

task of coordinating existing abbreviations and symbols, and rewriting the present standards into a comprehensive manual of letter symbols and abbreviations. The scope of the work reads: "Standardization of letter symbols and signs for equations and formulas, and abbreviations for use in publications."

In line with the procedure of the American Standards Association, the committee is anxious to see that every group which has a problem in respect to abbreviations and symbols in its own field be represented on the committee. Any group which has published its own standard for symbols is urged to submit a copy for consideration by the committee.

Because of the difficulty involved in writing this universal simplified language for all phases of engineering, the committee is urging those interested to send comments on the standards which have already been approved, and suggestions for useful new symbols and abbreviations which are not now included, to Dr. J. Franklin Meyer, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., chairman of the committee.

Twelve standards for letter symbols, abbreviations and graphical symbols have been developed by the technical committee of the American Standards Association, which has been at work for many years. Recently, in order to simplify the work of the committee, it was divided into two parts, one covering the letter symbols and abbreviations, and the second covering the graphical symbols.

The committee working on letter symbols and abbreviations, which is now beginning its work, has twelve subcommittees covering the following broad subjects: mathematics, physics and mechanics, structural analysis, hydraulics, heat and thermodynamics, photometry and illumination, aeronautics, electric and magnetic quantities, radio, astronomy and surveying, and geodesy.

The committee which will prepare standards on graphical symbols will start work soon and will also request comments and suggestions on its phase of the problem.

THE NATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

THE National Resources Committee, of which Harold L. Ickes is chairman, appointed early in 1935 an advisory committee, which has now submitted a report.

Its recommendations are based on conclusions reached after a factual survey of pollution conditions and legislation existing for the control of pollution throughout the forty-eight states. The report indicates that many states are faced with increasingly serious pollution of their waters, that there is little use of uniform standards of water quality, that insufficient effort is being made to protect public health and

water fowl and fish life from the effects of domestic and industrial waste and that many states are lacking in legislation properly drawn to cope with existing conditions.

The six-point program presented for consideration aims at interstate control on the basis of drainage areas where possible, the simplification and coordination of state laws, broader authorization and adequate funds for research, the institution of a cooperative program of investigation to be carried on by legally constituted state agencies acting together with an appropriate Federal agency and the holding in abeyance of changes in Federal law until experiment with a demonstration unit has indicated whether or not changes are desirable and feasible.

The demonstration unit recommended would be a Potomac River Conservancy District to be established to serve as a research unit in a special program of cooperation between the states of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Federal Government. Such a unit, according to the report, would not only aid in the solution of many serious pollution problems, but would serve as a training field for the development of scientific and administrative personnel trained for duty with other states. The report covers the problems of pollution in relation to public health, industrial waste treatment, standards of water quality, conservation of water fowl and fish life and state and federal legislation.

The committee is composed of seven technical and administrative experts with special training and experience in the field of water problems. Members appointed to work along lines recommended in the Water Resources Section of the National Resources Board report last December and the report of the Mississippi Valley Committee of October last, are as follows: W. B. Bell, biological survey, Department of Agriculture; Lieutenant-Colonel Glen E. Edgerton, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army; A. C. Fieldner, Bureau of Mines; Elmer Higgins, Bureau of Fisheries; Thorndike Saville, Water Resources Section, National Resources Committee; R. E. Tarbett, Public Health Service, and Abel Wolman, Maryland State Department of Health. H. R. Crohurst, sanitary engineer of the Public Health Service, worked with the committee on special assignment by Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming.

THE VALIDITY OF FEDERAL BIRD REGULATIONS

ANOTHER legal attack on federal regulations governing the shooting of migratory game birds has failed and a federal court has again upheld the restrictions on wildfowling, according to a statement issued by the Bureau of Biological Survey in commenting on the