, Venable, Dieter and Lindeman, anti-Hayes, and Mr. Guyton, pro-Hayes, hold over until 1903, when the mayor himself will be weighed in the balance.