

## POLITICIANS HIT BY GAME EXPERT

### Darling Voices Warning on Vote Trading

BALTIMORE, Feb. 17 (AP)—J. N. "Ding" Darling, Des Moines, Ia., former federal biological survey chief, told the General Wildlife federation today it must guard against politicians "trading your fish and game for votes."

He said indiscriminate construction of hydro-electric power dams, while "a good vote-getting proposition," may destroy "every biological thing in your rivers."

Darling was re-elected federation president. Other officers include William L. Finley, Portland, Or., vice-president, and Mrs. H. G. Bogert, Akron, Colo., George W. Grebe, Kuna, Idaho, and Lee Miles, Little Rock, Ark., director.

## ROD AND GUN

By DONALD STILLMAN

### NOTES at the third annual National Sportsmen's Show:

At the New Brunswick exhibit on the mezzanine floor of the Grand Central Palace, the black bear, bobcats and other creatures of the wild seem to take about as much interest in the peering spectators as the spectators do in them. The bears are openly friendly, while the bobcats are plainly hostile. At this display, which includes an elaborate log cabin, attention is called to the fact that the early season angler visiting New Brunswick may receive a complimentary spring bear-hunting license which entitles the non-resident sportsman to shoot four black bears without the payment of a hunting license fee. This arrangement is possible only during April, May and June.

At the African village, natives indulge in tribal dances and sham battles with spears and shields.

Whiting Evans again is showing his Evans hook, which has won such popularity among salt-water anglers.

A 14-0 hook under a constant 500-pound pressure is shown. Evans says that so far as he knows his hook is the strongest in the world.

### New Fishing Guide

The East End Surf Fishing Club is featuring at its booth its new 1938 Long Island Fishing Guide. The book contains a lot of useful information. Of particular interest are an article on striped bass fishing at Montauk Point by Van Campen Heilner and an angling chart by Charles Altenkirch, showing the seasons different species of game fish visit Long Island waters and the hooks or lures employed in their capture.

The Babylon Boatmen's Association is among those conducting drawings for prizes. First prize consists of an offshore charter boat trip; second prize is a rod and reel; third prize consists of a tackle box, also six additional prizes of single trips on open party boats sailing from Babylon.

### Dams on Rivers

William L. Finley, naturalist and wild-life authority, has pleaded for careful consideration before approval of a proposal that the Federal government finance the building of seven dams on the headwaters of the Willamette River.

"This proposal is of interest to the entire United States, which will pay the bill," says Finley. "Neither I nor any other sane-thinking wild-life authority is unequivocally opposed to the erection of these dams, but we think the matter should be investigated thoroughly and all factors considered before the money is appropriated."

"Army engineers studied the problem and decided how many dams should be built for flood control, inland waterway transportation and power development," Finley says. "Naturally enough, these engineers were primarily concerned with those three phases and not with the effect such a project would have on other outdoor resources."

At a meeting at the War Department, February 8, Finley asked that the project not be recommended until a complete investigation had been made by the United States Bureau of Fisheries and the Oregon State Game and Fish Commissions to determine what effect the dams would have on salmon runs.

"Salmon runs on the Sacramento River in California have been utterly destroyed by such dams and the use of the water for irrigation without screening irrigation ditches," Finley states. "Baker River in Washington was a very valuable salmon stream

until a 200-foot dam was built and the run completely destroyed. Experts who have studied the matter claim the dam brings in \$40,000 a year in power—and that the loss on salmon is \$50,000 a year."

"Frank T. Bell, commissioner of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, has said he is opposed to the project until a thorough investigation has been made of the effect the Willamette River dams will have on the salmon crop. The early, or first run of Chinook salmon, which is the most important, comes in the Columbia and works up the Willamette to the headwaters. All the fish experts who have studied the Willamette project have stated that these dams will prove a definite detriment to our salmon runs."

The proposed Willamette project will diminish greatly or completely destroy the salmon runs, because the dams are to be approximately 200 feet high, with no fishways provided. It is said that hatcheries will be established, but hatcheries will not maintain these migratory fish.

"These 200-foot dams will back up the water and destroy all the trees and other forms of wild life in the area," Finley claims. "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 United States on which such a project is not even under consideration."

"I must again say definitely that I am not opposing the project, I merely ask that all the factors involved be considered. 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. Since the people of the country will pay this particular bill if the dams are built, I think everything should be considered before such an expenditure is made."