MAYOR PRESTON SEES PROGRESS

In Annual Message to the City Council.

PAVED PAVING IS URGED

ACCOMPLISHED; PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Tables Submitted Showing Debt of the City, Deposits in Banks, and Giving Other Valuable Information — Efficiency of the Schools Maintained—The Taxable Basis Shows an Increase During the Year — Review of Work of the Several Departments.

MAYOR PRESTON'S ANNUAL MESSAGE

Mayor James H. Preston yesterday submitted his annual message to the City Council.

It is a comprehensive review of the work of the city government during the year.

The Mayor sees progress in every branch of activity.

The new debt of the city is $27,216,045.66. If city's assets be considered the debt is wiped out.

The total cash in banks and not deposited is $2,641,771.52.

The total assessable basis is $741,909,312.

The Mayor reviews the paving for the year and urges a continuance of the work.

The total expenditure for paving was $804,390.

The total cost of the Fallsway proposition will be $1,897,923.39.

A tribute is paid by the Mayor to the late Dr. James Bosley, health commissioner.

The number of pupils in the public schools is 66,870, with an average regular attendance of 58,917.

Of the appropriation of $1,904,403.91 for schools there was a saving of $69,181.80.

The erection of new school buildings is urged.

The Mayor reviews the work of the several city departments.

Mayor Preston yesterday submitted to the City Council his second annual message in which he reviewed the work of the city government during the last year.

In his message the Mayor tells of the progress of the city, as reflected in its government, during the year. He also reviews the work of the several departments.

The most salient and important parts of the message follow:

I desire to congratulate the citizens upon the excellent condition of the city, morally and physically. No scandals have occurred in the past year involving the integrity of the city government; no peculations have taken place.

The health of the city has been uniformly good, and the general city activities have been carried on energetically, efficiently and honestly.

THE CITY'S DEBT.

The gross debt of the city, as of December 31, 1912, is	$71,294,382.95
Sinking funds, face value..$25,042,921.79	
Water works, stock outstanding	10,100,000.00
Electrical conduits, stock outstanding	3,000,000.00
Docks and piers, stock outstanding	5,935,000.00
Turnpike stock	412.50
Total	44,078,337.29
Leaving a net debt of	$27,216,045.66

In the above consideration of the debt no allowance is made for the physical assets of the city—the City Hall, Courthouse, public schools, parks, etc.—which, if considered as sold at their actual value, would, in my judgment, leave the city entirely free of debt.

There has been an increase in the funded debt of the city of Baltimore for the year 1912 by the sale of city stock to the amount of $6,700,000.

SALES OF CITY STOCK.

These sales of city stock were authorized by laws and ordinances duly passed upon by the people, and the sale and issuance thereof is mandatory upon me.

The proceeds have been used in accordance with the terms of the legal requirements, largely in the construction of the sewerage system, the purchase of land and the erection of the dam for an increased water supply, new school buildings, recreation pier and South Baltimore highway, and in paving operations, all of which will be discussed more at length later.

I desire to call attention to the condition of the sinking fund under the $5,000,000 water loan of 1916. Ordinance No. 65, approved June 30, 1877, provides that two cents annually shall be levied and paid over to the Department of Finance to be credited to the sinking fund for the redemption of this stock.

This provision, however, was not complied with until the year 1896, and no sinking fund was created for this purpose until that time. Since 1896 the sinking fund has been annually and regularly collected.

WHY A DEFICIT IS IN SIGHT.

By a computation upon the basis of figures as of January 1, 1912, it appears that there will be a deficit of about $1,543,447 at the time this loan matures.

This deficit would not have occurred had the sinking fund been regularly levied.

It is impossible at this time to determine the reason why the sinking fund was not levied as required by the ordinance, except that from the Comptroller's report it seems to be apparent that the levies were omitted for the purpose of keeping down the general tax rate.

It is apparent that we now must suffer from this neglect, and that the refunding of this loan to the extent of about one and a half million of dollars will be necessary in 1916.

I am gratified to say that this water loan of 1916 is the only one in which the sinking fund will show a deficit.

CASH ON HAND.

