

at any time within twelve months from the tenth day of March, eighteen hundred and sixty.

870*. They are authorized and empowered to endorse or guarantee the payment of the principal and interest on the first mortgage bonds of the Western Maryland Railroad Company to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in such manner and form as they the said mayor and city council may deem best; and the mayor and city council may exercise the authority hereby granted at any time hereafter, as they may deem proper.

871. They may levy upon the assessable property within the city by direct tax a sum not exceeding eight hundred thousand dollars annually, with full power by ordinances to collect the same for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the corporation, over and exclusive of all expenses, charges and sums of money which they are or shall be required by law to collect for other purposes.

872. They may extend the limits of direct taxation within the said city from time to time*as they shall deem it expedient so to do in any and every direction, and to any extent, within the limits of said city; *Provided*, that they shall not extend such limits of direct taxation over any square or part of a square of ground embraced within the streets of said city, unless there shall be upon every full square at least six dwelling or store houses completed and fit for occupation, nor to that portion of said city not laid out in streets.

873. The mayor and city council have power to provide by ordinance or otherwise for the prompt collection of taxes due the city, and have power to sell real estate, as well as personal property, for the payment of taxes.

874. Whenever it shall become necessary to sell any part or parcel of ground in the city of Baltimore, improved or unimproved, for the payment of any taxes, or assessment of any nature or kind whatever, levied or charged, the auditor shall first give thirty days' notice by advertisement published twice a week in two of the daily newspapers published in said city, that he will sell at public auction on the day in the said advertisement mentioned, which day of sale shall be after the expiration of thirty days' notice.