

EARLE REPORTS DEPLETION OF OYSTERS OVER

Cites Benefits From Planting Shells

Svepson Earle, State Conservation Commissioner, expressed the opinion in his annual report, just released, that depletion of oyster beds in the Chesapeake Bay tributaries has been stemmed by the planting of shells on the natural bars.

Maryland is still the leading oyster-producing State despite the tremendous drop in production here, he said.

Cites Constructive Work
The planting of shells in large quantities is the most constructive work the department has done, particularly in bay tributaries, where the supply of oysters in recent years has been kept stable, the report asserts.

Unfortunately, Earle asserts, the depletion of oyster beds continued for so great a period of years that "it is hardly possible to hope that the natural bars, even with the most extensive planting of shells and seed oysters, could ever again be expected to produce the crops that were harvested in the eighties and nineties of the last century."

Production Reduced
He stated that records show there was an annual yield in the 1880's of 15,000,000 bushels a year from Maryland waters. The 1933-34 production was 1,804,522 bushels.

"Notwithstanding the fact that each of our annual reports has carried warnings of the growing depletion of the State's natural oyster beds and each Legislature has been petitioned for remedial legislation, the great majority of our citizens have just awakened to the seriousness of the situation," Earle's report states.

Fewer Boats Employed
The number of persons and boats employed in the oyster industry has declined as the beds were stripped of the bivalves, it was said. In 1913, when Maryland produced approximately twenty-two per cent. of all the oysters marketed in the United States, there were 11,461 persons and 4,275 boats employed. In the 1933-34 season 6,536 persons and 2,246 boats were used.

The crab supply in Maryland waters showed an appalling drop in the last season principally due to restriction of the law by Virginia protecting egg-bearing crabs, the report asserts. When this act was passed in 1928 the production of hard crabs in Maryland was 160,775 barrels. By 1931 it had gone up to 296,038 barrels. Fearing overproduction, the Virginia Assembly repealed the protective law with the result that in 1934 production in Maryland dropped to 116,403 barrels, it was said.

One Bright Spot
The one bright spot in the crab situation is the great increase in the inland bays of Worcester county since the creation of the inlet by the storm of 1933. Sponge crabs, or the egg layers, will be properly protected in this 60,000 acres of water adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, Earle said.

The commissioner recommended that shell planting in oyster beds be continued "on as large a scale as the budget will permit", that the seed-oyster area at the head of the bay be enlarged and that private planting be permitted on certain areas in the Chesapeake Bay to increase production.

No legislation is recommended for preservation of crabs, but investigations were said to be under way which will result in recommendations later. It was suggested that destructive types of fishing gear be outlawed and the number of nets curtailed so that fish may have a better chance of reaching their spawning grounds. Striped bass should be protected, it was said, and elimination of pollution from the upper Potomac river, so that it may be stocked with fish, "is of the utmost importance."

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OPEN FORUM

WE NEED HONEST ACTION—NOT ARTFUL DELAY

by H. P. Brown

Thanks to the final awakening of Maryland's citizenry, apart from the gigantic political machine, built up for purposes of control under the direction of contemptuous arrogance for the past fifteen years, we plain citizens of honest purpose and rights to enjoy the privileges given by the light of Heaven, have at last a Governor who will help the men and women under the age of retirement who, loving Maryland, intend to work in Maryland and make their home in Maryland for the productive benefit of Maryland's development.

We need our Governor's help this very day from the appointment of, or instruction to, a Public Service Commission which will serve the People before any special political or private interest which selfishly pleads for undue favor.

We need our Governor's help that the truly best interest of our oyster tongs may be honestly preserved and protected against the selfishness of any buyer, packer, dredger or political drones and schemers.

We need our Governor's watchful eye in front of his determined purpose for proper road improvement and repair, under the authority of honestly conscientious men free from the loose practices of much political subordinates as those who regard larceny merely their perquisite.

