

Willamette Project to Get \$70,000,000

Barnes-Lewis 4-2-40

R. H. Kipp, executive secretary of the Willamette valley basin projects, made a report of his trip to Washington, D. C., where he attended meetings of the flood control committee, to the project commission and to leading citizens of Eugene, at a meeting held in Eugene Friday.

O. D. Eby, chairman of the commission, said that \$70,000,000 for flood control projects had passed the house and was now in the senate, where it should pass without difficulty. "From this \$70,000,000 the army engineers will appropriate money for work in 1940-41 on the Willamette dams," Eby said.

The commission has some opposition in building the dams. The principal person is William Finley, local naturalist, who has been touring the nation all winter. Finley has said that the dams would ruin the fish runs entirely, and suggested that dikes be built instead. "This is an untruth," said Eby, "because the plans are made and approved by the army engineers, and they have taken fish runs into consideration."

Condemns Flood Control

844 Mc Minnville, Ore., Telephone-Register Apr. 4, 1940

Charging that flood control dams on the Willamette river will spell ruin for the salmon industry, William L. Finley of Portland, noted naturalist, asserted in an address to the Izaak Walton League of America in Chicago.

"The Chinook salmon runs of the Columbia river represent the most valuable fish resources in America — perhaps in the world. As a food supply they represent an industry of more than 10 million dollars annually, supporting thousands of families, and this in spite of the fact that the runs have been gradually decreasing on the upper Columbia, where dams, pollution and irrigation ditches have raised so much havoc as to make the industry in that part of the river almost a memory.

"The best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which is apparently doomed to go the same route, all in the name of flood control, in order to obtain federal pork monies, largely at the expense of the more populous states, to the tune of more than 100 million dollars, and to add to the fast growing number of aquatic monstrosities being heaped upon the nation."

Mr. Finley cites engineers' study to show that the largest reported floods on the upper Willamette occurred during December 1861, January 1881 and February 1890—all during winter months. Floods on the main stream usually occur between November and March, the main flood water below Oregon City being back-water from the annual freshets on the Columbia and therefore having nothing to do with the upper Willamette. "Since floods in the Willamette valley come during the winter months, how can there be damage to farm crops?"

Whether this so-called flood control is just another example of removing the balance of nature remains to be seen.

Opposed to Flood Control

Apr. 5, 1940 Silverton, Ore., Appeal-Tribune

The proposed flood control project on the Willamette river, as outlined here last week by R. H. Kipp, executive secretary of the Willamette River Basin commission, failed to find unanimity of expression.

Numerous Silvertonians and others are inclined to side with William L. Finley of Portland, national vice-president of the Izaak Walton league, who has labeled the project as more or less of a "pork barrel scheme."

Finley declared that the farmers of the Willamette valley did not start the agitation for flood control and do not want it.

He said that the argument for flood control was raised by promoters and speculators as a "camouflage in order to obtain federal pork monies."

Chinook salmon runs of the Columbia river represent the most valuable fish resources in America, Finley added, but dams, pollution and irrigation ditches already have reduced the industry on the upper Columbia. The best remaining spawning area is the tributary, the Willamette, which apparently is doomed to go the same way.

The Walton leader could not see how the floods are very important anyway, from a farmer's standpoint, as they come in the winter months bearing a rich silt, and do not damage his crops.

Kipp told his Silverton audience that the dams would only affect 50 of the 1000 miles of fishing in Oregon.

Local anglers hold that these 50 miles of fishing are virtually the most important in the valley.

He compared the proposed \$62,000,000 project with the \$200,000 invested in fishing equipment in Oregon, and said the fish people themselves were divided on whether the dams would actually damage fish life.

Kipp said the best news to other states clamoring for flood control would be that Oregon had decided to abandon all further work on the project.

The only criticism that we have got on the project is from Oregon people, he added.

Work was scheduled to start this week on the Fern Ridge rolled fill dam. The project is located on the Long Tom river and Coyote creek about 12 miles northwest of Eugene in Lane county.

Fern Ridge is the first of seven dams included in the \$62,000,000 Willamette River Basin flood control project.

The dam and dikes which will back up a lake five miles long and four miles wide will be located one mile southeast of the town of Alvadore, between Junction City and Eugene.

Other dams will be constructed at Cottage Grove, Dorena, Middle Fork at Oakridge, the Mackenzie, and in the Santiam country near Detroit.

Kipp declared that land washed out by floods is gone forever, and represents that much economic loss to the farmer.

Finleys on Way Home

Apr. 5, 1940 Journal

Dr. and Mrs. William L. Finley, who have been spending the winter with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur N. Pack, on the Ghost ranch near Abiquiu, N. M., have left for their home and are expected here Monday. Recently they participated in the annual conventions of the Izaak Walton League of America in Chicago and the General Wildlife Federation of America in Washington, D. C. Dr. Finley is first vice president of both organizations.