

CONOCOCHIEAGUE SPORTSMENS' CLUB

April 4, 1940

Hagerstown

COMING to Hagerstown seems to be getting quite a habit with me, but I hope you will believe me when I tell you that it has been a real pleasure to look forward to this gathering, and to the opportunity to renew acquaintance with many of my sportsmen friends of Western Maryland and surrounding States.

Your group has a long and honorable history, and its efforts along the lines of conservation and general betterment of game and fishing in your section are widely known and thoroughly appreciated. Through a quarter of a century that has seen a great change in attitude on the part of our people towards these most important problems, you have continued to make steady advancement, and now with your recently acquired tract along the Potomac, you have in prospect as fine a home as any sportsmens' organization could desire. Undoubtedly, you are all looking forward to the completion in May of your new club house. Certainly it should be a splendid additional attraction for your club members, and I am sure it will bring to you many years of enjoyment.

Along with the efforts that have been made, and are continuing to be made, by such organizations as yours towards the protection of the interests of our fishermen and hunters, I believe it would be in order to give deserved praise to the State Game and Inland Fish Commission, which as the State's representative is working hand in glove with such organizations as yours. Garner W. Denmead, Chairman, is a genuine sportsman, genuinely interested in betterment of conditions affecting both the fisherman and hunter.

In Fulcher P. Smith, and James H. Gambrell, Jr., both of Western Maryland, along with S. Scott Beck, Jr., of the Eastern Shore, and A. Gordon Fleet, of Anne Arundel County, we have a Commission that can be depended upon to safe-guard both the State's and your interests. With E. Lee LéCompte, State Game Warden; Frank L. Bentz, Chief Clerk; and the other executive personnel of the Commission, Mr. Denmead and his colleagues are backed up by an intelligent, far-sighted working group whose members are fully acquainted with hunting and fishing problems, and fully qualified by knowledge and long experience to help solve them successfully.

There are so many phases that one might consider in seeking to evaluate the work of the State Game and Inland Fish Commission that I could talk for quite a long while without exhausting the subject. Probably it would exhaust you, however, and I won't do it. It seems to me desirable, though, to call to your attention just a few things being done by the Commission most successfully, in your interests and in the interests of all the sportsmen, and of all the people of Maryland.

A splendid idea was the formation of a County Advisory Council in each of the counties of the State, to work with the Commission and to supplement its efforts. There is no other way that I know of that could so fully enlist wide-spread cooperation in all of our twenty-three counties as this. These Councils, composed of farmers and others interested in forestry, wildlife, and the outdoors generally, bring to the aid of the Commission a broadened, intelligent point of view that will be most helpful not only in solving the problems