

Fish Draw Journal Tourists

**Easterners Draw Here
by Angling Reports**

CHICAGO, March 30.—"Angling for big Chinooks in the Willamette and Columbia rivers is the story that has trickled through the East and lured many tourists to Oregon. From a business and recreational standpoint, we must conserve fish resources," declared William L. Finley, noted naturalist and national vice president of the Isaak Walton league of America at its 18th annual convention.

"The Chinook salmon runs of the Columbia are the most valuable fish resources left in America, perhaps in the world. They represent an industry with an immense annual income and support thousands of families, in spite of the fact that the runs have been gradually decreasing on the upper Columbia due to dams, pollution and irrigation ditches, as well as over-fishing," said Finley.

"The best remaining spawning area for Chinooks is the Willamette river, a tributary of the Columbia, which is apparently doomed to go the same way because of the proposed seven high dams on its upper reaches. This project was promoted for flood control. The report of the army engineers states that it can be equally handled by levees and bank revetments at a cost of \$33,000,000, or by high dams at a cost of \$62,075,000."

"If congress is anxious to help Oregon, it should change from the high dam to the levee system, save our fish resources, benefit the farmers, and not lift nearly double the amount from the taxpayers' pockets," continued Finley, who claims that the facts have been collected to prove that the plans of the Willamette river basin commission ought to be altered.

Waltonians Pass Resolution for Local Angling

CHICAGO, March 30.—Two resolutions, one urging the removal of the federal bureau of fisheries from political spheres of influence and the other proposing that the levee instead of the dam system of flood control be adopted in the Willamette river basin if any is used, were passed here today at the 18th annual convention of the Isaak Walton league.

The first resolution read:

The Isaak Walton League of America urges that the United States bureau of fisheries be placed under the administration of a sound conservationist with executive ability who is independent of political or commercial ties and who has the courage and desire to defend the fisheries in his charge, both sport and commercial. Such a man need not be a fish culturist, but should preferably have some scientific experience or background.

The other resolution pointed out that the Columbia and Willamette rivers are the natural habitat of the spring Chinook salmon, "the most valuable fish run in the United States and the world." It stated the proposed dam building program seriously threatens the runs, pointed out that the levee system would cost only \$33,000,000 as compared to \$62,075,000 for high dams, and urged the adoption of the levee system to save both the salmon and expense.

Portlander Gets Walton Position

CHICAGO, March 30 (AP)—Tappan Gregory, Chicago, was elected president of the Isaak Walton League of America Saturday, succeeding Otto C. Doering, also a Chicagoan.

The vice presidents named were W. L. Finley, Portland, Or.; J. E. Rymer, Anaheim, Cal.; Dr. Lewis Radcliffe, Washington; S. McFarland, Colorado Springs, Colo., and P. G. Wallingford, Pa. W. D. Cox, Chicago, was chosen secretary.

Albany Sweet Home, Ore.,
Despatch March 29, 1940.

To The Editor: *Apr. 8, 1940*

In an article in the Eugene Morning News, Elmo B. Chase, member of the Willamette Basin project committee, lashes out at William L. Finley, Oregon naturalist, who has a national reputation for his efforts in trying to preserve some of nature's priceless gifts to mankind, because Mr. Finley used a Chicago "sounding board" to show up the Willamette River Basin project, as is, and what building of high dams on tributaries of the Willamette river will do to one of Oregon's major industries—the salmon industry—and the millions of dollars worth of farm lands, homes, highways, railroads, schools, churches and industries that will be destroyed by flooding the territories where the proposed basins behind these dams are to be.

Mr. Chase thinks it unfair for Mr. Finley to use the Chicago "sounding board" because there is really no way this committeeman can get back at Finley, which he admits. Those who sow to the whirl-wind may expect to reap from the whirl-wind, so in this case. Every attempt of those interested in Willamette valley development, (and Oregon) as much, or perhaps more, than some of the men acting as committeemen on the Valley project, to have the program conform to what was thought to be better for all of the people, has been met by a majority of the promoters with sardonic backlashes. The objectors to the high-dam program were made the target for a shower of sarcasm by members of the committee from the president and secretary down to the most unimportant member.

Even though Mr. Chase is an important member of the Willamette Basin project committee he cannot expect anything else but that some backwash will result from the overacts of members of the committee. Executive secretary, R. E. Kipp, in an article in the Oregon Journal, originating in Silverton, also takes a swat at Mr. Finley. Kipp accuses Finley of making some "terrifically extravagant" statements. However in this instance Mr. Kipp throws himself wide open, when in his sarcastic manner, he goes after

Finley for contending that the flood waters of the valley streams may be controlled by revetments and levees rather than by high dams, thus saving the fish industry and the millions of dollars worth of property that will be destroyed by reservoir sites. Kipp bores into Finley by saying: "This thing about levees on the river. Those suggesting this don't know anything about engineering or the proposed project. We would have to build a wall 10 to 30 feet high on both sides of the Willamette," when as a matter of fact the engineer's report contains a proposal of either revetments and levies, or dams, or both in a combination. The report also advises that providing passage way for fish over the proposed high dams is not thought feasible and that because of these dams artificial fish propagation will have to be resorted to, which we all know will be just another burden on the taxpayer.

Mr. Finley may rest assured that his efforts to work out a constructive program along the lines in question are meeting with the approval and support of thousands of Willamette valley farmers and business men.

We all should want this sort of program, not one, the primary object of which is to squeeze as much money out of the federal government as we can so that promoters, material furnishers and others may have some nice fat picking for a spell.

As we understand it the present initial program carries on provisions for irrigation, which if it did, would hardly be justifiable in view of the fact that it would be too expensive for the farmers at prevailing prices of farm products, and when the federal government is subsidizing nearly every farmer in the valley for not growing farm products. If it is necessary to protect the lower lands of the valley from floods let's build levees and revetments as proposed by the federal engineers which can be done at less than half the cost of dams. As for navigation, the present river condition will take care of all that the present locks at Oregon City will accommodate. To rebuild these locks would take a lot more money.

John T. Russell