

FISHERIES CHIEF RAPIDS DAM PLANS

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Warden Wants Willamette,
Umatilla Jobs Probed

Government officials who "plan their dams first and consult fisheries people afterward" were scored yesterday by M. T. Hoy, master fish warden of Oregon, in an address before a meeting of the Izaak Walton league.

"Fisheries people are always asked to back in after the final plans have been made," Hoy said.

His comments came after Harlan B. Holmes, aquatic biologist with the United States engineers, finished a description of the proposed Umatilla rapids dam in the Columbia river.

Difficult Fight Faced

"Fishery representatives have no chance in these plans," Hoy continued. "They have to come after the plans are completed and fight for their rights. Then they have to fight twice as hard to get money enough to carry the plans to completion."

"Every other phase of the dam is given careful study. Engineers spend weeks and months studying flood control, irrigation and navigation problems but not a soul is assigned to study the probable effect upon fish life."

He demanded an immediate investigation of the Umatilla project with relation to the salmon industry of the Columbia and finished by demanding a similar study of the proposed Willamette flood control project.

Erosion Signs Lacking

"The Willamette flood control project is planned to halt the river and to thwart erosion. Well—Oregon had a greater rainfall this year than any since 1893 and I defy you to find any signs of erosion."

Lew Wallace, member of the state game commission, shared the opinion.

"I don't mind such projects if they are for the advancement of the state," he said, "but I can't see any sense in spending money for projects we don't need to the detriment of our natural resources. We have trouble and problems enough trying to keep fish and game in this state. The highway commission spends thousands of dollars a year advertising Oregon as a recreational area and we ought to keep it as that."

Homer Wyatt, president of the club, officiated and W. L. Finley was toastmaster.

Flood Control *Journal* Seen as Blow *June 28, 1938* To Wild Life

Finley Asserts Federal
'Promotion Schemes' to Ruin
Irreplaceable Resources; All
Points of Program Criticized

The guardians of America's wild life resources, encouraged but not convinced by efficiency reports on the Bonneville dam fish ladders, charged the government threatens irreplaceable natural values by authorizing new and vast flood control, irrigation, power and navigation projects.

William L. Finley of Portland, field naturalist of the American Nature association, asserted that in many Western "promotion schemes" no attention had been paid to the destruction of wild life.

"While many business men have insisted that the government balance its budget, yet there is some promotion plan in every district calling for federal funds," Finley said.

Farmers Not Aided

"The same business men will fight to get these on the basis that if they do not get the projects, some other locality will. It is considered shrewd business in the less populated West to lift money from the taxpayers' pockets because they pay about one half of 1 per cent. for a \$20,000,000 project while the East pays about 99½ per cent."

He said past records showed that the farmer "usually goes broke" on irrigated land because of the high cultivation costs.

He criticized the government's expenditure of more than \$2,000,000,000 on inland waterways because "such transportation is about 70 years out of date." Finley said in some instances the cost to states would have been cheaper if the freight had been "put in railroad cars and the state had paid the bill."

Tourists Pay Well

Wild life resources—trout, salmon, game birds, migratory waterfowl, deer, big game—bring greater returns than the utilization of public waters, he said.

Finley estimated California received \$200,000,000 annually from visitors who came for the "beauty of the snow-capped mountains, primeval forests, picturesque rivers, mountain camping, angling and hunting." Oregon's share of the tourist trade, frequently described as the nation's third largest industry, was figured about \$50,000,000 a year.

Although government reports described the success of the salmon ladders at Bonneville, Finley said it was only the "first step."

"No reference is made to the 500-foot dam now being constructed at Grand Coulee farther up the Columbia. Since the engineers have not even considered any attempt to build fish ladders at Grand Coulee, where will the spring run of Chinook salmon spawn before they die?"

Sees Fish Destruction

"The records show that this most valuable run of salmon in the Columbia has been going steadily down for the last 30 or 40 years. The main cause for this decrease is the building of dams on the tributaries under the reclamation service which have not been provided with fish ladders and the destruction of fingerling salmon because of the lack of screened irrigation ditches."

He charged engineering plans to make the big river into a series of ponds and lakes would end the fish runs.

"This means the destruction of a \$200,000,000 fishing industry," the naturalist said. "It is a gift of nature which brings in \$10,000,000 annually to the people of the Pacific Northwest. These proposed local projects will prove to be destructive national investments."

Journal 7-3-38 Oregon Youths To Join Magazine Jaunt to Alaska

A group of some 90 boys selected from over the United States by the American Boy magazine to take a trip to Alaska will arrive here at 7:30 a. m. Wednesday to be joined by three Oregon boys and Dr. William L. Finley, who will be an adviser.

Oregon boys to join the tour are Benjamin Kerns, Klamath Falls; Marshall Kincaid, Portland, and Louis Wilson, Beaverton. The group is in charge of Dr. Willard Hildebrandt of the University of Michigan.

The group will be taken on a tour of Portland and will leave at 1 p. m. for Seattle. They will visit the Bremerton navy yard Thursday morning and later in the day will sail for Alaska. They will visit Grand Coulee dam on their way back.

Dr. Finley said he will show his moving pictures to the boys before they leave on the trip and that he will make additional pictures during the tour.