At the close of business December 31, 1912, the city finds itself with a balance in bank of $2,641,771.52, deposited as follows:

National Mechanics' Bank	$67,832.81
National Exchange Bank	70,000.00
Merchants' National Bank	71,113.11
Farmers and Merchants' National Bank	70,000.00
Citizens' National Bank	70,000.00
First National Bank	70,000.00
National Marine Bank	434,155.09
National Bank of Baltimore	70,000.00
National Union Bank	70,000.00
National Bank of Commerce	566,257.21
National Howard Bank	50,000.00
National City Bank	65,000.00
Drovers and Mechanics' National Bank	70,000.00
Maryland National Bank	60,600.00
German American Bank	50,000.00
Old Town National Bank	80,000.00
Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company of Baltimore	70,000.00
Continental Trust Company	70,000.00
German Bank	40,000.00
Calvert Bank	162,413.30
Commonwealth Bank	50,000.00
Mercantile Bank	50,000.00
State Bank of Maryland	40,000.00
Maryland Trust Company	50,000.00
Chesapeake Bank	20,000.00
Colonial Trust Company	40,000.00
Equitable Mortgage and Trust Company	70,000.00
Park Bank	20,000.00
Bank of Hampden	20,000.00
Cash in office vault	5,000.00
Total cash in banks and in office vault	$2,641,771.52

LIST OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Following will be found a list of the appropriations for the year 1912 from which the year's operations were carried on:

Departments.	Total Appropriations for 1912.	From Loans.
Appeal Tax Court	$60,850.00	.....
Board of Fire Commissioners	1,089,780.00	$30,000.00
Board of School Commissioners	2,103,137.75	190,000.00
Board of Police Commissioners	1,272,121.26	.....
Board of Police Examiners	6,102.00	.....
Board of Park Commissioners	549,737.05	.....
Collector of Water Rents and Licenses	463,575.00	.....
Courts	235,518.10	.....
City Register	2,638,496.30	.....
City Collector	76,268.00	.....
City Librarian	27,515.00	.....
City Engineer	602,239.23	.....
Commissioners for Opening Streets	1,011,460.81	1,060,000.00
Commissioner of Health	203,105.00	.....
Commissioner of Street Cleaning	822,658.22	.....
Comptroller	49,700.00	.....
Diary City Council	63,447.00	.....
Department of Legislative Reference	3,690.00	.....
Electrical Commission	229,000.00	218,350.00
Free Public Bath Commission	88,599.00	.....
Harbor Board	1,157,959.00	1,049,068.00
Inspector of Buildings	391,666.18	17,049.18
Liquor License Commission	17,400.00	.....
Law Department	48,000.00	.....
Mayoralty	14,848.00	.....
Municipal Factory Site Commission	6,000.00	.....
Miscellaneous annual appropriations	40,260.00	.....
Miscellaneous general expenditures	138,858.00	.....
Paving Commission	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Reformatories	122,380.00	.....
Superintendent of Lamps and Lighting	395,839.98	.....
Supervisors of City Charities	572,118.00	.....
Supervisors of Elections	156,003.00	.....
Superintendent of Public Buildings	88,900.00	.....
Sewerage Commission	4,596,881.00	4,596,881.00
Sinking funds	948,271.07	.....
Topographical Survey	13,995.00	.....
Visitors to the Jail	64,150.00	.....
Water Department	2,329,510.00	1,500,000.00
Total	$23,580,038.95	

NEW PAVING PLANNED.

I think more work is now being done in the city than ever before in the history of the municipality; occasioned largely by the activities of the Paving Commission, the Water Board and the Sewerage Commission.

The Good Roads Commission in 1912 concluded the paving of Garrison avenue and the Harford road, making very beautiful and highly valued additions to the smooth streets of the city and increasing the value very materially of the property binding thereon.

This paving was done out of the city's apportionment of the state road loan authorized by the legislature and ratified by the people, and the Good Roads Commission has co-operated with me in this work.

After consultation between the commission and myself, it has been determined out of these funds to pave the Frederick road to the city limits; Pennsylvania avenue, from Fulton avenue to the northwestern city limits; the widening, grading and paving of the Belair road, and the paving of Hanover street, from Baltimore street to the water, thence by way of Cromwell street to Marshall avenue (Light street) and thence to the Light street bridge, by means of a smooth pavement of vitrified brick. This will furnish a valuable outlet from the center of the city to the Southern Maryland state roads, and will at the same time prove an important avenue of travel for South Baltimore.

The city, through our Paving Commission, laid down in 1912 17.033 miles, or 363,402 square yards of improved paving. This paving cost in the aggregate $804,390.

THE PAVING TAX.

We hope to make the central section of the city accessible from other sections of the city by smooth pavements, and, therefore, many of the main thoroughfares are being improved.

An examination of the list of streets proposed to be paved next year will show that not only is the central section of the city cared for, but South Baltimore is also well provided for and will be well connected up, not only with the central section of the city, but with North and Northwest Baltimore.

The list for 1913, as at present determined upon, will involve the paving of upward of 27 miles of streets, or a grand total at the present time paved and selected for paving of 56 miles.

It is possible that there will have to be a modification of the proposed list for 1913. The paving tax case, which is now pending in the Court of Appeals, will have a most important bearing on the future paving of the city.

The calculations of the chief engineer and of the Paving Commission and its engineers, determined that the sum required to do away with all the old cobbles in Baltimore city and replace them with modern improved paving will be $10,000,000.

Of this sum five millions have been provided for by an issue of stock, and it is proposed to raise five millions additional by the Paving Tax Act, as authorized by the legislature in the session of 1912, Chapter 688.

SELECTION OF STREETS.

This act, prepared by the city solicitor after consultation with the law officers of the city under former administrations, the Appeal Tax Court and lawyers well informed on tax problems, has been declared by the Circuit Court of Baltimore City to be in part invalid.

We have every reason to believe and hope that this decision will be reversed upon a hearing in the Court of Appeals.

The law undoubtedly sounds in justice and fairness, and contemplates putting the burden of taxation only on those who now enjoy, or may hereafter enjoy, the benefits of improved pavements, and who have made no special contribution to them heretofore.

If all the streets of Baltimore city are to be paved with improved pavements, then it is not so important as to which are paved first. If, however, only half of them are to be paved, then the selection of the streets to be so paved becomes very important. If the Act is not to be sustained, a different selection of streets may be necessary.

If only half of the streets are to be paved with improved pavements, then the property-owners on the streets not to be so improved will be paying their quota and contribution in taxes for the improved pavements, without enjoying any of the immediate benefits to be derived therefrom. If the Act of 1912 is declared to be invalid, this condition will be unavoidable.

Only half the city can be paved with improved pavements out of the present loan, and the unimproved portion will necessarily be contributing to the improved pavements without enjoying any of the direct benefits.

It is hoped that this law will be sustained by the Court of Appeals in the interest of the development and growth of the city.

NOT A SERIOUS BURDEN.

It is not a serious burden on anyone. Property on a street 30 feet wide or over pays 15 cents per front foot, or a house 15 feet front on such a street would pay $2.25 per year for ten years. Property on a street less than 30 feet wide, but not more than 15 feet wide, will pay 10 cents per front foot; or for the average house of 15 feet front, $1.50 per year for 10 years; and on streets less than 15 feet wide, the tax is five cents per front foot, or on the average house on these streets the annual tax would be 60 cents.

While this is apparently a very small tax on the individual property-owner, in the aggregate it amounts to a great deal of money. This year, for example (1913), if the tax is declared valid, the receipts will be about $97,000, increasing, of course, as the improved paving is completed.

The chief engineer has proceeded with the Fallsway paving as rapidly as circumstances will permit. Two squares have been completed and opened for travel, and more is following the completion of the sewerage construction as rapidly as practical.

The installation of the conduits for the occupation of telephone and electric light wires in the Fallsway will be completed as soon as the weather permits.

This great Fallsway project, begun by me by laying the first brick on October 14, 1912, should, with the exception of the viaduct, be finished and opened to the public in its entirety to Baltimore street early in the year 1913.

The viaduct we hope to put under contract in the summer of 1913 and pushed to an immediate conclusion in 1914.

THE FALLSWAY PROPOSITION.

The cost of the entire Fallsway proposition will be about as follows:

Construction of the conduits by Sewerage Commission	$1,237,979.50	
Condemnation of property on the Fallsway	141,943.89	
Cost of viaduct and grading	293,000.00	
Cost of paving with granite blocks	225,000.00	
Gross total cost	$1,897,923.39	
Upon this sum will be credited amount received from benefits as assessed by the Commissioners for Opening streets, if their awards are not materially reduced by the courts	393,358.75	
Making the net cost of Fallsways improvement to the taxpayers	$1,504,564.64	

The cost is borne partly by the Sewerage Commission, and partly by the Jones Falls Loan, and partly by the general tax levy.

