

# Ruin Of Oregon Eugene, Ore., Salmon Industry *Register-Guard* Held Imminent March 17, 1940

## Willamette Project Assailed By Portlander In Chicago

CHICAGO, March 16—(P)—Virtual "ruination" of the Columbia river salmon industry will follow completion of the Willamette river flood control project in Oregon, William L. Finley, Portland naturalist, said today.

"The chinook salmon runs off the Columbia represent the most valuable fish resources in America—perhaps in the world," said Finley, a national vice-president of the Izaak Walton league here to confer with league officials.

"As a food supply they represent an industry of more than \$10,000,000 annually, supporting thousands of families, and this in spite of the fact that the runs have been gradually decreasing on the upper Columbia, where dams, pollution and irrigation ditches have raised so much havoc as to make the industry on that part of the river almost a memory."

"The best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which is apparently doomed to go the same route, all in the name of flood control.

### No Sense"

"To justify the project on the grounds that it will protect farmers and other land owners along the river from being damaged by flood waters doesn't make sense. Floods on the main stream usually occur between November and March, the main flood water below Oregon City being backwater from the annual freshets on the Columbia and therefore 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?"

"From time immemorial we know that river bottoms regularly covered with silt make the richest land for agriculture and that on flats covered with rich, sandy loam without effort or expense on the part of the farmer produces his largest and finest crop."

"If their honest opinion was asked, the farmers and bona fide land owners of the Willamette valley did not start this agitation for flood control and do not want it. It is indeed high time that the taxpayers of the nation found out and called a halt."

# Dams Spell Ruination Salem, Ore., Journal - Mar. 18, 1940 Of Fishing Says Finley

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Finley said he would ask league officials for action on the project at the National Izaak Walton league convention here March 28, 29 and 30.

# Sportsman Hits Eugene News Valley Project

CHICAGO, March 16—(INS)—The Columbia river salmon industry "faces well nigh complete ruination" because of the Willamette river flood control project in Oregon, William L. Pinley of Portland, said today.

Pinley, national vice president of the Izaak Walton league, said: "The Chinook salmon runs of the Columbia river represent the most valuable fish resources in America, perhaps in the world. As a food supply they represent an industry of more than ten million dollars annually, supporting thousands of families."

He said dams, pollution and irrigation already have cut down the size of the runs tremendously, and added:

"The best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which is apparently doomed to go the same route, all in the name of flood control, in order to obtain federal pork monies, largely at the expense of the more populous states, to the tune of more than 100 million dollars, and to add to the fast growing number of aquatic monstrosities being heaped upon the nation."

# March 18, 1940 Walton Leaguer Pendleton, Hits Reclamation

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