

SPRAGUE ASSURES GAME BODY SAFE

Oregonian
Governor-Elect Planning
No Drastic Changes

Dec. 2, 1938

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 1 (Special)—Assurance that Oregon would not have any drastic changes in the state game commission after January 10 was given Oregon Wildlife federation members at the banquet of the third annual conference here Thursday night by Governor-Elect Charles A. Sprague, who was the featured speaker.

In appreciation of his interest in the wild life of the state, Sprague was made honorary president of the federation.

Oregon's governor-elect assured the assembly that he would maintain a friendly interest toward the state's wild life activities and that he would strive to keep its program out of politics as much as possible. He declared that the state had no safeguard against violation of conservation efforts and game laws except through wholesome and active public opinion.

Roseburg Man Speaks

Speaking for Governor Charles H. Martin, who was unable to attend the banquet, Dexter Rice of Roseburg, chairman of the state game commission, declared that Oregon's wild life and forests belonged to the people of the state and that it was their duty to preserve them through co-operation with agencies interested in the field.

Wild life suffers from lack of continuity of policy through changes in personnel of the wild life administration with every change of government in most states, declared Carl D. Shoemaker, secretary of the National Wild Life federation. Consideration has not been given to selection of game commissioners and commission members by state executives and legislators in the past that there should have been, he said.

Better Understanding Urged

In sessions throughout the day, an urgent need for better understanding of Oregon's conservation problems and a constructive co-operative spirit in working toward their solution were stressed by numerous speakers.

The mule deer problem in the famous Murderer's creek mule deer area consumed most of the afternoon session.

Dr. William L. Finley, regional director of the National Wild Life Federation, made a plea for greater scientific research and education. He asked the assembly why Oregon hasn't taken advantage of provisions of the Pittman-Robertson act to make use of between \$60,000 and \$80,000 for scientific study of conservation problems.

Co-ordination of effort toward something of lasting good was urged by William J. Smith, Portland, president of the state federation, who also stated that fish and game commissions are doing good work but often need encouragement from sportsmen.

The conference will close tomorrow with election of officers.

PURE STREAM LAW SEEN AS MINE FOE

Oregonian
Industry Leaders Organize
to Protect Interests

Dec. 8, 1938

Every mining concern in the state and one-third of the irrigated farms will be put out of business by the anti-pollution law if it is enforced, State Senator W. H. Strayer asserted Wednesday at a meeting in the Portland hotel at which the Oregon Mining association was formed.

"This is my unqualified opinion as a lawyer," Strayer warned, adding that "if it isn't enforced the law should be repealed." He asked the 100 delegates to the meeting to read the law and "see if I'm not correct."

The law was approved by the state's voters at the November general election by a 3-to-1 margin.

Mining Group Formed

The meeting of mine operators was called to form a statewide organization to embrace everyone connected with any type of mining. At closing sessions the name Oregon Mining association was adopted and directors and officers elected.

Directors named were D. Ford McCormick, of Medford; Leverett Davis of Cornucopia; and F. Whalley Watson, Portland, for two-year terms; and S. H. Williston, R. B. Porter, C. Hunt Lewis and Lawrence C. Newlands, all of Portland, for one-year terms.

Davis Named President

Leverett Davis, who called the meeting, was elected president by the directors; McCormick was named vice-president and Watson was elected secretary-treasurer pro tem.

Inspired by passage of the stream purification measure, the meeting heard Davis in his opening statement ask that an organization be formed to protect interests of mine owners and operators in Oregon and to sponsor favorable legislation, to combat unfavorable legislation.

He estimated that at least 100 mining operations are underway in the state and that gold mining production of \$3,000,000 annually leads the production list. He joined with Strayer's later opinion in saying that if strictly enforced the anti-pollution legislation would close every mine operation in the state.

Miner Appointment Urged

Davis and others urged that the association ask appointment of a placer miner to the three-man state sanitary authority set up by the bill.

F. H. Young, one of the drafters of the bill, appeared before the morning session and explained that it was a compromise between fish and game interests on one side and industry on the other. It was his opinion that enforcement of the legislation would not seriously hamper mining operations in the state.

"But," he warned, "you can't very well ignore such an expression of public opinion as was registered by the voters."

Earl K. Nixon, director of the state department of geology and mineral industries, promised a full measure of co-operation to the new association.

Finley Protests Slam On Pure Stream Law

William L. Finley, naturalist, has protested attacks of the newly born Oregon Mining association, which met Wednesday at Hotel Portland, on Oregon's stream purification measure.

"There's nothing in the measure which will put miners out of business," Finley declared. "The only thing it does is prevent miners from dumping poison liquids and chemicals into rivers and streams, thereby killing natural life. It merely provides that miners shall not destroy public property."

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Mines and River Purity

To the Editor: In The Oregonian, December 8, is an article entitled "Pure Stream Law Seen as Mine Foe." This states that the Oregon Mining association has been formed and certain people engaged in mining object to a law passed by the voters of this state at the general election by a three-to-one margin.

The statement is made that gold mining in Oregon means the production of about \$3,000,000 annually, and some miners think if the stream purification bill is enforced, it will put certain private owners out of business.

This is perhaps a good illustration where certain private individuals feel they have the right to destroy public property to gain money. The rivers of Oregon, which belong to the people as a whole, are worth more than ten times the value of mining in Oregon.

The purity of public waters from the standpoint of public health, for the benefit of wildlife, and for recreational uses of our people, are part of a factor that brings in \$40,000,000 annually to many thousands of our citizens. The state highway commission spends a hundred thousand dollars a year advertising Oregon as a great outdoor country where people from all parts of the nation can spend a vacation for their health and happiness.

The last election shows that our citizens aim more to benefit the people as a whole rather than certain private interests. The law passed at the last election does not necessarily force the mining interests to stop any mud from being washed into the river. It does definitely prevent certain mining companies from dumping poisonous liquids and chemicals into a stream, killing fish and preventing the public from using its own property.

The aim of this law is not to destroy industries, provided these industries do not destroy public property solely for private gain.

Our natural resources of land and water are the basis of wealth in

Oregon. Conservation means the use of these resources for all our people and not the misuse by a few.

Since certain industrial interests, like the Oregon Mining association, are meeting and organizing to control the state sanitary board under this new bill, it is time for state organizations to meet, like the Wildlife federation, the Izaak Walton league, sportsmen's clubs, garden clubs, and others who are interested in conserving our resources for the benefit of all our people.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY.