

The program in vocational work, in agriculture, home economics, and industrial education was expanded and a definite program of safety education has been carried on among the school children, the bus drivers, and other persons connected with the safety of our children.

In fulfillment of my campaign promise to allow no outside consideration to govern the selection of members of the State Board of Education, the one appointment I had the opportunity of making during the year resulted in retaining the valuable services of Chairman Tasker G. Lowndes. The fact that he is a Republican did not deter me from appointing him.

It is doubtful whether any single change affecting the legislative branch of the government has been made in Maryland comparable to the creation this year of the Legislative Council. Heretofore in the long intervals between the biennial sessions of the General Assembly no active work was done by the members of the Legislature.

Now, through this mechanism of the Legislative Council, there is functioning a well-selected group from both houses of the General Assembly, representing both parties and giving continuing attention, between sessions of the Legislature, to the various important questions eventually to come before the Legislature.

Incidentally, the Council held one of its regular meetings today in Annapolis and will continue regularly hereafter, with the result that, when the Legislature meets in session next year, there will be ready a definite program already passed upon by the "key" members of the General Assembly and there will have been discarded many of the questions which otherwise would engage the attention of the whole body. Time will be saved, money will be saved and the character of legislation will be improved as a result of this innovation in Maryland's legislative system.

In the very important matter of Conservation, it is possible to report definite progress. The Conservation Commission has clearly demonstrated its ability to improve conditions affecting the commercial fisheries of the State, and already has been instrumental in bringing about betterment both in the crab and oyster industries by a strict enforcement of the law. Conditions among the oystermen of the State, as a result of the Commission's activities, have been better this season than for many years, and the well-conceived and comprehensive program upon which the Commission is launched would seem to guarantee further advancement.

The State Game and Inland Fish Commission has developed a splendid program to increase the supply of game and fish for the sportsmen of our State. Among other things, nine wildlife sanctuaries or game refuges, have been established, where the wild-life will have an opportunity to propagate free of molestation.

A forward-looking move by the Conservation Commission, looking to joint action with the Conservation authorities of Virginia and North Carolina, is underway, and ultimately should benefit the State in many ways. One very important matter to be undertaken jointly is the restoration of the Chesapeake shad fishery.

Reflecting the thought that has been given to the problem of restoring the woodlands of our State, the sum of \$100,000 was allotted in our State Budget for the purpose of improving and developing forest preserves, parks, and recreational areas.