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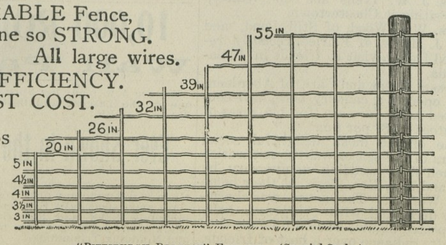
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TERMS OF HAMAN BILL.

The Haman Oyster bill as it passed the Legislature on Monday was amended in the following particulars :

Instead of one Shell Fish Commissioner at a salary of $5,000 a year there are to be three. They are to be appointed by the Governor, one from the Eastern Shore, one from the counties of the Western Shore and one from Baltimore city. One is to be designated as chief commissioner. He is to have $2,500 a year. The other two are to have $2,000 a year each. They are to be appointed for two years from the first Monday in May succeeding their appointment. One of these commissioners is to belong to the minority party and to be selected by the party committee. There is to be a chief clerk at $1,200 a year and not more than six assistants at not more than $1000 a year. Two of these are to belong to the minority party to be selected by the party committee.

The next amendment gives to boatmen actually engaged in tonging, dredging or scraping at the time of the passage of the act, who take up land under its provisions, such land free of rentals for three years. This amendment it is claimed by some will greatly help the operations of the bill, as it will tend to make boatmen engage in oyster planting and that will cause them to reject the right of private ownership of planters.

THE VITAL POINT.

The succeeding amendment is the important one, for upon its construction depends the question whether the tributaries of the bay—the navigable rivers—are included in the oyster area which can be leased. The wording of this amendment is as follows :

"Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall apply to the lands lying under the waters of Talbot county."

Then follow other amendments in nearly the same words, providing that the act or bill shall not apply to the lands under the waters of Somerset, Anne Arundel, Wicomico. St. Mary's, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, Calvert, Kent or Charles counties.

No one seems to know exactly what waters are included in the several counties. If Calvert county extends only to the margin of the Patuxent on one side and St. Mary's only to the margin on the other side, for instance, then that would seem to leave the Patuxent open to oyster planting, and so with the other larger rivers which divide various counties, such as the Choptank, the Chester, Pocomoke, etc. If the boundaries go to the margin only, then it would seem that the people have the greater part of the area included in the original Haman bill and have won a great triumph, instead of a defeat. Even if this is not so, the bay, with its various indentations along the shore, will afford a vast area for successful oyster farming.

IMPORTANT SECTION OF BILL.

The bill provides :

"Any bona fide resident of Maryland shall have the right to plant and cultivate oysters in the waters of this State, but no corporation or joint stock company shall be permitted to lease or take up, or to acquire by assignment or otherwise, any lands of the State for oyster planting or cultivation.

"All natural beds or bars shall be excluded from the operation of this act, and no person shall be permitted to plant or cultivate oysters thereupon, or in any way to appropriate the same to his own use. Tee term natural bed or bar, whenever the same may be used in this act, is intended to apply to all land where oysters grow naturally in such quantities as to justify a person or persons in resorting to it regularly for a livelihood."

The cost of administering the law is to be paid out of the Treasury of the State.

TO MAP PLANTING AREA.

"The Shell Fish Commissioners," says the bill, "shall cause to be prepared a set of maps showing the area which shall be available for oyster culture under the povisions of this act. The said commissoners shall divide such area into districts, which shall be numbered by them. A map shall be prepared for each district, and as each map is compiled the district designated by such map shall be declared by said commissioners to be open for oyster culture under the terms of this act, and notices stating that such district or districts are open for oyster culture shall be inserted in at least one daily newspaper published in the city of Baltimore and in one newspaper published in a county adjoining said district, which shall be declared to be open, for a period of three weeks, with at least one notice inserted in each of said papers during each of said weeks, The position of all natural beds or bars within said districts shall be located by actual survey and may be indicated upon said maps. The land within the said districts which may be available for planting and cultivation of oysters shall be divided into sections ; each section situated within the limits of any county of the State shall contain 10 acres, and each section situated beyond the limits of any of said counties and in the open waters of the Chesapeake bay shall contain 100 acres. The said sections shall be as nearly rectangular as possible.

