

Oregonian Nov. 7-1936
Is This Conservation

In recent issues of Nature Magazine have appeared articles by William L. Finley, distinguished Portland naturalist and conservation leader, vigorously criticising the policies of the commissioner of fisheries, Frank T. Bell. Nobody will question Mr. Finley's qualifications as an unusually well-informed critic in matters of conservation of wild life resources. He speaks with the authority of long devotion and study.

As for Commissioner Bell, on the contrary, it must appear, even before examination of the specific evidence offered by Mr. Finley, that the commissioner's qualifications as head of the bureau of fisheries are extraordinarily negligible. His appointment in 1933 was among those numerous appropriations of federal patronage, under the new deal, which appear to reflect a somewhat indifferent if not cynical attitude toward important national resources and interests. He displaced the late Henry O'Malley, a foremost and veteran authority on fishes and fisheries—although his biographical sketch in "Who's Who" reveals no implied recommendation of fitness superior to the statements that he had been a real estate operator, an irrigation project promoter and secretary to Senator Dill of Washington. The appointment may be regarded as entirely political.

Repeatedly it has been demonstrated that politics and conservation are as alien one to another as oil and water. In proof of his contention that the affairs of the bureau of fisheries, which has in its keeping certain heritages of the people, have been conspicuously mismanaged, at the least, Mr. Finley cites, in the most recent of his criticisms, the flagrantly disregarded plight, in his opinion and in the opinions of others, of the red salmon runs of Bristol bay. The red, or sockeye, salmon has a five-year cycle. In 1925 fishermen on Bristol bay observed a serious and inexplicable shortage of these fine fish. This foretold, with something approximating exactness, a similar or even greater shortage in 1930. When this shortage in turn revealed itself it was agreed by Mr. O'Malley, then commissioner of fisheries, and the several fishing companies operating on the bay; that a closed season be observed in 1935, for natural replenishment by spawning of the entire run. An official order to this effect was issued, and was in force when Mr. Bell took office.

Mr. Finley charges, with the evidence to support him, that not only was the order rescinded by Commissioner Bell in 1935, thus permitting a raid upon the sadly depleted migration of red salmon, but that the order of permission was so abruptly issued that only one of the fishing companies was enabled to avail itself of the opportunity. And this company, Mr. Finley points out, seemed to have anticipated the order, since it was ready for fishing when the permission was given. Apart from the foregoing, which may be susceptible of controversy, though the facts seem clear, it is undeniable that the red salmon run of 1940 will be even more alarmingly scarce.

There is the matter, too, of the mismanagement, as Mr. Finley charges, of the Pribilof fur seal industry, which need not here be set forth in detail. This much, however, is certain, that the statements made by Mr. Finley in criticism of Commissioner Bell's administration of the bureau are so serious and alarming, so seemingly supported by sad abundance of fact, as to indicate the urgent need both of investigation and reform.

Oregon

Martin Calls Parley at State College

Journal Nov. 15 1936

Oregon State College, Corvallis, Nov. 14.—The program for the two-day Oregon wild life conference to be held here next Thursday and Friday at the request of Governor Charles H. Martin was announced by R. E. Dimick, head of the fish, game and fur animal management department here.

The conference will bring together specialists in wild life work connected with federal and state agencies as well as representatives of numerous organizations interested in this work, and individual sportsmen. The meeting will be open to all who are interested, Dimick emphasized.

In calling the meeting several weeks ago, Governor Martin pointed out that Oregon wild life resources constitute one of the state's most valuable assets and that by getting together all of the elements vitally interested in the conservation and development of this great state resource a sound program for the future may be outlined.

In general, Thursday morning's program will include a survey of Oregon's wild life situation. The state fisheries program and the relationships of national parks, soil conservation and range building will be discussed Thursday afternoon. Friday's session will include discussion of forest management in relation to wild life, the pollution problem of rivers, range improvement, the farmers' interest in small game and the educational program in wild life conservation now being carried on at Oregon State college.

The Oregon General Wild Life federation will be organized Friday afternoon, with Dr. W. L. Finley of Jennings Lodge, noted Northwest conservationist, as chairman. Officers will be selected at this business meeting.

Governor Martin will be a guest speaker at the banquet Thursday night at 6 o'clock in the Memorial Union ballroom. Dr. Finley will also speak on "Woods, Water and Wild Life."

The condensed program follows:

Thursday, November 19

Morning—Opening of meeting by Ed F. Averill, Oregon Wild Life council. Address of welcome, Dean William A. Schoenfeld, O. S. C.

"The Biological Survey in Relation to the General Wild Life Program," W. M. Rush, regional director, U. S. bureau of biological survey.

"The Oregon Farmer and His Interest in Small Game," William Graf, Portland. "Our Oregon Wild Life," Dexter Rice, Roseburg, chairman; E. E. Wilson, Corvallis, and George Alken, Ontario, members, state game commission.

"Wild Life in Relation to Eastern Oregon Lands," J. W. Biggs, chairman, Eastern Oregon land use committee, Oregon Planning board.

Afternoon—"What Can Be Accomplished by a Fisheries Program," Fred J. Foster, regional director U. S. bureau of Fisheries.

"Commercial Fisheries as an Oregon Industry," John C. Veatch, chairman Oregon fish commission.

"The Contribution of Our National Parks to the Field of Conservation Thought," David H. Canfield, superintendent Crater Lake National park.

"Soil Conservation and Wild Life Work," W. A. Rockie, regional conservator, U. S. soil conservation service.

"We Are Rebuilding Our Range," O. D. Molohenn, chief, range surveys, U. S. division of grazing.

"The Scope of the Oregon Planning Board in Conservation," V. L. Sexton, forest economist, Oregon planning board.

"The Place of Migratory Bird Refuges in Conservation," Stanley G. Jewett, superintendent Malheur bird refuge, U. S. bureau of biological survey.

Banquet at 6 p. m.

Friday, November 20

Morning session—"Problems of Forest Management and Wild Life," E. N. Kavanaugh, assistant regional forester, U. S. forest service.

"Stream Pollution and Its Remedies," Matt Corrigan, state president Isaac Walton League, introducing Professor Fred Merryfield, O. S. C.

"Pollution and the Oyster Industry," Harold Clifford, former member Oregon game commission.

"The Improvement of Our Range," J. C. Barrett, president Oregon Wool Growers association.

"Training for Conservation Work at Oregon State College," F. E. Price, assistant to the dean of agriculture, O. S. C.

"Studies of Songbirds in the Carlton Area, 1912-1936," W. S. Raker, honorary president, Oregon Audubon society, introducing Mrs. Grace McCormac French, former conservation committee chairman, Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs.

Afternoon session—Organization of Oregon Chapter, General Wild Life Federation.

Averill to Talk—"Bird Travelers," a talk on the habits of birds during migration, will be given by Ed F. Averill before members and friends of the Oregon Audubon society at 7:30 p. m. Friday in Central library. Averill is co-editor with William L. Finley of the wild life page in The Sunday Journal. He formerly was with the United States biological survey and later was state game warden.

Journal Nov. 12 '36

"Calif. Monthly" Nov. 1936
William and Irene Finley's daughter Phoebe Katherine, who was her father's most efficient secretary, was married on June 11 to Arthur N. Pack, president of the American Nature Association and associate editor of Nature magazine. The wedding occurred at Mr. Pack's dude ranch, known as the Ghost Ranch, in New Mexico.