

POLITICS BARRED IN GAME COMMISSION

Little Evidence Introduced to Support Complaints.

EXECUTIVE OUTLINES PLANS

Much Testimony Is Given Indicating Good Results Under Direction of Commission.

(Continued From First Page.)

Further believe that the cards should be put upon the table. Whatever is done along the line of organization will be done with that end in view. "I am seeking the greatest results that can be obtained for the money that the people of the state have invested. The views I am expressing I have endeavored to impress upon every department which operates under the direction of the executive offices and none are excepted from the general tenor of these remarks. All I ask of any official is honest, conscientious, efficient and loyal service to the state that employs him. That service can be given only when undistracted by outside political endeavors. During my administration side issues are not wanted."

Charges Are Far-Reaching.
"If politics is not eliminated I wish to serve notice that I hold the whip hand and where I have the jurisdiction to do so I will eliminate politics by eliminating the offending factor. In event a subordinate employee is the offender I intend to hold whatever agency might employ him strictly accountable for such subordinate's activities."

In conclusion the governor announced that if he lives he will ask the next legislature to eliminate the governor as chairman of the commission, explaining that there is no more reason why the governor should be chairman of this commission than of any one of 18 other commissions in the state.

Dr. Downs and Mr. Price opened the hearing by directing their charges. They charged political activity and trading at Salem, asserted that the game warden service is lax and that the money for salmon and trout protection is not properly divided. The Malheur lake bill, it was charged, was used as a trading measure in the legislature and that while the commission recommended the bill it did nothing to help it.

Farmers Accused of Poaching.
Dr. Downs accused farmers of poaching; said the patrol boat for the river was kept with one of the most notorious poachers; that more efficient warden service was required and so far as results go the entire present force may as well be discharged.

H. B. Van Duzer said that 90 percent of the report of the commission is camouflage. He said that steelheads run in the Umatilla, Rogue and Hood rivers because that is all they can get; that steelheads were formerly carried in the reports as commercial fish but paid for from the commercial fund, and this proved they were commercial fish. George Putnam of Medford testified that the steelhead is a sea-going trout.

Later Commissioner Frank Warren, one of the individuals particularly aimed at by critics of the commission, said that steelheads are but a small part of the commercial pack. John Gill testified that the warden service is not what it should be as farmers steal out ahead of season fairs the Portland sportsmen.

Protection Declared Lacking.
R. D. McClellan of Joseph offered a resolution adopted by the Wallawa County Rod & Gun club, saying no fish had been sent to Wallawa county and criticizing the commission. From the Wallawa Rod & Gun club a letter appeared saying that McClellan, so far as that club knew, represented no one but himself. Mr. McClellan declared he knew of game violations and that the warden service was not doing their duty in apprehending the offenders, but said in the same breath that while he knew of the violations he would not help prosecute the offenders as it would injure his business.

E. S. Snelling of the Newport Rod & Gun club, announced that the warden service in Lincoln county are well stocked; that there is an efficient warden there who goes after violators and has secured a conviction in every instance. Mr. Snelling wound up by saying that the critics of the commission know nothing of Lincoln county but try to regulate everything from the Multnomah view point, and that these critics, or very few of them, know anything of the streams and fields aside from what they can reach on the paved roads. No real sportsman would go out and deliberately violate the law, as Dr. Downs admitted, and as president of the state league the doctor was setting a mighty poor example.

Portland Hunters Accused.
E. L. Ballagh of St. Helens, member of the legislature, insisted that Columbia county has a first-class warden and there is plenty of fish and game in the county. He denied the charge that farmers get out early in the season to catch fish before the Portland sportsmen appear. Dr. Welch of Rainier supported the statement of Mr. Ballagh and announced that there is more fish, birds and deer in Columbia county than anyone in the county ever before knew of.

