

Pendleton, Oregonian OPPOSING THE VALLEY PROJECT

(Salem Statesman) *Dec. 9, 1940*

SOME day we hope to attend incognito a sportsmen's convention, for the purpose of presenting a resolution. It would start "Whereas, the preservation of wildlife is vitally important . . ." and we have a hunch the assembled sportsmen would pass it, despite that the concluding sentence would read: "Therefore, Be It Resolved: That all sportsmen be summarily executed."

Not that we want them executed, you understand; they're fine fellows. But our suspicion that they would approve such a resolution has been heightened by the action of the state Wildlife Federation in condemning, apparently after slight investigation, if any, the Willamette Valley Project, or at any rate the proposed high dams.

William L. Finley addressed the convention on Wednesday, repeating his well-worn arguments against these dams; at that time the convention withheld endorsement of his stand, at the urging of President William J. Smith of the federation, pending a study of the project's alleged benefits. On Thursday the resolution was finally passed; and knowing what we do about conventions, we hope to be pardoned for entertaining grave doubt that the issue was investigated thoroughly.

It has been announced and repeated times without number that the army engineers' plans for the Willamette Valley Project provide for safeguarding fish life in the Willamette and its tributaries. Until the sportsmen have proof to the contrary, it does their cause little good to pass resolutions inimical to the flood control, irrigation and navigation program which congress has approved for the benefit of an important section of Oregon.

Oregonian Great Game

To the Editor: According to an article on the first page of The Oregonian December 3, John C. Page, commissioner of reclamation, warned the public to be wary of real estate agents selling the land to be irrigated by the government's huge project south of Grand Coulee dam in Washington.

Mr. Page is correct in saying that the government has no land to sell in eastern Washington which they are planning to irrigate. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent by the government in irrigating private property in western states, and the land owners have never paid back the loans and have been relieved of paying interest. In other states besides Washington, this has given land boosters and speculators a chance to cheat both the taxpayers and the farmers.

Irrigation of arid lands in the west is of great value, but it should be handled on a business and not a political basis. If more information and facts were furnished the public, real estate promoters could not benefit as much by false statements.

Since the reclamation service will have to spend about \$200 per acre to irrigate the private land south of the Grand Coulee dam, and this money has to come from the taxpayers' pockets, will these land owners be compelled to repay this or not? If private land owners can continue to get funds from the government and not pay interest or principal it will continue to be a great game for real estate promoters.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY,
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Salem Statesman OPPOSES VALLEY DAMS

To the Editor: I received a copy of the Salem Statesman of December 3, containing an editorial entitled "Opposing the Valley Project." This refers to the annual meeting of the Oregon Wildlife Federation at Corvallis and states that the sportsmen, without proper investigation, oppose the Willamette Valley project. It also states that the army engineers' plans for this project provide for safeguarding fish life in the Willamette river and its tributaries.

If four high dams are built on the north and south forks of the Santiam, the McKenzie, and the middle fork of the Willamette, the army engineers have stated that these cannot be supplied with fish ladders. We have a state law to the effect that dams that block our migratory fish runs cannot be constructed unless authorized by the state fish and game commissions. Both of these commissions have opposed the building of these four dams. The sportsmen also feel that this state law should not be violated.

The Willamette River Basin commission has informed the public that an extra million dollars will be spent by the government on hatcheries and will not only save the fisheries from the destructive effects of their proposed dams, but will actually improve both commercial and sport fishing. This is not true, according to the studies made by state and federal fish experts.

The artificial spawning of certain varieties of fish has been very successful. The facts show that other fish, like the spring Chinook salmon, can be spawned, but later they gradually disappear if their natural spawning beds are destroyed.

The Baird hatchery on the headwaters of the Sacramento river in California was established years ago by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. For some time this hatchery handled about 20,000,000 salmon eggs each season, but nevertheless it has been abandoned simply because, in spite of its efforts, the salmon have disappeared. The same thing occurred where Chinook salmon were artificially propagated in the Salmon river in Idaho, and that hatchery was also abandoned.

Again, years ago when the Clackamas river, tributary of the Willamette, was blocked with power dams, the bureau of fisheries built a hatchery a few miles up in the hope of maintaining the Chinook runs. They stopped all the salmon at River Mill dam, and they were spawned artificially. Instead of increasing or holding their own, the numbers of fish returning to the river steadily dropped. Where 2,428,000 eggs were taken in 1931, the supply had dropped in 1938 to 300,000. Finally the salmon were permitted to ascend a fish ladder at River Mill, and a new fish ladder recently constructed at Cazadero, because the only hope seemed to lie in allowing them to spawn naturally.

Dec. 15, 1940
William L. Finley,
Portland, Oregon.

Oregonian Funeral Directors Name Officials

Dec. 11, 1940

Arthur C. Lundberg of Tillamook was elected president of the Funeral Directors of Northwestern Oregon at the group's annual meeting at the Campbell Court hotel here Monday night, it was announced Tuesday. Also unanimously elected were Thomas H. Grice, Portland, vice-president, and William C. Carroll, Gresham, secretary-treasurer.

Legislative matters were discussed by Charles W. McGee and William L. Finley as representatives of the Oregon state funeral directors' and embalmers' board. They announced a special meeting of the board at 1 P. M. Saturday in the Oregon building and revealed that an embalmers' examination will be held in Portland on January 8, 9 and 10.

Corvallis, Or. OSC Wildlife Club Tells 'Squirrel' Plans

Dec. 12, 1940

The Oregon State college lawns and trees will soon be inhabited by gray squirrels, Phil Branson, president of the wildlife club, announced at a meeting last night. The planting of these animals will be a project of the club for the coming term.

Gray squirrels, Branson explained, are outstanding for their sleek beauty, and for easy domestication. They are familiar to vacationists throughout the tall timber of the Pacific northwest, and are the same species of squirrel that live in the lawns and trees of the state capitol at Salem.

Another club project, scheduled for the latter part of January, is the showing of motion pictures taken by William Finley world-famous Oregon naturalist, including an Alaskan series on the Kodiak bear. An attempt will be made to have Finley lecture with the picture.