

N. Y. Herald Tribune
ROD AND GUN

By DONALD STILLMAN

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THE State of Oregon has begun a campaign to clean its public waters. Forty-seven cities and towns in Oregon have applications for sewage disposal plants pending before the N. R. A. The Federal government contributes 30 per cent of public works labor and material costs on approved self-liquidating projects and lends money for the remainder, this amount to be retired by nominal service charges.

The American Game Association points out that every city and town dumping its sewage into public waters can take advantage of this offer and build disposal plants.

William L. Finley, author and naturalist, who has been a leading figure in the battle against pollution in Oregon, calls attention to the benefits of elimination. He says:

"Such an opportunity to end stream pollution in Oregon may never come again. The movement is on to get every community in the state to work for clean streams. This will relieve unemployment, it will save the valuable runs of salmon in public waters, improve health and encourage outdoor recreation. The plan is to make Oregon the first state in the Union where stream pollution has been abolished and to build up her outdoor resources for the benefit of all the people."

Here in the East many of our large rivers virtually are open sewers. Some of our smaller streams are little better. Industrial and domestic sewage poisons our streams. Garbage and sewage pollute many of our beaches. As a race, we have been filthy in this respect. We have taken the attitude that "over the fence is out."

I never have been able to understand why the town of Bohunk, located upstream on the Umptedink River, should be permitted to pollute the waters flowing through the town of Jesophus, five miles further down stream.

Steps to eliminate pollution in streams are not always easily taken. To be sure, the Conservation Department of New York State makes tests upon request; but these tests may mean much or they may mean little. The fish used in these tests may not be trout, but minnows, which may be more tolerant of pollution than trout. Also other factors may enter the case which make the tests valueless or nearly so.

Civil action to recover for damages caused by pollution sometimes is an expensive and complicated process, and probably little will be done to clean up our streams and rivers until communities as a whole become more pollution-conscious than they are at present.

good. Fishing at Fire Island Inlet, Wednesday, M. Alkier and party, on Captain Walter Bruggeman's Anna May L, from Bayshore, caught sixty-one weakfish weighing from three to eight pounds. On the same day good catches also were made in Little Egg Harbor Bay by the Beach Haven boats. Captain Henry Schoenberg brought in twenty weaks; Captain John Crosta, twenty-seven weaks and thirteen croakers; Captain Leo Lovett, forty-one weaks, ten croakers and three fluke.

Ten Wild Fowl Commandments

On the eve of the hunting season, the advisory board of the United States Migratory Bird Treaty issues nine commandments for sportsmen which, it is believed, may be vital in preserving wild life, particularly ducks.

"The advisory board is of the opinion that the present plight of our ducks, in part, is due to disregard for high standards of sportsmanship in waterfowl hunting, and it believes that substantial benefits will accrue if unsportsmanlike practices and abuses are eliminated or reduced to a minimum," a resolution adopted by the board states. The nine commandments issued by the board are:

Take your birds in a sportsmanlike way and avoid excesses.

Select your birds and refrain from destructive flock shooting.

Refrain from shooting at birds beyond reasonable killing range.

Never shoot at birds on the water unless badly crippled.

Retrieve your birds and avoid all possible waste.

Do not patronize commercial shooting stands where abuses are practiced.

If you feed birds during the season continue it as long as feed is beneficial.

Do your part to restore breeding grounds and maintain refuges.

Be a sportsman—obey the law and insist that others do likewise.

To which the American Game Association adds:

"Swat the crow and other predators that prey on game."