The annex commissioners have completed the grading, curbing and paving of 27 streets in the annex (as will appear from their annual report for 1912), consisting of 79,000 square yards, or a linear distance of 3.8 miles, at a total cost of $184,638.78.

The chief engineer, outside of the work of the Paving Commission and the work of the Annex Commission, put down within the old city limits in the year 1912 22,526.99 square yards of improved paving, costing $32,058.09; and the chief engineer put down improved pavements in the annex in the year 1912 to the extent of 20,753.28 square yards, at a cost of $23,440.51.

THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION.

The Sewerage Commission, during the year 1912, spent the sum of $2,433,030.65. With this sum and the unexpended balance of the appropriation for 1911 there was laid during the year 1912 133.63 miles of sewers and drain, or 705,591.59 linear feet. These sewers and drains were constructed in portions of over 1,000 streets and alleys.

All this work involves a total cost for the year 1912 of $2,785,654.98, including the retained percentages on contracts not yet completed.

The above figure includes also the sum of $547,000 expended during the year 1912 on the construction of the conduits in the bed of the falls.

For full details of the operations of the Sewerage Commission see their report.

On January 31, 1912, the pumps of the Sewerage Pumping Station were formally started by me. These pumps were constructed by the Bethlehem Steel Company, which was officially represented on that occasion by Mr. Charles M. Schwab. There were also present, in addition to the members of the Sewerage Commission, many prominent citizens, among whom were former Mayors Timanus and Mahool.

WATER DEPARTMENT.

In the year 1912 the case of the Warren Manufacturing Company versus the City of Baltimore was tried by the City Solicitor in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and decided in favor of the city. The case was appealed and the Court of Appeals has just rendered a decision sustaining the lower court, thus making a great victory for the city.

The contract for the erection of the new dam to the 192-foot level was awarded in 1912 and the work is being actively pushed. We hope to be able to store water in this dam at Loch Raven in September, 1913. The contract price for this dam is $374,884.40.

The total appropriation to the Water Department for the year 1912 was $2,209,510 to be expended on the new dam at Loch Raven, the purchase of property at Loch Raven, new pumps for Mount Royal Pumping Station and the general maintenance of the Water Department.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOSLEY.

I regret very much to record the death of Dr. James Bosley, who, in an eminently satisfactory way, occupied the office of commissioner of health of Baltimore city for the past 12 years, having been appointed by Mayor Hayes and continued under the administration of Mayors Mahool, Lane, Timanus, Mahool and myself. In his death the city of Baltimore has suffered the loss of a distiguished physician and citizen and a capable and valued public servant.

In the latter part of the year 1912, during the lifetime of Dr. Bosley, active consideration was given to the purification of the milk supply, and we hope in 1913 to adequately protect our milk supply both by improvements in the sanitary conditions at the sources of supply on the dairy farms surrounding Baltimore and also by closer inspection and careful elimination of the objectionable features surrounding the milk distribution within the city, and we hope, during the year 1913, to accomplish a more effective standardization for the bacterial count.

I think our Health Department will compare favorably in cost and efficiency with any similar department in the country.

FOR BETTER QUARTERS.

The old building now occupied by the Health Department is remotely situated; the entrance being on Gay street, through a narrow court. The city rents this building from the Zion Church trustees for $3,300 per year, and the lease terminates on the 31st of April, 1913. The arrangement of the offices in this building and its general appearance do not seem to be the best that could be had under the circumstances.

I think our Health Department should be housed in a clean, fresh building, such as one would expect a health department to occupy. The floors and walls should be of tile or some similar material, and should be white, clean and sanitary; which they are not now.

The building at present contains about 15,000 square feet of floor space, which, at $3,300 per year, makes 22 cents per square foot. It will be seen that at $1 or $1.25 per square foot in any of the office buildings of the city the rent that we would have to pay for any other location would be very greatly increased. But we will either have to leave our present location in 1913 or take some steps to have the building put in thorough sanitary condition and have a suitable entrance put through to Holliday street which would be much more suitable as an entrance to an important city department.

SEWER CONNECTIONS.

Upon the Health Department is imposed the obligation of inspecting the house connections with the sewers. This has placed on the subordinates of the Health Department a tremendous burden and has worked the officials of the plumbing division day and night.

The Sewerage Commission turned over to the Health Department 17,000 houses in 1912, and these are being handled as expeditiously and as smoothly as is possible with work of this magnitude and importance.

