

Protection which operates under the authority of the Department of the Interior, the first thoroughly national conference on wild life protection which operates under the authority of the Department of the Interior, the first thoroughly national conference on wild life protection was held in Ottawa in February, 1919. Representatives of all the provinces and leaders in wild life protection took part in the conference. The purpose was to bring together every one in the Dominion specially concerned in the protection of the important wild life natural resources of the country and by the exchange of ideas to develop cooperation and efficiency throughout the country in the conservation of wild life.

A COLLECTING BOAT FOR THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM

THE New York Aquarium will soon improve the method of collecting its living marine exhibits, the New York Zoological Society having provided funds for the construction of a large well-boat for that institution.

Hitherto the marine collections of the Aquarium have been transported in shipping tanks of limited size, such as could be readily handled on launches or wagons. This method is a primitive one and subjects the occupants of the tanks to more or less crowding and rough usage, with considerable losses in transit.

With a collecting boat available, specimens can be transferred directly from the nets used in capture to the spacious *well* of the boat, where they will remain undisturbed until their arrival at the sea wall behind the Aquarium.

The boat is nearly completed and will be launched early in August. It has a length of thirty-five feet and a depth of water in the well of two and a half feet. It is driven by a twenty-five-horse-power engine, and is also sloop rigged. There are cabin accommodations for four men and stowage space for nets and dredges.

This boat is of staunch construction and will be capable of going anywhere along the adjacent coast. The well being ten feet square, will not only accommodate fishes of larger size than it has hitherto been practicable to transport, but will carry large numbers of speci-

mens without loss. It is important that living marine animals intended for exhibition should reach their destination not merely alive, but in condition to survive in captivity.

While the hundred or more exhibition tanks of the Aquarium usually contain five or six thousand specimens, of two hundred or more species, they have never exhibited half the wealth of species available in the New York region. This has been due solely to lack of facilities for getting the best results. The boat will be manned by the employees of the aquarium and should be able to do all the collecting that will be necessary on week-end trips. It is estimated that the cost of operating the boat will offset the cost of hiring wagons and launches, while the results secured will be immeasurably better.

The aquarium has for many years freely furnished small marine forms of life to the schools and colleges of New York City. An increased supply of such material should enable the aquarium to be still more generous in the distribution of its surplus for educational and research work, while the two millions of persons visiting the institution yearly, will see many northern marine forms that have not yet been exhibited alive.

C. H. TOWNSEND

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

At a meeting of the Executive Board of the National Research Council, held in June, on behalf of the Division of Physical Sciences, Mr. Millikan, as retiring chairman, recommended that a communication be sent to the Rockefeller Foundation requesting an annual appropriation of \$20,000 for two or three years' traveling expenses in connection with the plan of stimulating and organizing research in physical subjects through the formation of groups of research men in these subjects. The executive board voted to approve the forgoing recommendations of the Division of Physical Sciences and that the chairman of the council be authorized to address a letter to the Rockefeller Foundation requesting an annual appropriation of \$20,000 for two or three years in support of these plans.