We need our Governor's intelligent direction in the early establishment of an efficient, conveniently frequent and far less costly transportation service across our bay from Eastern to Western Maryland, since it is high time that Maryland shall again become as united as are our States today for the purposes of development, as human needs require within Maryland.

We need our Governor's co-operative assistance in the establishment of proper and very co-operative associations upon practical working lines to honestly and conveniently market our products to the best advantage of the farmer and waterman; and also, to honestly furnish co-operative producers with cheaper necessities, such as feed, fertilizers, seed, equipment, mules, coal, oil, supplies for repairs and transportation.

We need the determination of our Governor that greed may be checked, fair trade may be fostered and private enterprise upheld upon the line of progress and of justice in a fairer division of a total reward, called price.

We need the fulfillment of our Governor's honest purpose to grant the people of Maryland a statement of their affairs in every department of their government, after same has been approved and furnished by an honest, entirely unumuzzed, and efficient Auditor at frequent intervals. The list of all we need, for a more satisfactory management of State affairs, would perhaps be of too great length for just now; but, it is up to your Governor now, and up to the General Assembly to support his honest purpose, that such satisfaction of

the foregoing needs may be accomplished as we all well know that this is not only possible, but proper and wise.

The question now is, when will every decent family in Maryland be able to enjoy the relief, from antiquated inefficiency, by universal electrical services; by convenient and cheaper transportation facilities in crossing Chesapeake Bay; by more satisfactorily managed road building and upkeep; by wiser oyster conservation and marketing policy; by farmers and watermen's co-operatives; by fairly compensated volunteer fire companies; by a decent regard for every citizen of honest purpose, who may not have interest in any mean purposes of a political machine.

Every citizen and taxpayer has the right to expectantly gain considerable courtesy and conscientious response from his elected and appointed trustees in office.

Barrell Home Is Wrecked By Fire

Loss Estimated At Over \$30,000

The Barre Hills home of L. Wethered Barrell, Baltimore, attorney and socialite, was destroyed by a spectacular fire last Thursday, with a loss estimated at more than \$30,000.

None of the members of the Barrell family was home when the fire was discovered by a maid, May Thomas, who called neighbors. They summoned fire apparatus from Towson and Pikesville.

Before arrival of the fire fighting equipment, neighbors called by Mrs. Maurice Rodgers carried out most of the furniture on the first floor, but the furnishings in the upper floors were destroyed with the building.

The fire was discovered by the maid in the attic of the house, and members of the family were unable to explain its origin.

Firemen had difficulty in reaching the house, which is about three-quarters of a mile off the Falls road, because of the snow-covered roads, and then they had trouble in laying their hoses to a source of water supply.

Mr. Barrell, who was called from his office in Baltimore, reached his home after it was smoldering ruins. He said the structure itself was valued at \$30,000 but could not estimate the loss entailed in destruction of the furniture.

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JOHN M. LORD

Always, we are told, the bitter must be mixed with the sweet, and we've certainly had a very impressive example of that old maxim. Last Wednesday night the Flying Pentagon completely routed the scholars of Swarthmore 40-21; from the very opening whistle the Sho'men showed a marked superiority by scoring a number of baskets at any time they so desired. Swarthmore had a game team that was just too slow and inexperienced to present much opposition for the Kiblermen. Salter and Horowitz again thrilled the crowd with their graceful and spectacular shots, they displayed a brand of play that caused some of the older spectators to recall the days of the original state championship Flying Pentagon. The entire varsity squad saw service in the game and all performed creditably—enjoying quite a scoring spree in the closing minutes. Jay Spry, Sophomore manager, was just getting into uniform as the final whistle sounded.

Alas! What a different story Saturday night. The Blue Jays of Johns Hopkins University came to the local Armory with the spirit of 'do or die' revenge in their hearts. And they DID in a big way! Still burning from their defeat at our hands during the football season and our triumph over them earlier in the basketball season they were determined to give us a trouncing. Starting early in the game with a fast and accurate offensive, both inside and out, they took the lead and held it for the remainder of the game.