I cannot but regard the whole question of the house connections required by the sewerage law as a very serious one.

When we consider that we have 127,000 houses in Baltimore, most of them small, two-story houses, and that these sewer requirements involve an expenditure of from fifty to one hundred dollars a house, in some cases much more, the burden upon the small owner whose house is subject to a ground rent and a building association mortgage on top of that is very great. We recognize the tremendous burden which it imposes on the citizens, involving an expenditure of between one and two millions of dollars by private owners, and this chiefly with a class of the community least able to make the expenditure.

This matter, however, is not of my making, and I can only hope to handle it in the best practical way along the lines of least resistance and assisting, by advances from the city treasury, the owner who is financially unable to carry out this public necessity.

The ordinance of estimates for the year 1912 provided $100,000 for this purpose.

WORK WAS EXPENSIVE.

These house connections may be made in three ways: First, by the owner direct; second, by the owner employing the plumber, having work approved by the chief engineer, the bill for the same to be paid by the city and charged against the property and collected as taxes; or, thirdly, have the city engineer do the work through a plumber and charging the cost to the property and collected as taxes.

At first examination the third of the above propositions appeared to be the most direct in cases where owners failed or refused to make house connections themselves. In practice, however, it was found that the work being done by the city was apparently more expensive than when done by the owner himself, and, in addition, great friction was created between property-owners and plumbers in making these connections in this way.

We have, therefore, determined to practically abandon this third proposition of the city installing the house connections, and require it to be done by the owner, the bill to be paid for by him direct or to have the approved bill of the plumber selected by the property-owner paid for by the city and charged against the property and collected as taxes are collected.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

After reviewing the work of the city engineer during the year the Mayor elaborately discusses the public schools. He says:

The total number of buildings occupied for school purposes is now 163. There have been four new schools completed in 1912, costing $246,140, and there are now four more in course of construction, all of which will be finished by September 1, 1913.

The board has inaugurated a special class for children who are unable to keep up with the work of their respective classes, which is in charge of a teacher trained in this special kind of work, and this class is showing good results.

A night school for the study of Spanish has been inaugurated, as also have night schools in science, all of which are well attended.

The handsome new Polytechnic Institute is nearing completion, and will afford excellent accommodations for the students now attending this school, but who are now located in different quarters.

The total number of pupils now attending in both the day and night schools is 66,870, with an average regular attendance of 58,917.

Of the total appropriation of $1,904,403.91, the board by various economies spent only $1,835,222.11, turning back into the city treasury a balance of $69,181.80.

A SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

By the inauguration of a supply department, the board in 1912 has effected a saving of $43,535.94. This saving is brought about by the sale of worn-out books; having books rebound and put in condition for use; excess stationery purchased by former boards; delivering supplies as required instead of regular allotments, and by using discarded books in part payment for new books.

One hundred and seventy-five thousand five hundred and thirty books, all in good usable condition, have been redeemed from the cellars and storerooms of the various school buildings and are now being used. The books so recovered are worth $72,500.

The school loan is now exhausted; the remaining balance having been appropriated in the ordinance of estimates of 1913 to complete the Polytechnic Institute.

The population of the city is increasing so fast that it will soon be necessary to raise new money for the purpose of erecting school buildings.

In the expenditure of the last loan in many cases money was used to erect school buildings on lots occupied by old buildings, by tearing down old buildings and erecting new buildings in their places.

This did not add very greatly to the school accommodations, and I think it a mistake to follow this plan.

I believe the proper plan would be, instead of tearing down old school buildings, to buy additional land and erect a separate and distinct school building.

In this way we will retain our old accommodations and receive the benefit of all the new space and capacity.

BUILDING PERMITS.

The Inspector of Buildings in 1912 issued 53,015 permits for the erection of new dwelling houses, apartment houses, hospital, stores, churches and additions and alterations to buildings, to a total value of $14,479,373.90, as compared with 51,053 permits issued in 1911, of a total value of $15,464,577.

The high pressure fire pipe line, which affords excellent protection to the business section of Baltimore, was placed in service on April 23, 1912. This pipe line costing $1,000,000 to install, is a great aid in fighting fires, and by its use the insurance rates in the district covered thereby have been materially reduced.

Automobiles will be substituted for horses each year until the entire equipment of the department is of an up-to-date character. Ten are provided for in 1913, which is one-fourth of the department, and will do away with the use of 30 horses.

