

of one per centum ; for the fifth year to said park at the rate of two per centum ; for the sixth year to said park tax at the rate of three per centum ; for the seventh year to said park tax at the rate of four per centum ; for the eighth year to said park tax at the rate of five per centum ; for the ninth year to said park tax at the rate of six per centum ; for the tenth year to said park tax at the rate of seven per centum ; for the eleventh year to said park tax at the rate of eight per centum, and thereafter to said park tax at the general rate of nine per centum each year, as now prescribed and regulated as aforesaid by said Sections 797-800, both inclusive, of Article 4, entitled "City of Baltimore," of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, or at such other rate or rates as may be hereafter prescribed by law ; provided, however, that the franchise or right so granted to the United Railway and Electric Company of Baltimore, its successor and assigns, in said roads, or any of them, may, in the discretion of the board of estimates, so far as the same may be now perpetual, be in perpetuity ; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to make perpetual, or to grant in perpetuity, any franchise or right whatsoever (as a franchise or right in perpetuity) which heretofore has not been owned or enjoyed by the said United Railways and Electric Company of Baltimore as and for a right perpetual, or franchise or right in perpetuity.

CHAP. 566

Manner of
paying park
tax.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in view of the fact that the beds or parts of the beds of said roads, or some of them, are now occupied by the United Railways and Electric Company of Baltimore, and its rights in such roadbeds, or parts of roadbeds, are proposed to be acquired by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the sole purpose of securing for the public the unconditional use thereof as public highways, the board of estimates is hereby authorized, in its discretion, after the acquisition of said roadbeds, or parts of roadbeds, by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, should the United Railways and Electric Company of Baltimore, its successor and assigns, apply for the franchise or right of using any of said roadbeds, or parts of roadbeds, for its railway lines, to fix the compensation, or compensations, to be paid therefor, without reference to any other application or applications for the same franchises or rights by any other person or corporation, and free from the obli-

Compensation
to be fixed
for franchise