

3—The Somerset County Delegation advocated taking off fifteen days of the tonging season in the waters of that county, which makes the season begin on September 15th. This law was enacted.

4—The Legislature appropriated \$25,000 toward the building of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. This amount together with the \$15,000 which had been previously appropriated will be utilized in the erection of this laboratory at Solomons Island. Bids are now being submitted by contractors for the erection of this building, which is to be completed October 15, 1931.

In addition to the amount which the Legislature appropriated, the citizens of Calvert County have cooperated to a great extent by donating to the State the site on which the building is to be erected. Our colleges and universities as well as those of other States are commending the State for the steps taken toward studying the natural history of the resources of its waters.

The laboratory is designed to not only enlighten the public generally, but to be of material help to those engaged in the industries to make use of the scientific researches of the oyster, fish and crab in their business.

In connection with the laboratory, the Legislature set aside 1,000 acres of oyster ground in the upper part of Honga River to be used exclusively for experimental purposes. The Department this year will plant 25,000 bushels of shells on this area, which shows that the utilization of this ground is being made at once.

5—The return of oysters and clams in the Sinepuxent and Chincoteague Bays section of Worcester County, is hopefully anticipated by the citizens of that county and the State in general, due to the fact that provisions were made through a bond issue for the cutting of an inlet near Ocean City between the Sinepuxent Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

When these waters are properly salted, the production of oysters, crabs and clams will be greatly augmented.

Along with this legislation, and dependent upon the cutting of the inlet, are local laws bringing the waters of Worcester County under the general laws of the State insofar as oystering is concerned, as heretofore the oyster laws pertained only to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

There was also an oyster cultural law for the waters of the Chincoteague and Sinepuxent Bays and tributary waters to encourage private planting. The law provides that any person in the State may acquire as much as fifty acres of ground for the purpose of private planting after the time limit has expired on certain priority rights.

Priority rights, for a period of thirty days, are given to any bona fide owner or occupant of a planted area in any of the waters, who is able to prove satisfactorily to the Conservation Department such ownership or occupancy or right of claim invested in him prior to March 15, 1931.

For the next thirty days, priority rights are given to the residents of Worcester County and after that any resident of the State may apply.

These applications are not subject to protest insofar as natural oyster bars are concerned as it is conceded that there have not been any natural oyster bars in these waters for a period of twenty years.

In connection with the inlet, there were also certain clam laws passed covering the waters of Worcester County in which an inspection tax was placed on all clams taken from these waters. The clam industry is expected to jump to heights of former productivity when an inlet was naturally opened in 1920.

The revenue received from these various activities will go toward the expense of defraying the interest on the bonds to be sold in con-