

THE SEVEN DAMS OF THE WILLAMETTE



FLOOD CONTROL VERSUS THE SALMON RUN

THE PROPOSED flood control project on the Willamette River calls for one large navigation lock at Oregon City and seven 200-foot dams on the tributary streams. The watershed (white) is 11,200 square miles, about the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Approximately 700,000 people live here as compared to 6,800,000 in these two states. This Spring the \$8,000,000 fish ladders of Bonneville Dam will be tested for the first time. How well they will work is still unknown. Similar fish ladders would have to be installed at Oregon City.

PROMOTER
R. H. KIPP

PROMOTER
DOUGLAS MCKAY

LUMBERMAN
E. D. KINGSLEY

GOVERNOR
CHARLES H. MARTIN

MAYOR
JOSEPH K. CARSON

SENATOR
CHARLES L. McNARY

SENATOR
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REPRESENTATIVE
JAMES W. MOTT

REPRESENTATIVE
NAN W. HONEYMAN

REPRESENTATIVE
WALTER M. PIERCE

COMMISSIONER
FRANK T. BELL

NATURALIST
WILLIAM L. FINLEY



LOBBYING FOR \$56,000,000

UNDER CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT by constituents seeking to advance or obstruct vested legislation, legislators are frequently jammed between two high-pressure lobbying machines, each opposing the other. Consider the example of the Congressmen (below) who make up the rope in an Oregon tug-of-war. A group of businessmen led by R. H. Kipp, Douglas McKay and E. D. Kingsley (below, left) operating through Oregon's Chambers of Commerce, with the support of Governor Martin and Portland's Mayor Carson, are promoting plans for the erection of seven dams on the Willamette River. Over a period of years the Willamette and its main tributaries have flooded the valley country, leaving behind extensive damage. According to the plans, the Willamette Project would protect \$140,000,000 of property from flood devastation and add 100 miles of navigable river. Water, released from the reservoirs created by the dams, could be used to furnish supplemental moisture to agricultural land in the Willamette Valley during the river's low-water period. Furthermore, stream pollution would decrease so that half the Willamette would need no additional purification plants for fifty years. The project would consume \$56,000,000 of Federal funds and, therefore, emerges from the confines of Oregon into the pocketbooks of the nation which will pay the bill.

Standing almost alone as the critic of the project, although Commissioner Frank T. Bell of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries agrees with him, is Oregon's soft-spoken naturalist William L. Finley (below, right). His position is that no sane wild-life authority can disapprove of such a project. But he insists that all the cards be laid on the table before the money is appropriated. As a counter-lobbyist, Finley hotfooted to Washington, D. C., to plead before the Board of Army Engineers who were hearing a delegation from Oregon supporting the project. Said Mr. Finley: "The proposed Willamette project will greatly



WILL THE SALMON use the fish ladders at Bonneville Dam?



SALMON, on their way upstream to spawn, leap out of the water to get over obstacles. Huge traps (below) get tons of fish each season.



diminish or completely destroy the salmon runs, because the dams are to be approximately 200 feet high with no fishways provided. . . . These 200 foot dams will back up the water and destroy all the trees and other forms of wildlife in the area. The main reason for collecting water behind the dams is to store it up in the winter and release it gradually in the spring to avoid floods. When the water is released, the areas that have been flooded will become biological deserts. The sole worthy reason for the project is flood control, and the necessity for flood control is no greater on the Willamette than on many other rivers in the U. S. on which such a project is not even under consideration. . . . It will cost \$56,000,000 to start the series of dams. The damage to wild life resources and recreation will total at least \$50,000,000." Which lobby will win?