

Following this, Hon. George L. Browning offered the following resolution, which was objected to by Mr. Houston, of Hampton. He stated that crab famines, such as at present, have come before, particularly in 1871. That for something like forty years sponge crabs have been caught at Hampton and apparently had no effect upon the number the following year. That the supply comes from the ocean. That it would mean the closing of ten crab factories in Hampton during the summer. He admitted, however, that if it was necessary to protect crabs; the sponge crab should be protected rather than the winter crab. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Be it resolved, That the Commissions of the States of Maryland and Virginia in joint meeting assembled, do earnestly recommend to the Legislatures of the respective States, to the end that the crab and crabbing interests of said States may be conserved, promoted and developed, the vital importance of enacting a law or laws to prevent the taking or having in one's possession the sponge crab at any time when the sponge upon the crab is apparent (the sponge being the eggs or the young crabs before they have been separated from the mother); the present Virginia cull laws, of course, not to be abrogated, but the suggested legislation being in line with cull laws and the rigid enforcement of such laws. And we further recommend that the Legislature of Maryland enact similar cull laws to those of Virginia and that both States enact concurrent legislation to the carrying out of the above suggestions."

Mr. Norris moved that a committee of four—two from each State—be appointed to draft legislation in accordance with this resolution and subsequent ones, in order to put the new concurrent laws into effect. It was further ordered that the chairman of each State name a committee to draft the new laws, whereupon Chairman Benson named Senator William F. Chesley and Delegate Thomas C. Hopkins, and Chairman Houston named Senator G. Walter Mapp and Robert O. Norris, Jr. The joint commission then adjourned as guests of Virginia at a luncheon served by the Chamberlin, covers being laid for twenty-five.

Promptly at 3 o'clock, the joint commission re-assembled for business. Senator Benson took the floor and congratulated the commission upon having agreed upon crab legislation, but stated that this was not near so important to Maryland as fish legislation. He reiterated the fact that they had come to Virginia by invitation and suggested that Virginia take