

Crying for the Wilderness

When William L. Finley, the Oregon naturalist, stands before an audience, as he did before the Portland Rotary club last Tuesday, he lifts up his voice. He seeks to be heard by the person in the farthest corner. Sometimes the effect upon his vocal cords is noticeable. It may be understanding that voices like his are few. It may be instinct to speak as a voice crying from the wilderness in behalf of the wilderness. It may be a feeling that tones must penetrate the din of alien interests.

For what William L. Finley is saying is not what most folks are thinking. They are thinking of progress, projects and increased population. They are thinking of expanded industry and bigger business. He is saying, "Beware." He is saying, "Don't destroy the wild life or conditions that permit wild life to live." He is saying, "When you invest, be sure that you will derive the value of the investment in use as well as in structures."

A great many people will not agree with Will Finley in his attitude toward Bonneville dam as an obstruction to the salmon runs. They will be glad to know that so recognized an authority told the Rotary club that apparently the fishways built at Bonneville, at an expense of some \$7,000,000, are going to be satisfactory, if the manner in which the fish are now going over the dam is a criterion. They will not agree with his feeling that more navigation dams in the Columbia should be deferred until pressure of population and business render railroad service inadequate. But they will agree that every precaution should be taken to protect nature's resources in wild life while developing nature's resources in transportation and power.

A modern civilization ought to be intelligent enough to carry forward projects and wild life in parallel process. The plans for development should, by all means, include preservation of the immense values created by nature's own development, for upon these are dependent economy and beauty and happiness.

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