

the other conservation agencies which we have been discussing may not seem very direct upon first thought. There is, however, a very important relationship between the management of our water resources and our forest lands, and the use of our streams and rivers as the habitat and breeding ground for our sport and commercial fishes. The question of stream pollution through the drainage of mine waters is a serious problem in some areas. It seems quite clear that, in considering all these various matters affecting the conservation and protection of our natural resources, there is a close relationship between and among them. The greatest benefit will accrue from the coordinating activities now made possible under the new setup.

The Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources will have numerous functions, such as the conduct of topographic and other surveys and the preparation of various types of maps to meet specific needs. It will be its duty to study and report on the extent and character of the State's mineral and water resources, and the control, so far as practicable, of the use of surface and ground waters of the State, as well as the control and construction of reservoirs, dams, and any water-way obstructions. Through its subsidiary Bureau of Mines, it will be responsible for the inspection and safeguarding of mine operations. A final responsibility will be the recommendations for policies for the protection of the waterfront and waterways of the State against erosion.

One of the most important steps taken in connection with the creation of the Board of Natural Resources was the setting up of the Department of Research and Education, to exercise the functions of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and the Maryland Weather Service. Also, it is expected to develop a comprehensive research and educational program covering the natural resources of the State. In setting up this Department on an equal basis with the other Commissions and Agencies dealing with conservation and having representation on this Board, the very great importance of research and education in the field of conservation is recognized.

Information of the highest practical as well as scientific value has been accumulated as a result of the work of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory over a period of years. Under this new setup, it is expected that the marine investigations will be continued and expanded as means may be found available to support such a program. At the same time, it is expected that the research facilities and program of this newly-created Department will equally serve the needs of the Department of Game and Inland Fish with respect to the problems for which that Department may be seeking a solution. It is, of course, expected that the varied research activities of this Department will be coordinated with the research activities of our State institutions and with the agencies of the Federal Government.

This new Department of Research and Education is also charged with the very considerable responsibility of carrying out an educational program in the field of conservation. In the last analysis any permanent progress in conservation seems to depend upon an enlightened public opinion growing out of an understanding of conservation problems by the general public. The provision, therefore, of this new legislation for the establishment of a program of educational institutions and through other channels seems to be of paramount im-