

*J. M. Darling*  
Mr. Hartford N. Taylor, Chief of Biological Survey, says that Mr. Finley has performed a most valuable service in the conservation of wild life, for his new series of motion pictures, dealing with streams, forests, and wild life resources are the best that I have seen. His account of conditions fifteen or twenty years ago, as compared with the present time, illustrated with many motion pictures he has taken is a graphic story.

It was through Mr. Finley's efforts that largest wild-fowl reservations in the West were established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. They were lately destroyed by a drainage and promotion scheme with the resultant loss of untold numbers of birds.

It has been largely through Mr. Finley that *Lower Klamath* *Mulhann Lake - 550* Oregon is now being restored by the purchase of the Blitzen Valley in <sup>and</sup> Watershed on the South.

The titles of the new reels which Mr. Finley will show are: Where Rolls the Oregon, The Forests, The Passing of the Marshlands, Water Fowl, The Public Domain.

In his lecture Mr. Finley deals with the resources of land and water in the West, bringing out the advance problem of damming the Columbia River, the greatest salmon stream in the world, to develop power. Unless adequate methods are developed to allow the salmon to pass beyond these high dams on up to the spawning beds, the fish will gradually be destroyed. The states will lose an industry worth 12 million dollars annually.

Mr. Finley advocates the keeping of the beaver in all national forests because of its great value in conserving water. Many parts

of the country have been greatly injured by the lack of water, in fact, the water level in many states has been lowered as much as 50 or 60 feet. The beaver, in building dams and developing ponds, increases the supply of pasturage for live stock, creates ponds and streams where there is good fishing and recreation in the mountains. The beaver prevents the erosion of the soil and the supply of water is <sup>stored</sup> returned in the mountains so that it comes down gradually and can be used for irrigation in the fields below.

At the last session of Congress, the Taylor Bill was passed placing the remaining public land and public domain in charge of the Department of the Interior, while the main object of this bill is to conserve grazing on the public domain. Mr. Finley believes that some of this public land should first be set aside as reservations to save our disappearing species like the sage-grass ~~and~~ and antelope.

In as much as there has never been a national policy established to conserve our wild life resources, this is one of the important steps that has been advocated. Even though we have national reservations for water-fowl, if these have been established on reclamation projects, the water-fowl have received <sup>no</sup> little consideration because the reclamation has priority rights. The real cause for the rapid disappearance of ducks, geese and other water birds is the drainage of vast areas in the North ponds, lakes and swamps which are the ancestral breeding grounds of birds. The past few years have proved definitely that this

country is not in need of additional agricultural land unless it is of highest quality. Many areas that have been drained are of more value in their original condition than for agriculture.