

for the protection of some 4,000,000 trees along the streets and highways throughout the State.

The relationship between the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources and some aspects of the work of the other conservation agencies which we have been discussing may not seem very direct to all persons. There is, however, a very important relationship between the management of our water resources and our forest lands and also the use of our streams and rivers as the habitat and breeding ground for our sport and commercial fishes. The question of stream pollution through the drainage of mine waters is a serious problem in some areas. It seems quite clear that, in considering all these various matters affecting the conservation and protection of our natural resources, there is a close relationship between and among them. The greatest benefit will accrue from the coordinating activities which are perhaps the chief function of this Board.

One of the most important steps taken in connection with the creation of this Board of Natural Resources is the setting up of the Department of Research and Education to exercise the present functions of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and the Maryland Weather Service. Also, it is expected to develop a comprehensive research and educational program covering the natural resources of the State. In setting up this Department on an equal basis with the other Commissions and agencies dealing with conservation and having representation on this Board, the very great importance of research and education in the field of conservation is recognized.

Information of the highest practical as well as scientific value has been accumulated as a result of the work of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory over a period of years. Under this new setup, it is expected that the marine investigations will be continued and expanded as means may be found available to support such a program. At the same time, it is expected that the research facilities and program of this newly created Department will equally serve the needs of the Department of Game and Inland Fish with respect to the problems for which that Department may be seeking a solution. It is of course, expected that the varied research activities of this Department will be coordinated with the research activities of our State institutions and with the agencies of the Federal Government.

Well-informed citizens are aware of the marked strides which have been made in the field of agriculture during our time as a result of the vast program of research and investigation which has been conducted for many years by State and Federal agencies. The practical application of the facts developed by these research programs has literally revolutionized our American agriculture. Does it not seem possible that an expanded research program might pay rich dividends if applied to the water resources of this State? I mean research directed to the finding of the answers to practical problems rather than in the field of abstract science.

This new Department of Research and Education is also charged with the very considerable responsibility of carrying out an educational program in the field of conservation. In the last analysis any permanent progress in conserva-