

Oregon Journal
**Kipp Answers
Project 'Kicks'**

March 29, 1940
**Secretary of Willamette Basin
Group Says Some Against Progress**

SILVERTON, March 29.—Robert H. Kipp, executive secretary of the Willamette River Basin project, speaking before the Silverton Chamber of Commerce this week, took the opportunity to answer some of the criticism of the proposed project.

"Lots of people in Oregon think this state should remain in the condition it was when we took it from the Indians. But this is impossible. We either go back or we go forward," he said, in part. "We are trying to get what hundreds of farmers on the valley floor have been trying to get for the last 10 years.

**Land Washed Out Is
Land Gone Forever**

"We have no controversy with the fish commission or the fish and game commission," he continued. "But my good friend, W. L. Finley, makes some terrifically extravagant statements at times, as I have told him. This thing about the levees on the river. Those suggesting this don't know anything about engineering or the proposed project. We would have to put a stone wall from 10 to 30 feet high on each side of the Willamette river and this would eliminate navigation and irrigation, two important points to our program.

"Finley further said," Kipp continued, "that since the floods come in the winter they do not do any damage. We know that these floods take out farm lands. Does he think the tide brings them back again? All land washed out is land lost forever."

Low Water Is Handicap

In referring to anglers' objections, Kipp said that while he was no fisherman himself, he had been told by those who were, that the extreme low water in summer time is one of the handicaps to present good fishing.

"But some people object," he added, "to the dams because they have to find a new fishing place. Of the 1000 miles of fishing, about 50 miles will be taken out."

Kipp reported that if the project workers get past the fish people, or at least get a promise that they won't serve an injunction against the dam, the Detroit dam should be finished within three years. "But," he added, "we are a long way from out of the woods on procuring the project yet."

Others Would Take Money

In speaking of his recent trip to Washington, D. C., he said he had found officials "were getting close to the bottom of the financial sock and we are lucky to be in the initial group of projects. There are many who would like to take up the money if we do not want to use it in Oregon."

Kipp said that while there was as yet no allocation for water for irrigation purposes in the Willamette Valley project, a survey was now being made on irrigation.

Salem, Ore., Journal
**Finley Again
Airs Grievance**

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 10 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?" *Mar. 29, 1940*

Columbia River, Journal
**William Finley Hits
At Willamette Dams
In Chicago Address**

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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."