

ference with the wild condition of the state's forest lands outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks should not be removed.

3. Because the policy embodied in the Hewitt bill called for the expenditure of money for reforestation purposes exclusively in territory outside the forest preserve.

4. Because the proposed amendment omitted any provision that lands now owned or to be acquired by the state for forest preserve purposes should forever remain "wild forest lands." Mr. Agar thought that this omission might be construed as evidence that the state had changed its policy regarding such holdings.

To meet this latter objection, which was viewed by members of the State Reforestation Commission in attendance at the meeting as the most vital objection advanced by Agar, the commission authorized an amendment, which was presented to the committee. This amendment excluded all the language in that section to which Mr. Agar had objected and substituted the following:

The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter to be acquired, constituting the forest preserve, as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.

Regarding the objection having to do with the possible lifting of the prohibition against lumbering in forest preserves outside Adirondack and Catskill Parks, former Senator Lusk, counsel for the commission, said the commission had no intention of countenancing any relaxation of present prohibitions, even though in the opinion of many experts this would be in line with the most advanced policy of forestation pursued by European nations.

The question of whether the present policy of the state with regard to its forest lands should not be superseded by one permitting restricted lumbering was raised by George A. Lawyer, of Watertown, managing director of the State Development Association.

Mr. Lawyer urged that the Hewitt amendment be so changed as to open the way for restricted lumbering, at least outside the state parks. This would leave the 5,177 square miles within the "blue line" unmolested.

Other speakers at the hearing were Professor George F. Warren, of Cornell University; Professor Nelson C. Brown, of Syracuse University; Professor A. B. Recknagel, representing the Empire State Forest Products Association; Frank P. Myers, of New York, of the Society of American Foresters; J. R. Simmons, of the New York State Forestry Association; Thomas F. Luther, of Saratoga; Conservation Commissioner Alexander MacDonald, and William

G. Howard, superintendent of lands and forests in charge of reforestation.

THE PEARL-OYSTER RESOURCES OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

At the request of the commissioner of fisheries, the Navy Department on January 15 assigned the U. S. S. *Whippoorwill* to assist the Bureau of Fisheries in a hydrobiological survey of Pearl and Hermes Reef, Hawaii, from July 15 to September 1. Dr. P. S. Galtsoff, who will be in charge of the expedition, is engaged in assembling equipment and completing the plans for a four-month investigation.

In the spring of 1928, a colony of pearl oysters was discovered by fishermen in the lagoon of Pearl and Hermes Reef, some 1,200 miles northwest of Honolulu. Although the discovery was kept a secret for some time, several concerns engaged in active fishing of the pearl shells which yield the mother-of-pearl of commerce as well as valuable jewels. With no reliable information as to the extent of the pearl-oyster beds, concern was felt for their destruction before regulatory measures could be devised. The governor of Hawaii requested the Bureau of Fisheries to conduct a survey to determine the extent of the beds and what measures should be taken to perpetuate them or to increase production by artificial means. Failing to secure a special appropriation from Congress for that purpose, the territorial legislature at its last session appropriated a fund for defraying the expenses of an investigation by bureau employees. With the action of the Navy Department in providing a ship for the purpose, a preliminary survey is now made possible.

Because of the remoteness of Pearl and Hermes Reef and the impracticability of maintaining close patrol of this section of the Hawaiian Archipelago, the plan has been proposed of developing a pearl fishery in other localities and for cultivating pearl oysters somewhere on the island of Oahu, or on other islands of the eastern group. Since pearl-oyster beds formerly existed at Pearl Harbor, near Honolulu, the plan seems feasible provided a supply of oysters can be brought from known beds in Pearl and Hermes lagoon for stocking purposes. This plan requires a preliminary hydrobiological survey of local waters and an arrangement for the establishment of oyster farms in selected localities under the supervision of territorial authorities. Dr. Galtsoff plans to carry out this local survey in June and during the first half of July, with the cooperation of the territorial board of commissioners, and to complete the survey of Pearl and Hermes Reef and intervening atolls and lagoons before the stormy season begins in September.