

Sch. Oregonian Aug 7-1939
Limiting the Pilchard Catch

In a recent article which appeared on this page, its theme the conservation of wildlife, doubt was expressed that the pilchards are in any danger from the inroads of fishing, although vast quantities are taken. This opinion was caught by the vigilant eye of that able naturalist and tireless champion of wildlife, William L. Finley, who, far from being easy in his mind about the pilchards, believes that these swarming schools are in grave danger from over-fishing.

Mr. Finley declares that close study of the records of the California fish and game commission convinces him that lack of proper control is destroying a great industry. The seining boats are rapidly increasing in numbers and efficiency, having doubled in the last ten years. Of late there have been appreciable decreases in the catches, according to Mr. Finley. From the viewpoint of conservation there should be co-operation between the state and federal governments, in California and Oregon, to regulate the catch, it being considered that the safety line is passed when more than 300,000 tons are taken in any one year. As the industry now is conducted the pilchard catch is largely converted into fertilizer and oil, with approximately one-third processed for human consumption, and this only because the law requires it.

The enormous amount of pilchards that are taken for industrial uses accounts for the absurdly low price of the fish as a canned food. Its very cheapness invites the assumption that it is inferior food—which is far from being the fact. The canned pilchards, which are merely a species of extra fat, huge sardine, are delicious in the worthiest sense of the word. One day we may need them—who knows?

Mr. Finley is inclined to agree with the more extreme of the conservationists, who would prohibit the use of pilchards for any other purpose save that of food. But surely the case is not so urgent, though one may admit the omens. Close study and supervision of the industry ought to reveal to us how far we can go with confidence that no harm will be done to the asset. But beyond that we ought not to venture. For not only is waste sinful, as the grandmothers used to say, but it also is highly imprudent.

Yacht Mecca

Seen Here

Aug. 12, 1939

Sanitary Expert

Says River 'Mess'

Oregonian
Portland's Willamette river can be transformed into a "class A" stream and be made a veritable Mecca for yachtsmen and recreationalists within a short time, according to Abel Wolman, chief engineer of the Maryland department of health and sanitation, who is here as a member of the Portland sewage disposal committee studying the river.

Wolman addressed nearly 150 members of the Portland chapter, Izaak Walton league, Friday noon at Hilaire's restaurant.

Interest Seen

"Your river is a mess," he said, "but the surprising element I've observed in my work here is the public interest and confidence in the value of a project that would clean the river to a sanitary point that will admit its recreational possibilities."

"It is fortunate that the community has been educated to a point where each citizen realizes the value of the project."

Costs and plans for the project are not yet completed, he said, but he warned that such a project would require a maintenance cost if the river is to be kept in a sanitary condition.

Donaldson Heard

Other speakers were Wellington Donaldson, also a committee member and director of New York's bureau of sewage disposal; Carl E. Green, chief engineer of the state board of sanitation; R. H. Corey, member of the engineer's staff of the state sanitation board, and Ben S. Morrow, Portland city engineer.

Dr. C. F. Milleson, chapter president of the Izaak Walton league, presided and William L. Finley officiated as chairman. Finley spoke briefly on the value of the project and pointed out that "millions of dollars are spent annually on western streams for other projects." He said that sewage disposal and the cleaning of a polluted river were equally as important.

**Right Set-Up
On Sewage
Held as Need**

*News-Telegram
Aug. 12, 1939*
"You can't get a sewage disposal plant out of a mail order catalog," Abel Wolman, chief engineer of the Maryland department of health and adviser on the Portland sewage disposal system, warned members of the Izaak Walton league Friday at Hilaire's restaurant.

He pointed out that it would be economical to get the system set up right—for present and future needs and economical operating costs—before a single cent is spent in actual construction.

"Your river is a mess," he said, "but the surprising element I've observed in my work here is the public interest and confidence in the value of a project that would clean the river to a sanitary point that will admit its recreational possibilities."

Other speakers at the session included Wellington Donaldson, director of the New York bureau of sewage disposal; Carl E. Green, chief engineer of the state board of sanitation; R. H. Corey, member of the engineer's staff of the state sanitation board, and Ben S. Morrow, city engineer.

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