

SCIENCE

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THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ZOOLOGY TO HUMAN WELFARE¹

To indicate the contributions of zoology to human welfare as related to or dependent upon the aquatic resources is the task which has been assigned to me, but because of time limitations the subject must necessarily be covered in a superficial way. The consideration of this phase of the general topic, whose application may for present purposes be restricted to the United States, is based on the assumption that the condition of aquatic resources affects our national prosperity, and that full and accurate knowledge of those resources is a prerequisite to their proper utilization.

The theme is fertile and inviting, and there should exist no difficulty in establishing a case for zoological research as a noteworthy contributor to our welfare. My task is lightened by the readiness with which nearly every one will recall important rôles that zoology has played in the modern history of the fishing industry.

It is doing no violence to truth or justice to claim that the beginnings of sane and beneficent fishery administration in the United States date from the time when a man, already eminent in science, with many years' experience in zoological work, was chosen by the President of the United States as the proper person "to prosecute investigations on the subject of the diminution of the valuable fishes with a view of ascertaining whether any and what diminution in

¹ Read before Section F (Zoology) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at a symposium upon "The Contributions of Zoology to Human Welfare," Pittsburgh, Pa., December 31, 1917.