

File No. 12182 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Hon. J. Barry Mahool,  
Mayor of Baltimore.

Dear Sir:-

9833 You are, of course, aware of the controversy that has arisen over the proper construction of Chapter 715 of the Acts of 1910.

The Act, on its face, expressly provides that it shall take effect from the date of its passage, which was April 8th, 1910. The City Solicitor has, accordingly, ruled that, from and after the said April 8th, 1910, the City is only legally bound to pay at the rate of \$100.00 annually, instead of at the rate of \$150.00 annually, - the rate in force prior to the passage of the Act, for the board, care and treatment of insane City patients in State Hospitals for the Insane.

The Attorney General has, however, ruled that the Act in question was not to become operative until January 1st, 1911, and that the City was bound, therefore, to pay at the rate of \$150.00 annually for each insane City patient down to January 1st, 1911.

As a matter of fact, if the City adheres to the interpretation of the Act, as announced by the City Solicitor, the State Hospitals for the Insane will be greatly embarrassed financially, because the State appropriations for said Hospitals down to October 1st, 1910, were based upon the assumption that the City would pay down to that time for each City patient at the rate of \$150.00 annually.

From and after October 1st, 1910, provision was made in the appropriations to the Hospitals for the reduction of the amount from \$150.00 to \$100.00. Unless the City comes to the relief of the Hospitals by paying at the rate of \$150.00 annually from April 8th to October 1st, 1910, the Hospitals will be without sufficient funds to maintain the City patients. At the instance of the City Solicitor we submit the following proposition,-

If the City will pay for the City patients, at the rate of \$150.00 annually instead of \$100.00 annually, from April 8th down to October 1st, and at the rate of \$100.00 annually from October 1st down to January 1st, 1911, we hereby obligate ourselves to appear before the proper committees at the next session of the Legislature and to urge upon the members thereof, and the members of the Legislature, to refund to the City, as a debt due by the State to the City, an amount equal to the difference between the rate of \$150.00 annually and \$100.00 annually.