

USURPING POWERS.

The trouble with the Conservation and Development Department seems to be that some of its officers or members have been trying to take over powers belonging to the Governor and the Legislature. The former is authorized to recommend such legislation as he may deem expedient, while the Legislature decides on state policies, as it has already done in the case of Washington Crossing Park, the land for which was purchased after several years of agitation.

In the letter to Assemblyman Gill explaining the attempt to sneak through the two Lord repealers, Director Caskill wrote: "This department has been and is strongly of the opinion that a worthy memorial of Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River should be provided and maintained by the state upon the authenticated spot, but it does not believe that the state is justified in going further with the ambitious project that has been advocated."

This impertinence will probably be resented at the proper time when the Lord bills are finally considered. It is of a piece with the statement that there is no great interest in the Crossing Park project outside of Mercer County, on which false premise it is proposed to sell the one-hundred-acre farm and "buy the McKonkey house with a small piece of land."

It may be interesting to contrast this with the department's action in purchasing and developing a thousand acres of land in Sussex County, inaccessible excepting to a few wealthy New York sportsmen and club-men. There surely is greater interest in the Washington Crossing Park than there is the Sussex game preserve, as will be demonstrated when the public hearing on the Lord bills is arranged.