

But that is not all, because they find that Maryland people in the tidewater counties are almost unanimously in favor of my proposal they have repeatedly asserted that these people are politicians, who are indifferent to preserving the State's natural resources. For my part, having the high regard for the people of the tidewater counties that I do, I should prefer to believe that these citizens are just as public-spirited and just as jealous for the preservation and safeguarding of Maryland's possessions as is the Editor of the Baltimore Evening Sun.

While one in a position such as mine desires to have the approval of all interests, I really don't think their opposition is to be worried about. Certainly it is not important enough for me to refrain from doing my duty in order to secure it.

Few States in the country have a more diversified patrimony than Maryland has enjoyed. Not only have we the great wealth of sea products to be found in our vast tidewater areas, but we have in addition hundreds of miles of fresh water streams teeming with fish for the sportsmen; we have our upland areas replete with wild life for the huntsman; we have present and potential forest wealth whose future importance to our State can hardly be overestimated; and in the mountainous western sections of the State, we have areas of once-great importance that now present problems of pressing moment.

Unfortunately, the conditions of these various divisions of our natural resources today are not at all satisfactory and the reason therefor is not far to seek. In the past we have had these natural benefits in such great abundance that they seemed almost inexhaustible, and very few among our citizens and public officials have invoked measures to guard this great wealth, and to insure its continuance on the grand scale to which we have been accustomed to regard it. The result is that today we find our sea-food resources depleted and rapidly getting worse; our inland fish and game enjoying a limited amount of protection, but certainly not under the best regulation that could be provided; and our other natural resources no better.

Faced with the drear prospect of ultimate loss of our once-sacred heritage an aroused citizenry has been making known its wishes these past few years, that something be done about it all, done quickly, and done properly. And in my campaign for election to this high office of the Governorship, I very properly made the matter of Conservation one of great importance, and I promised to see that something was done about it, done quickly and effectively.

As an instance of my attitude towards one phase of the problem, let me quote from a public letter I sent on April 11, 1939, to Mr. J. Wesley Kelley, Secretary of the Western Maryland Outdoor Life Federation. "I am absolutely in favor of the separation of Chesapeake Bay conservation matters from those pertaining to inland fisheries. It is my sincere belief that in order to restore this important activity of our State to the high place it merits, the Governor of Maryland should establish as a State policy the separate handling of tidewater questions from those of inland fisheries."

The matter of Conservation was uppermost in my mind when I conceived the idea of appointing the Commission of which Dr. Bowman was Chairman. So many ideas have been advanced from time to time with regard to the many phases of conservation—most of them from organizations and persons who unquestionably have only the best interests of the State at heart—but all of them differing in many essential fundamentals, that I welcomed an opportunity