Hopkins, playing very aggressively, surprised the Sho'men by presenting a fast, rough attack that was baffling to our defense. The Maroons were slow in getting underway and when they did find themselves the Blue Jays had a comfortable lead which they could not be forced to relinquish. The Monday morning breakfast table commentators attribute our loss to two causes, namely, we were outfought and we had an off night. There is much truth in both reasons; time and again Washington shots for the basket rolled around the rim only to fall into the waiting hands of a Hopkins man, and, we seemed unable to resist our quick stimulated play of the inspired Blue Jays.

Saturday night brings another home game after the contest with Mount Saint Mary's at Emmitsburg

HILL HAPPENINGS

Friday night. The Mud Hens of the University of Delaware engage the Sho'men at the Armory, and here's one very confident vote that we'll show a 100 per cent improvement in fight and spirit and we'll BEAT DELAWARE.

Our friends in the town are certainly missing some entertaining assembly programs when they fail to join us at 11:30 A. M. every Thursday. Last Thursday the Mt. Vernon Literary Society, in pinch hitting for an absent assembly speaker, presented a program not quite so literary. Larry Williams sang three very pleasing baritone selections. Vincent Brandolini, the Washington Rachtmanoff, played a well executed number of Chopins. Vinny then joined with "Drumstick" Kosovsky and "Slapper" Jarrell in forming a trio of piano, bass-viol, and drums, and played some very entertaining and novel, even unique, arrangements of popular music.

The Fraternity boys are speaking to each other once again and actually seem quite friendly. The reason, pledging season is now over and a new Freshman class won't enter until September. I am glad to say that, in my opinion, interfraternal relations are on the up—a better spirit of fellowship is being manifested on the campus. Orchids to the Fraters.

Several men have recently been elected to positions of trust and responsibility on the campus. Emerson Slacum, of Cambridge, has been chosen President of the Y. M. C. A.—which has just gone through a gratifying renaissance and will, I am sure, continue to progress under President Slacum. Marvin H. Smith of Federalsburg has been chosen to represent the Sophomore class, and Pig Alley, on the Student Council. Incidentally, "Boss" Reddish is making his political strength felt on the hill.

Bon Voyage—Leader of men!
The Silver Pentagon hopes that it may soon have the pleasure of announcing to the world that it has become a Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national honorary fraternity. A great step forward both for the college and the society.

MRS. GEORGE N. COOPER BETTER AFTER OPERATION FOR APPENDICITIS AT EASTON

We are glad to hear Mrs. George N. Cooper who was operated on for appendicitis in Easton Hospital Monday morning is doing nicely.

Mrs. Margaret Dwyer has returned from a visit with relatives in Baltimore.

Mr. Ford Matthews, of Clarendon, Va., is the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Matthews.

Mrs. Sara Rash, of Chestertown, is visiting Mr. B. F. Rash and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ford, of Chestertown, spent Sunday with Mrs. Blanche Loller.

Mr. Lawrence Lee, of Wilmington, spent last week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Lee.

Mr. John Burris who was not so well last week is much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dwyer entertained Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ford, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Moffett at cards Saturday evening.

Mr. C. R. Rasin is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Horsey, of Betterton.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams entertained a few friends at cards Saturday evening.

Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Medford Green and family, of near Church Hill.

Mr. George Rasin visited his mother, Mrs. Henrietta Rasin at Aberdeen Tuesday.

WHERE'S ELMER?
ON, YOU MIGHT KNOW—TELEPHONING SEE HIM, OVER THERE?
HE'S inviting his sweetie to go in town to the movies.
Elmer was pretty tickled when Pa put in a telephone.
It makes things rather soft for him, seeing that sweetie lives five miles away.
And does he use that telephone?
Someday someone will write an epic about young love and the telephone.
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