Nineteen hundred and twelve was perhaps the busiest year for the Law Department in the history of the city, due partly to the important legislation which was prepared by the City Solicitor, and the adoption of which was obtained from the legislature of 1912, and more largely to the unusually large amount of work done by the Sewerage Commission, the Paving Commission, the Water Board and other city departments.

Twenty-two bills were prepared, of which 17 were passed, and all became laws except the bill to prohibit railroads tracks on the Fallsway and a bill for a $300 furniture exemption, which were vetoed by the Governor.

The most important of these bills was the new condemnation law, by which the city can acquire property for the new water supply, or for any other public purpose except street openings by trial in court before a judge and jury, thus doing away with the old, disgraceful proceedings before a sheriff's jury. This is a great reform in the law, and will mean a vast saving to the city—perhaps not less than a million dollars in the cost of the property for the new and enlarged water supply alone.

IMPROVEMENTS IN VIEW.

The Harbor Board carried on the usual work of dredging the main ship channels. This department now has in course of completion the Pratt street bridge across Jones Falls, which it expects soon to turn over to the city. It will cost about $90,000.

There are also under the supervision of this department the construction of the Commercial and Recreation Pier. This pier when completed will be a great benefit to the handling of the commerce of this port, while the upper deck will be used by the citizens for various recreation purposes. This is an innovation in Baltimore and good results are expected therefrom. It will cost about $475,000.

In addition to this the department also has under way the construction of a commercial highway around the south side of the harbor, which will very much facilitate shipping in this section of Baltimore and which will connect by an easy grade with the important streets leading to the various docks and railroads.

THE GREAT WHITE WAY.

The Department of Lamps and Lighting during the year of 1912 installed the "Great White Way" in Baltimore. This is an excellent system of luminous arc lamps of an ornamental design, which adds materially to the beautification of our city. The system was installed at the joint expense of the city and the merchants in the district covered thereby, and the system is now the absolute property of the municipality. It is hoped that we may be able to extend this system this year to other important sections of the city.

There has also ben installed by this department a beautiful and very effective system of ornamental lamps on Charles street, University Parkway and Thirty-ninth stret.

There are now in service in the city of Baltimore 12,656 street lamps, effectually illuminating the entire city.

The Municipal Factory Site Commission has been working rather as the clearing-house for industrial complaints than the establishment of new industries.

THE CITY'S FINANCES.

The City Comptroller's books, which are the general books of the city government, indicate that a balance of $1,822,964.59 was brought forward from last year's accounts, which, with receipts of $20,707,673.31 by 737 receipt warrants, made the total receipts of the city for the year 1912 $22,540,637.90, and during 1912 a total of 16,252 pay warrants were issued, representing an expenditure of $19,898,866.38, leaving on December 31, 1912, a balance of $2,641,771.52 to be carried forward in 1913, which balance has been charged against the City Register, and duly verified by the City Comptroller, by cash in the City Register's office and certified balances in depository banks.

This balance of $2,641,771.52 is largely made up of unexpended appropriations for 1912 and previous years.

The surplus, arising by reason of excess of income received from the estimated revenue over the expenditures and becoming part of the general revenue of the city for the current fiscal year, was estimated by the Board of Estimates at $364,976.68, and this amount was taken into consideration by the Board of Estimates in the preparation of the tax levy for 1913.

The estimated amount necessary for the maintenance of the city government and the cost of new improvements for the year 1913, as appropriated by the Ordinance of Estimates for the year 1913, is $23,412,869.41.

RECEIPTS FROM LICENSES.

The estimated receipts from licenses, fees, rents and all other charges, including the amount believed to be collectible from taxes in arrears and also from taxes at fixed rates for the year 1913, total $16,408,977.78. Amount to be raised by taxation at full rate is $7,003,891.63.

Estimating 82½ per cent. collectible on $422,366,449, this representing property assessable at full rate, or $348,452,320. The Board of Estimates, on November 26, 1912, stated a tax rate of $2.01 per $100 for the fiscal year of 1913 would be necessary to produce the difference between the anticipated expenditures and receipts of the city, the product of the same being $7,003,891.63.

When I came into the City Hall there was in the treasury, authorized by the people and to be spent in pursuance of Acts of Assembly passed at former elections, the sum of $31,000,000.

It would require an enormous effort, even if possible at all, to carry this load of interest and sinking fund, amounting to upward of $1,350,000 a year; a poor outlook for low taxes, unless new and very productive sources of revenue are discovered.

