## SEWAGE DISPOSAL STUDY SUGGESTED

Profit in Fertilizer Seen by O. M. Plummer.

PLANT COST BIG BARRIER

Oreganian

Danger of Spoiling Rivers and Beaches Grave; System Used in East.

-6-21-31

While others advocate a program of sewage treatment to end pollution of the Willamette river and other Oregon streams in the interests of public health, angling and commercial fishing, and scenic beauty, O. M. Plummer, general manager of the Pacific International Livestock exposition, proposes that a study of sewage disposal be made to determine whether or not it might be made to pay for itself.

itself.

Mr. Plummer does not have in mind a program of sewage disposal "without cost to the taxpayers," but he believes, he said yesterday, that the natural fertilizer that could be obtained from sewage and waste that now goes into the streams of Oregon would pay interest on a very large investment in sewage treatment plants and at the same time open a source of fine fertilizer for the rebuilding of soil in Oregon orchards.

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The attention of the livestock exposition manager was called to the present movement for sewage treatment by articles and letters by William L. Finley, naturalist, published during the last week in The Oregonian

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"Mr. Finley and his friends are on the right track," Mr. Plummer said.
"The Willamette river, Columbia river and other streams are beginning to suffer from pollution, and something must be done soon to relieve them of this if they are to remain healthful, beautiful and attractive to fish life.

"But the huge cost of sewage treatment plants stands as a barrier to be surmounted. It seems reasonable that in this land where it is necessary to use much fertilizer for building up the fruit-growing lands, some means could be found to utilize the sewage and waste as fertilizer. Sale of this fertilizer could pay interest and even carrying charges on sewage treatment plants and might in time pay off the cost of sewage disposal systems.

"At least, this is a matter that ought to be considered while stream pollution is up for discussion."

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Mr. Plummer said eastern cities have found markets for dried sludge from their sewage disposal plants, while the market gardeners of Paris, France, are glad to buy waste that flows from the sewers of Paris into large fields to be dried. Thus, he pointed out, this fertilizer becomes a by-product of the sanitation facilities of the city.

The people of Oregon must not allow the fine beaches along the Willamette and Columbia rivers and Oregon coast to become ruined by sewage and waste, as have some of the leading swimming beaches along the Atlantic coast, Mr. Plummer said. There sewage and garbage has been hauled out to sea on barges and dumped overboard, only to be washed back to shore, where it becomes not only a nuisance, but a menace to health.

The suggestions offered by Mr. Plummer were considered about four years ago by the agricultural committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Plummer has suggested to W. D. B. Dodson, general manager of the chamber, that the matter again be taken up.

WILLAMETTE CALLED FILTHY
Time at Hand to Act on River Pollution, Declares Mr. Finley.

JENNINGS LODGE, June 11.—(To the Editor.)—A few days ago the Portland branch of the American Association of University Women held a meet ing at our home and with their children rought llunches for a picnic. The children naturally wanted to play in the willamette river along the sandy beach below our house. This was forbidden because, although it was an any may and the river looked beautiful from a distance, this public stream the industries at Oregon City. It is a menace to public health and the ingrish state health officers have not only ted advised people against swimming in leir their intervent in even getting one's hand wet while boating.

A neighbor of ours who has cottages for the river but even getting one's hand wet while boating.

A neighbor of ours who has cottages to rent along the river recently aily new as to take a cottage for the summer. These people had children and were advised by the state board of health that it would be dangerous of health that it would be dangerous to the and were avised by the state board of health that it would be dangerous of health that it would be dangerous to the summer. These people had children and were advised by the state board of health that it would be dangerous to the summer. These people had children and were advised by the state board of health that it would be dangerous to the summer. These people had children and were advised by the state board of health that it would be dangerous to the summer. These people had children and were advised by the state board of health that it would be dangerous to the summer months. The would help scentred to dever a contractors were to mitten the river, the city pour in its waste form mit the workmen very properside to mitten the workmen very properside bridge, the contractors were donditions at the mouths of these were sannot adequately be described in print. It can only be left to the longing tit was a summer and the workmen very propers

river and they have complained about the stench from dead eels and dead salmon. They departed with a bad taste and have not ceased to chide me about the atmosphere along one of Oregon's famous streams.

The above leads me to believe that if some of the fund of a hundred thousand dollars or more raised by the citizens of Oregon to advertise and attract tourists, and some of the efforts of the business men of Portland and other cities were turned toward getting the house in order for tourists, it would really be of more permanent value.

Those interested in boating and

Those interested in boating and Those interested in boating and using the river in conjunction with the annual Rose Festival are compelled to hold a regatta in the water that is poisoned by the filth of several hundred thousand people. Boatloads of pleasure-seekers ply the surface above open sewers along the river bed that in places is covered with several feet of festering, poisonous coze.