

King Salmon Held Menaced

Finley Hits Flood Control

Oregon Journal - Mar. 29, 1940

CHICAGO, March 29. (U.P.)—William L. Finley of Portland, national vice president of the Izaak Walton league, charged today that a proposed flood control project on the Willamette river in Oregon threatens to ruin a \$10,000,000 a year salmon industry.

"The farmers and bona fide landowners of the Willamette valley did not start this agitation for flood control and do not want it," Finley told the 18th annual convention of the league.

He said the argument for flood control was raised by local promoters and speculators as a camouflage "in order to obtain fed-

eral pork monies, largely at the expense of more populous states to the tune of more than 100 million dollars."

"Engineers' studies indicate that the largest reported floods on the upper Willamette occurred during December, 1861, January 1881, and February, 1890—all winter months," he said. "Floods of the main stream occur between November and March from annual freshets on the Columbia river and have nothing to do with the upper Willamette."

"Since floods in the Willamette valley come during the win-

ter months, how can there be damage to farm crops?"

Finley said the Chinook salmon runs of the Columbia river represent the most valuable fish resources in America, that dams, pollution and irrigation ditches already have reduced the industry on the upper Columbia and that "the best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which apparently is doomed to go the same route."

Walton Leaguer Protests Dams

Register-Guard - Mar. 29, 1940

Chicagoans Hear Oregonian Knock Dams

CHICAGO, March 29. — (U.P.)—William L. Finley, Portland, Ore., national vice-president of the Izaak Walton league, charged today that a proposed flood control project on the Willamette river in Oregon threatens to ruin a \$10,000,000 a year salmon industry.

"The farmers and bona fide landowners of the Willamette valley did not start this agitation for flood control and do not want it," Finley told the 18th annual convention of the league.

He said the argument for flood control was raised by local promoters and speculators as a camouflage "in order to obtain federal pork monies, largely at the expense of more populous states, to the tune of more than 100 million dollars."

"Engineers' studies indicate that the largest reported floods on the upper Willamette occurred during December, 1861, January 1881, and February 1890—all winter months," he said. "Floods of the main stream occur between November and March . . . from annual freshets on the Columbia river and have nothing to do with the upper Willamette."

"Since floods in the Willamette valley come during the winter months, how can there be damage to farm crops?"

Finley said the chinook salmon runs of the Columbia river represent the most valuable fish resources in America, that dams, pollution and irrigation ditches already have reduced the industry on the upper Columbia, and that "the best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which apparently is doomed to go the same route."

Dr. R. H. Bennett, chief of the U. S. soil conservation service, told the convention that more than one half of the nation's two billion acres of land is suffering from accelerated erosion and warned that "soil conservation must be considered a part of any true national defense program."

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

ANSWERS FINLEY

EUGENE (To the Editor)—I wonder if any of the farmers of the Willamette valley missed reading the super-assinine article on "Ruin of Oregon Salmon Industry," (Sun. 17th) by some person who calls himself "naturalist" Finley! (Shame on the Register-Guard for wasting space—especially on the front page—with such unadulterated trash!) Why Finley never even saw the Willamette river or he would know that it is an impossibility to plant crops on these "rich silt-covered flats" for they are at the bottom of the dear old Willamette—or at the mouth of the Columbia! One farmer said it was a good thing "fish-face Fin(n)ley was in Chicago or he would take him all along the banks of this 'stream' and show him where the farms had been, and then dunk him in twice and only pull him out once." Ha!

"The farmers do NOT want flood control." Why Finley wouldn't know an "honest opinion" if he met it in the road! Why is it that these Izaak Waltonians always seem to be the skim milk of the crop of screw balls—and invariably make and PASS bills that even a third-grader would laugh at? They have fixed things so an honest man can't shoot a deer unless it is standing in a tree, in season without breaking a law to do it—and we all try to be law-abiding citizens!

Did you hear about our representatives in Salem wasting a week fighting to pass a bill to put bells on all cats for the protection of Oregon's song birds? Perhaps we could get brother Finley to yell FOR flood control here—if we told him the naughty river was drowning the cute little pink worms the 'city fishermen' need for bait. Our dams have not hindered the progress of the

'itty fissy' one iota—in fact the salmon can get up stream with less difficulty than formerly without scratching a scale. I think the Izaak Walton league had better get a new vice-president—a man who has been at least a block away from city pavements!

M. M. HARWOOD,
Eugene, Oregon.
Mar. 31, 1940

Chairman Wilson Of State Game Board to Speak

Chairman Ed Wilson of the state game commission will come from Corvallis to address the Coos county chapter of Izaak Walton league's annual banquet Friday night, April 5, at Bush's.

Arrangements for Wilson to appear were made today by Dr. A. B. Peacock, local member of the commission. Peacock also expects Frank P. Wire, state game supervisor; W. J. Smith, Oregon Wildlife federation leader, and William Finley, national Walton league vice-president, to be here.

According to President William Hagge of the Coos chapter, 150 people are expected to attend the banquet, at 3 p.m. Friday at Bush's. The ticket committee, hampered by bad weather this week, has already sold 75 tickets, Hagge said.

Tickets have been placed on sale at the Marshfield Electric, Ekblad's and Schroeder & Hildenbrand stores.