Among these proposed sources of revenue are taxes on billboards, city taxes on automobiles; increased tax on theaters and the imposition of a tax on moving picture parlors based on their seating capacity, and license on pleasure vehicles. The Board of Estimates has already adopted an annual permit charge for street signs of all characters projecting beyond the building line.

TAXABLE BASIS.

ASSESSABLE AT FULL RATE ($2.01 per $100).		
Real estate	$355,808,161.00	
Personal property (individuals, firms and foreign corporations)	$48,169,754.00	
Less plant exemption	4,511,466.00	
		43,658,288.00
Personal property (Maryland incorporated companies)	$48,096,791.00	
Less plant exemption	6,096,791.00	
		42,000,000.00
Distilled spirits in bond (est.)		900,000.00
		$422,366,449.00
ASSESSABLE AT FIXED RATES.		
Real estate—Suburban ($1.30 per $100)	$18,774,094.00	
Real estate—Rural (67 cents per $100)	29,383,350.00	
Securities (30 cents per $100)	177,385,419.00	
Savings banks deposits (est.) (18¾ cents per 100)	94,000,000.00	
		319,542,863.00
Total assessable basis		$741,909,312.00

Arrest Saves Him From Injury.

Carl Ploetz, 19 years old, 219 East Eighty-fourth street, New York, was saved probably from serious injury when he was arrested yesterday morning for riding unauthorized on a Pennsylvania Railroad train, near Edmondson avenue bridge.

The arrest was made by William Stevenson, one of the railroad detectives. At the time of the arrest Ploetz was crouched on the rear platform of the train in such a position that the slightest jar would have hurled him beneath the wheels. When given a hearing before Magistrate Henry at the Northwestern Police Station, he admitted that he had run away from his home in New York, and after being fined $2 and costs for riding unauthorized on the train, he was sent to Jail until his parents are communicated with. Ploetz claimed that 10 other boys were riding on the train with him at the time he was arrested.

TELLS OF CITY IMPROVEMENTS

—Photo by Holmes & Bishop.

Mayor Preston, who last evening submitted his annual message to the City Council.

At Last!

After years of experiments conducted here and abroad

The Right Remedy FOR Constipation

has been discovered and is now offered to the Public, as the perfect cathartic, under the name of

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One or two pills at night will insure prompt and certain relief. Get a box from your Druggist to-day or send to A. Saxlehner New York

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Children Cry for Fletcher's

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The Kind You Have Always Bought has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision for over 30 years. Allow no one to deceive you in this. Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but experiments, and endanger the health of Children—Experience against Experiment.

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic, all Teething Troubles and Diarrhœa. It regulates the Stomach and Bowels, assimilates the Food, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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25c Quality Purest Butterine. Pound	19c
$1.35 Ten-Pound Bucket New Mackerel	$1.00
90c Large 24-Pound Sack Flour for	67c
35c Large Square Cans California Asparagus for	19c
40c Famous Sunbeam Coffee in tins for	25c
Up to 80c values Asst. Teas in ¼-Pound Tins	11c
$1.69 5-Lb. Bucket of Special Blend Coffee	$1.00
10—5c Bars Sensible Borax Soap for	29c
4—10c Pkgs. Sunbeam Cornflakes for	25c
$1.25 Gallon Cans Purest Catsup for	69c
12c Pkge. Fancy New Currants or Raisins	7¾c
3 Pkgs. Bakers Gelatine for	25c
Bushel Best Cooking White Potatoes	69c
50c Basket, about ½ Bushel, Onions for	23c
10 Pounds Best Granulated Sugar for.... Sold only with Pound Purest Loose Cocoa for 25c.	39c
75c Basket, about ½ Bushel, Fancy York Imperial Apples	49c
25c Fresh Shredded Cocoanut. Pound	14¾c
10c Large Cans Pumpkins for	4¾c
4—10c Cans Peas, Corn, String Beans for	25c
3—15c Tall Cans New Salmon for	25c
25c Quality Armour's Sugar Cured Hams. Pd.	16¾c
Sugar Cured Corned Beef. Pound	10c
Porterhouse or Sirloin Steak. Pound	14¾c
25c Quality Leg of Real Spring Lamb. Pound	16¾c
75c Five-Pound Bucket Purest Shortening for	55c
40c Quality Cooked Ham, Sliced. Pound	29c

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