

worth. That the improvements noted above are winning favor with sportsmen generally is evidenced by the fact that receipts of anglers' licenses have increased from \$19,000 in 1935 to more than \$29,000 in 1939.

During 1939 the Commission distributed some 25,000 pieces of game in the covers of Maryland for propagation purposes, the great majority of which were raised in State-owned propagation plants. I understand at least that amount is available again for this year.

All this, I might say, is directly in line with the principles that have guided the present State Administration in every matter affecting conservation. While there has always been, and no doubt always will be, a difference of opinion as to how best to handle conservation matters, it was our firm belief that betterment would be effected if we had the two divergent groups of the State, the sportsmen and the commercial fishermen, each concentrating on its own problems. To date, this separation seems to have worked out well in the upland game and inland fish, as it certainly has worked out splendidly in matters affecting tidewater interests.

Without question, the past season was one of the best the oystermen of Maryland have ever enjoyed, and a great part of the credit must be accorded to the three-man Conservation Commission, headed by Edwin Warfield, Jr. Not only did they make a deep study of the problems facing them and bring to the solution of these problems expert and well considered judgment, but they backed up their judgment and their decisions by a strict enforcement of the law, all with the most beneficial results.

The effect of their work was noted to some extent at the end of the crabbing season last year, but it will be even more apparent this year. Their insistence upon the observance of the three-inch law eliminated much of the dreadful waste that had marked Maryland's crab production in recent years. Thus, it is expected that there will be many more crabs available this year, and the continued strict enforcement of the three-inch law will assure an increasing supply in years to come. At the same time, through cooperation with our sister State of Virginia, it has been possible to initiate moves for uniform legislation with respect to oysters, crabs and shad, particularly, that cannot but be exceedingly beneficial to both States in years to come. As an instance of this cooperation, I mention the fact, noted in the papers of several days ago, that the Virginia Legislature has passed a law forbidding scraping for crabs from power boats. This conforms to the Maryland law, which was strictly enforced last year for the first time, and removes a basis of dissension among our Maryland crabbers, who felt that they were being discriminated against in favor of the Virginians.

I could go on at much greater length, reciting the many things that have been accomplished to assure the protection and development of our fish and game resources. However, the few instances noted are significant of what can be, and is being done, and I believe indicate clearly that Maryland's water and game resources are now in capable hands.

It is well to note here, too, that along with this continued improvement in conditions among our natural resources, the story of our State's great natural advantages will be presented intelligently to the people of the Country by the Maryland State Publicity Commission, now functioning actively. The Commission's efforts will not only give favorable publicity to Maryland's seafood, and thus open up wider markets for it, but also will acquaint thousands of