city debt $5.680.870.89. The city is also incumbered with at least one third of the State debt, for which we are liable to be taxed amounting to $5115.333, this with our own will make the whole amount of debt $10.796.203.89 for which the property here is liable to to be taxed.

Assuming the assessment of property to be $50.000.000 and the interest and the Interest on the debt at 6 per cent it would require a tax of $647.772.23 to pay the interest alone, and the amount required for other purposes such as Alms House, City Court, County and School tax with other necessary claims upon the treasury it will require at least $200.000 more, making in all $847.722 near one and three fourths per cent on assessments to be levied annually. If paving and repairing & opening streets were included it would make more than two per cent upon the whole property of the city both real & personal to be paid annually.

I thought it best to present our financial condition in as strong a light as possible: it is better to look the evil in the face, to see it in all its worse features so as to be able to apply the proper remedy, we have voluntarily incurred the obligations & Justice demands the payment.

By proper economy, to make no appropriations but such as are absolutely required for the public weal create no more debt, cause your taxes to be collected promptly. The prospects of a return from some of the City's investments, the many avenues by rail roads & canals, leading into the interior of the Country, inviting to active exertion our merchants & business men, the great abundance of produce to come to market, the prospect of a profitable business in future, the rapid increase of wealth and population as a consequence, give hope of a better state of things in future.

I refer you to the reports of the different five Departments for matters of detail relating to their respective offices, any thing of interest will freely be communicated to you should it occur.

I remain very respectfully your Obt Servant

Samuel Brady Mayor

The Mayors communication was being read when Mr Pinkney moved that the further reading to be dispensed with and that a message be sent to the second Branch proposing to refer the same to a joint select committee.

On this motion the yeas & nays were called for by Mr Bender & resulted as follows.

Yeas Messrs President, Fenby, Myers, Ramsay, Fields Gorsuch, Hutton, Blakeney, DeLongfray, Hanson, Bradshaw Cole, Callum, Pinkney, J S Brown, Conovan, Snyder, J J Brown, Keyser Burns, Holter 21.

Nays Messrs Bender, Hack Peregoy 3. So the question was determined in the affirmative and Messrs Pinkney Peregoy & Fields were appointed on the part of this Branch

On motion of Mr Snyder the rules for the government of the First Branch of the last session were adopted for the government of this Branch.

On motion of Mr Keyser a message was sent to the second Branch, proposing the adoption of the joint rules of the last session for the government of the two branches until new rules are substituted.

Messrs Bender Keyser & Gorsuch were appointed a committee of elections.

Mr Gorsuch offered the following resolution which was read & adopted.

Resolved by the First Branch of the City Council of Baltimore, that the proprietors of the different news papers, published in this City or such persons as may be authorised by them to report the proceedings of this Branch (not to exceed one person for each paper) shall upon giving the president satisfactory assurances, that he or they are authorised by such proprietor or proprietors to report for such paper, be permitted to take seats within the bar of this chamber, convenient to the clerks table at any time during the session of the Council, excepting when the Two Branches are in convention, provided however the city shall incur no expense for desks or or other conveniences for their accomodation.

On motion of Mr J J Brown the Branch adjourned until Tomorrow afternoon at half past 3 o clock

By order Henry M Gray, Clerk pro Tem