

these sports fishing interests under sound conservation laws equitably administered, and there is no good reason why sport fishing should not flourish alongside of our necessary commercial fishing industry.

Not only is it fair to accord to those interested in sports fishing, hunting and trapping, every possible consideration but, from the standpoint of common sense and State and National income, it is abundantly justified. These lovers of the outdoors contribute enormously to the public treasury. This year 7,400,000 licenses have been taken out, an increase of 500,000 over last year. The Bureau of Fisheries estimates that the total revenue to the States for licenses in 1938 was \$10,220,000. Any investment of that size not only justifies but demands that the States do at least half as much for sportsmen as the sportsmen are doing for the States.

While these two major divisions of the State's natural resources naturally command our attention, in any discussion of conservation, we must not lose sight of (and this Administration has not lost sight of), the fact that a complete State Conservation program must consider many other phases of our physical assets and do everything possible to conserve them as well.

We have, for instance, the problem of restoring the woodlands of our State, which have been depleted to an extent where the State now imports a great percentage of its lumber needs and where users in the State must pay, I am informed, a freight bill of several millions of dollars a year, to bring to us lumber that might properly be grown here, and not only save this additional expense but furnish occupation for many hundreds of our people. I was very happy to be able to allot \$100,000 in our State budget for the purchase, improvement and development of Federal lands, parks and recreational areas.

At this point I might mention in passing that through the very splendid recognition by the State Insurance Commissioner, John B. Gontrum, of his responsibility as Fire Marshal of the State, Maryland has been awakened to the ever-present fire hazards that have worked such havoc in the forests of the Nation for many years.

The ideal conservation program gives due consideration to the elimination of shore and soil erosion, and in conjunction with the authorities of the University of Maryland, much work has been done and will continue to be done. Along this same general line is the problem of land uses, concerning which much has been said from time to time, but little done. Now, in cooperation with the Federal Government, experiments are being carried on in Kent County which when completed, and their findings made available for the other Counties of the State, will go far towards helping the farmer to utilize his land to better effect.

There is nothing that makes for improvement in any line as much as frank, open discussion of the problems, and if nothing else were gained by the controversy over conservation at the last session of the Legislature, this one benefit certainly materialized:—That many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of the residents of Maryland, who probably never previously had given any thought to conservation, were impelled to consider it and to acquaint themselves, in some degree at least, with the aims and purposes of conservation. I mention this now because I am thoroughly convinced that no matter how ably we may be able to handle the matter of conservation during our lifetime, very little lasting progress will have been made if we have not, at the same time, persuaded the younger generation to think definitely in like terms.