"It shall be the duty of the Shellfish Commissioners to lease in the name of the State of Maryland tracts of land in the area indicated in this act ; provided, that no tract so leased, if situated within the limitt of any county in the State, shall contain less than one-half of one of said sections of 10 acres each or more than 3 of said sections of 10 acres each, and if situated beyond the limits of any of said counties and within the open waters of the Chesapeake bay, no tract so leased shall contain less than 10 acres or more than 100 acres. No one person shall be permitted by assignment, or in any other manner, to acquire a greater amount of land than 30 acres situated within the limits of any of the counties, or 100 acres if situated beyond the limits of any of the counties or in the open waters of the bay. No leases of oyster land lying within the limits of any county, excepting leases made to owners of land within the county limits, under Section VIII of this act, may be assigned to a non-resident of such county. Such leases shall be made only to bona fide and responsible persons, after the said districts shall be declared open for oyster culture, and it shall be the duty of the commissioners to demand from each proposed lessee security for the first three years' rent, to be approved by said commissioners. The terms of such leases shall be 20 years, and the annual rent reserved to the State shall be a sum not less than three dollars or more than $5 an acre, to be decided within said limits by the commissioners in accordance with their judgment of the value of the land leased. Said annual rent shall be made payable at the end of each year to the Shellfish Commissioners. If any part of the rent reserved under such leases shall remain unpaid for more than 60 days after the same becomes due, such lease or leases shall be declared void.

PREFERRED LESSEES.

"For a period of three months after each of the maps hereinbefore provided for shall have been filed in the office of the commissioner, citizens of Maryland, residing in any part of the State, who are owners of land having a water front upon any part of the area therein indicated, shall have the exclusive right, in the order of their application to lease any section or portion of section, or portion of two or more sections, adjacent to their lands ; and for an additional three months after the expiration of said period all boatmen, residents of this State, who, at the time of the passage of this act, shall be actually engaged in the business of tonging, dredging or scraping for oysters, shall have the like exclusive right in the order of their application to lease any remaining lands in such districts without any cost whatever to said boatman for said lease for three years ; provided, that in no event shall any landowner, or boatman or other person be permitted to lease more than 30 acres, or 100 acres, as the case may be, dependent upon the situation of the land which is leased.

"When the period of six months will have elapsed after any district shall have been declared open for oyster culture, the Shellfish Commissioners shall offer, at public auction, to the highest responsible bidder, the right, subject to the provisions of this act, to lease any remaining sections within said district."

Persons desiring to lease must make sworn application on blanks provided and deposit $6 which is returned if the application is rejected.

The right of an applicant to lease may be contested by any citizen within 90 days upon payment of a fee of $5.

The relation of landlord and tenant is established between the State and the lessors.

The lessee, within 60 days of getting his lease "shall cause the ground designated as leased to him to be plainly marked out by stakes, buoys or monuments under the supervision of the commissioners. At least four of such stakes, buoys or monuments shall have the initials of the lessee distinctly marked, and such stakes, buoys or monuments shall be at all times during the existence of said lease continued by by the said grantee or his legal representatives."

An appeal lies from the decision of the Shellfish Commissioners to the Circuit Court.

RULES FOR TONGERS.

"It shall be lawful," says the bill, "for any tonger, between the 15th of April and the 15th of June in any year, to take oysters from the natural beds or bars of the Chesapeake bay and its tributaries, provided, however, that such oysters shall not measure less than two and a half inches in shell measurement from fringe to mouth of the shell, and provide also that said oysters may be sold only for the purposes now permitted under the existing laws of Maryland during the season of the year above mentioned, and in addition thereto to persons engaged in the industry of planting and cultivating oysters within the area designated by this act, the same to be delivered only upon lands which may have been leased under the provisions of this act for said purposes of planting and cultivation.

"Any person who shall without authority take oysters from ground leased or who shall willfully injure such ground or injure the oysters thereupon situated, or interfere with the stakes, buoys or monuments marking the same shall be deemed guilty of of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be sentenced to jail or penitentiary for a term not exceeding two years.

"It shall be the duty of all officers and members of the State Fishery Force to arrest persons violating the act.

"The revenues arising from the operation of the act shall be applied in the following manner : First—To the payment of all salaries, expenses, etc., authoried by the act. Second—The balance, if any, to be paid at the end of each year into the Treasury of the State, leaving, however, a balance at the end of each year of $10,000 with the Shellfish Commissioners, to be applied to the current expenses of their office for the ensuing year. All moneys so paid as aforesaid into the Treasury of the State shall be placed to the credit of a special fund called the special road fund.

"The act shall take effect from the date of its passage, and all laws inconsistent are repealed."

YELLOW Trading Stamps.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We desire to announce to the public and our friends especially, that the HEADQUARTERS of the ever popular YELLOW TRADING STAMPS has been removed from the store of Westcott & Dodd to the store of

SPARKS & JEFFERSON.

We announce further that within a very few days we shall have in a fine line of additional Premiums for the holiday trade and wants. Our Premiums make the nicest kind of Presents. They cost you absolutely NOTHING. We want you to have them.

You can get the YELLOW STAMPS absolutely FREE on all Cash Sales at the stores of the following merchants of Chestertown :

SPARKS & JEFFERSON, Dry Goods, Notions, Millinery, etc.
W. AMBROSE CARROLL, Boots, Shoes, etc.
JACOB F. THOMPSON, Groceries, Provisions, etc.
HARRY B. NICHOLSON, Meats.
JAMES D. LUCAS, Clothing, Gents' Furnishings, etc.
J. H. SIDES, Jewelry, Optical Goods, etc.
W. S. McDONNELL, Books, Stationery, Confectionery, Tobacco, etc.

Remember the Premiums are kept, and all Stamps redeemed at store of

SPARKS & JEFFERSON.

GEORGE W. SMITH. HARRY R. GRAHAM.

The D. B. Martin's Fertilizers!

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ARMOUR'S FERTILIZERS

made of animal bone and have been proven to give results beyond any other Fertilizers used.

ALL KINDS OF FARM SUPPLIES.

The Evans Steel Frame Corn Planter,

With low-down Check Rower, is a full combination Planter, and can be used as a drill or a check-rower planter by only changing the plates. It is the simplest and surest device ever put on the market. The dropping of corn with this planter is certain and guaranteed not to skip a hill. An excellent Fertilizer Distributor is furnished with this planter. Call and see its many nice features.



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OLIVER CHILLED PLOW & CASTINGS

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and sell at smallest margins. We also make a specialty of $10.00 Harness, Collars, Bridles, Hames, Traces, Strap Work and all furnishings used on the farm. Disc Harrows and Land Rollers.

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We are agents for the celebrated LeGORE LIME. The large sales of this lime have proved it to be just what the soil needs for plant food.

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SEED POTATOES! SEED POTATOES! We have a fine line of Seed Potatoes from the most reliable house in Philadelphia. Houlton Rose, Northern Beauty of Hebron, White Star and Burbank. Also a large stock of Johnson & Stokes Garden Seeds, including all varities for gardens. All the varieties of tomatoes for those who plant for canneries. Guaranted fresh and true to name.

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We have also the Victor Sprayer complete in itself for spraying Trees Bushes, Potatoes, and all Shubbery, Washing Carriages and Windows of houses. Nothing equal to it. Simply charge sprayer with condensed air as you would a bicycle wheel, the sprayer does the work and throws a fine spray or solid stream as you wish. Call and see them.

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