

The Haman Oyster Law, and I want to go on record as opposing the passage of that or any similar Act for the following reasons.

First. I have presented to this House from my county petitions signed by over one thousand residents, asking me to oppose the passage of the Haman bill or any similar measure, and prior to the election, I pledged myself in this and all other matters of legislation to advocate my constituency's expressed wishes and not my own or the Baltimore Sun's or any other special interests, desires or demands.

Second. Because the advocates of partition and leasing of the bay do not come here with clean hands in demanding that the watermen of the Chesapeake surrender what, from time immemorial has been in undisputed and undivided possession of any and all residents of the State of Maryland, who chose to follow the water as a means of gaining livelihood.

The watermen have a well defined and well grounded fear. They fear monopolistic control of what now and ever has been public domain. The free born, liberty-loving and liberty enjoying watermen of the Chesapeake refuse to invite similar conditions in their vocation, that to-day exists in the hills of Western Maryland, where corporations controlling nature's lavish supply of fuel, depress the price of labor and force on large numbers of our fellow men, conditions under which no human being should be compelled to exist, and while depressing the price paid honest labor, they, at the same time, compel the consumers to pay outrageously extravagant and extortionate prices for this monopoly controlled natural gift of the Creator. The watchmen of the Chesapeake say to us in these Legislative Halls; show us your good faith and power to prevent monopoly by abolishing this coal monopoly before you ask us to surrender to similar conditions, our free rights of fishing.

And the coal monopoly is not the only, or most exacting monopoly under the control of this State's Legislature and Courts. The gas, electric light, street car and other public service monopolies in our chief city and the railroads, the great public highways of the