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ND OYSTER LAW.

Proposed by the Shellh Commission at the Next Legislature.

Important ammendments to the Haman law, most of them for the direct benefit of the oystermen, are proposed in the report of the Maryland Shellfish Commission recently issued. It is proposed that the present limitation of oyster-planting areas which may be leased to 10 acres for tonging and 100 acres for dredging be increased to 30 and 500 acres, respectively. This, in the opinion of the commission, is necessary to enable the planters to make a profit. They have found that the initial expense of oyster culture is too large for the present areas. Other amendments to the law proposed for the benefit of the oystermen are that to allow the owner of a lease to dredge on his own grounds under certain restrictions designed to protect the natural bars, and that to allow the holders of leased ground to procure seed oysters from certain of the natural bars.

It is also suggested by the commission that the rentals be reduced from the present rates which progress annually from the minimun of $1 until the maximum of $5 shall have been reached—for a period of five years—to a flat rental of $1 an acre per annum to continue from April 1, 1912, to April 1, 1918. Owing to the extent of ground unleased by Maryland oystermen, the commission proposes that the section of the law forbidding leasing to non-residents of the state be amended to allow leasing to non-residents provided the ground applied for has not been leased by Maryland oystermen within two years of the date of its opening.

The commission foresees the possibility of oyster planting in sections tainted by sewage and at this time, before such planting has taken place and while there are no property rights involved it asks that the law be amended, giving the leasing of lots by the State Board subject to the approval of State Board of Health. One other important amendment is suggested by the commission: that provision be made for the collection of rentals. Under the present law there is no way to enforce collection, the only penalty for non-payment being that at the end of six months the lease may be declared void and the lot leased again.

Let our oystermen study these amendments and see if they are what they want.

Get To The

Chestertown Learning

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Willington Items.

Christmas day passed quietly, e one, young and old, seemed happy and prosperous, good dinners and cheer were the order of the day.

Religious services were held at the P. E. Church in the evening conducted by the rector, Rev. Mr. Birnbach.

Mr. Radewsky has had his name changed by the order of the court, to Radnor.

Among the young folks who are attending colleges and schools elsewhere we noticed home for the holidays: Messrs. Pippin, Ahern, Numbers, Tonkin, Jacobs and Spear.

Mrs. Disharoon gave a party Monday evening in honor of her sister, Miss Jones, from Philadelphia. Among the number present were: Misses Spear, Lockerman, Numbers and others. Music was the order of the evening.

Mr. Thos. Harris, the town bailiff, met with a severe accident Sunday evening injuring his leg in such a manner as to incapacitate him from attending to his duties. He has the sympathy of the community.

Mr. Wm. Collins, of Chestertown, Md., spent Christmas with Mr. F. Collins.

Dr. Jacobs' family took Christmas dinner with Mrs. Jacobs' father in Townsend, Del.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford, Miss Evelyn Rolph, and Mr. Jarrell spent part of the week with relatives in town.

Miss Julia Cacy has moved from part of Mrs. B. M. Hazel's property to Mrs. Loper's on Main street.

Miss Mary Hazel returned from New York last Saturday.

Mr. Wm. Palmatory has moved from the Emerson House to Massey, Md.

Mrs. Whitington spent last week with her son in Wilmington, Del.

Mr. Ford Phillips and family spent part of the week with Mr. B. F. Vansant.

Mr. and Mrs. James Vansant are in Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Dr. Brice has returned to her home after being at Rock Hall for some weeks.

Mrs. Scott Roberts spent part of last week with Miss Annie Power.

Miss Virginia Johnson has secured a position as preceptress in St. Agnes Seminary, Georgetown, D. C.

Miss Helen Secil, has returned to her home in Denton, Md.

The M. E. Church held exercises, and also gave the Sunday school scholar evening, December 27.

The M. E. Chu rch gat to the little ones Wedn sday

Wednesday ev ning L in the Southern Meth dist Cy Rev. Mr. Rood, Mr. harry d Miss Lula Benton we e mar

Mr. and Mrs. Lucey spent Christmas with Mr. eson, Mrs. Massey's mother.

Mrs. Hibbard is wi ister, Mrs. Lockerman.

Miss Helen St d from lphia.

GTON L. SPARKS

Christmas Gift Suggestions!

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