

At 2 o'clock P. M. the Secretary of State appeared and delivered the following message from the Executive:

*To the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland:*

The Constitution of the State provides for the convening of your body once every two years and limits the time in which you are to remain in session to ninety days. It is, therefore, important for the Governor to present to you, early in the Session, such information concerning the condition of the State and such recommendations for your consideration as he may deem necessary and expedient. As the time is none too long to devote to studious and thoughtful consideration of the measures suggested by him, it is necessary that he present his information early, as no doubt much of your time will be consumed in discussion of matters originating among yourselves, as dictated by the experience of your members and such as your own personal judgment tells you is for the welfare of the State.

The Sessions of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1912 and 1914 were exceedingly fruitful of good results. They perhaps gave to the State more real constructive legislation than any of their predecessors, and there seems to be no reason to think that your present Session will not approach questions involving the welfare of the State in the same broad and patriotic spirit shown by your predecessors.

The last four years have seen a completion of many public enterprises and improvement in the administration of the State's institutions. It must be borne in mind that, with the increase of property and investment, a corresponding increase in maintenance and public expenses necessarily follows. Every bond issue, whether it be for the construction of roads or for the erection of an institution to take care of some of the State's charges, carries with it an obligation for future maintenance out of the current revenues of the State. This would also seem to follow in cases where private philanthropy has organized methods and plans for taking care of our unfortunates, and subsequently, as is not infrequently the case, comes to the State for aid.