

direction the purchasing of \$5,000,000 or more of merchandise each year is being accomplished through business-like methods followed in other progressive States as well as in modern business. It is estimated that an average saving of 10% has been effected by the State's new system of centralized purchasing.

The activities of the State Purchasing Bureau were broadened considerably during 1939 through the \$100,000 revolving fund under which the Bureau operates. Virtually all food supplies now are being bought on specifications and tests rather than by brands, in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

In addition to its cooperative work with the insurance companies operating in Maryland, the State Insurance Department has taken seriously its obligation under the law to "head up" the State's efforts towards the elimination of fires and fire hazards.

During the year more than 100 public buildings, and buildings used for public purposes, were examined for fire hazards, and in many cases recommendations were made regarding the elimination of hazards, which recommendations now are being carried out.

The Department has prepared a complete code of regulations governing the manufacture, sale, use and transportation of explosive materials, including fireworks, in the State, as well as pertaining to fire escapes, flammable liquids, gasoline, etc., and governing dry-cleaning establishments.

The cooperation of the volunteer firemen of the State has been sought and never to be made available for agricultural purposes.

obtained by the Department for the regular inspection of public buildings, and buildings used for public purposes, throughout the State. A school for fire marshals was held at the University of Maryland, as a result of which seven special Deputy Fire Marshals were named, and others will be named in every county of the State. In its fire prevention work, the Department is receiving the active support of the leaders of the 12,000 volunteer firemen of the State.

The Department also is developing a plan of education in fire prevention, in cooperation with the public schools of the State and the volunteer fire organizations. During 1939 more than 15,000 booklets on fire prevention were distributed throughout the public schools.

law providing for individual studies of prisoners and coordination of work

During the year our State inaugurated a real parole system, under a new among the parole department, the penal institutions, and law-enforcing agencies. Under another capable appointee, Herman M. Moser, this new set-up is now functioning very satisfactorily.

Maryland's farmers fared well as a result of legislation passed during the past year. \$125,000 per year was provided for eradication of Bangs Disease, as well as \$40,000 per year for Japanese Beetle Control. Increased funds were made available also for control of Bee Disease, Strawberry Disease, Tobacco Disease, and Poultry Disease, as well as for enforcement of the Fresh Egg Law, the sum total of these deserved appropriations being the largest amount ever to be made available for agriculture purposes.

Labor legislation of the most constructive sort was enacted into statute during the twelve months. The office of the Commissioner of Labor and Statistics was greatly improved in set-up, and there is now a full-time official for the performance of these important duties. The result is that, under John M. Pohlhaus, whom I appointed, employers and employees alike are guaranteed