The doctor accused Portland duck hunters of shooting over the limit at Deer Island and Sauvies Island, and that he had heard of these offenders shooting 50 ducks a day. Dr. Welch said he had no particular interest, one way or another, save that he thought an attempt was being made to do the commission an injustice, and he came to the hearing to give his views on fish and game conditions in his county. He said there is no complaint except from Multnomah, and Multnomah is not the whole state.

Legislature Defends Commission.
"Some of the statements I have heard here make me ashamed to be a member of a sportsmen's club," said E. N. Hurd of Clatsop county, "when we hear of running deer with dogs or fish violations down our way we get out and prosecute. If all were true sportsmen who claim to be sportsmen there would be more fish, and if sportsmen were parties to the crimes, how can the warden be expected to afford protection to the fish and game?"

Mr. Hurd, who was a member of the legislature, informed the hearing that he personally assisted in distributing fish in the Neahum a few days ago when the fish were sent by the state commission from the Bonneville hatchery, yet as a specimen of the propaganda being carried on against the commission, he read a clipping from the Morning Astorian in which the fish were declared sent by the United States Fisheries bureau and that the state fish commission was doing nothing. He also said there were not more than two dead fish to the can.

Illegal Fishing Charged.
Illegal fishing between Oswego and Oregon City, the zone excluded from commercial fishing, is carried on constantly, asserted W. E. Young of Oregon City. Mr. Young declared that there is an organized band of robbers in Oregon City and has been for years; that these men go to the pot holes, and even to the fish ladder, and take out fish. He says that he has seen deputies look into the boats of the outlaws, see the fish therein and turn away with a laugh.

Mr. Young claimed that the commercial fishermen at the falls have taken out about 1000 tons of fish this season and have shipped the fish openly to Portland for transport to the canneries. He declared that the fish are caught near Main street in Oregon City and that there are scouts on the streets to keep tabs on the warden.

He stated that two power boats proceed up the river carrying a net between them; that fishermen openly fix their nets in broad daylight, set them toward dusk and pick them up about 1 A. M.

Co-Operation Held Best Remedy.
He himself has heard men on the streets of Oregon City inquire "Where will you be when the fish wardens go to sleep?" Mr. Young suggested that the remedy was to organize a big rod and gun club and have every member take an oath that he will uphold the law and assist in bringing violators to justice.

"Occasionally someone dynamites fish or snares a deer in our country, but when this is found out the true sportsmen report the offenders," said Denton Burdick of Deschutes. "A little sincere co-operation from these sportsmen's clubs will help." Mr. Burdick said that in his country there is no cause for calamity howling as the fish and game are increasing and so are the fishermen.

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Last Sunday 75 machines were parked at one lake and every fisherman had a good day. Mr. Burdick stigmatized as "the big bunk" charges that there was trading and barter on game legislation in the recent session, of which he was himself an active member. The Malheur lake bill passed the house and was killed in the senate. As for the game code, said Mr. Burdick, every sportsman in the house checked it to see that it was satisfactory.

Row Laid to Politics.
"As I see it, there is more politics than interest in fish and game life," asserted Richard Adams of Portland, member of the Multnomah Anglers' club of Portland, referring to the charges against the commission. "This whole trouble was stirred up originally by a resolution offered by Dr. Downs, in which he made radical charges against the commission. I do not think that the original resolution of Dr. Downs hit the truth. Later an amended resolution was railroaded through. Dr. Downs, president of the Oregon Sportsmen's league, has openly confessed in this public hearing that he has violated the law by shooting without a license."

Mr. Burdick says that he saw 75 machines at one lake last Sunday. That means, about 275 fishermen. I agree with Mr. Price that there are no fish in the Clackamas and other nearby streams. Mr. Burdick's statement is the explanation. Fishermen go out by the machine load. There are 25,000 people after the fish in streams within 50 miles of Portland.

Mr. Adams declared he has gone fishing with one member of the commission and believes this member too good a sportsman to permit the commercial interests to put anything over on the commission to the detriment of the sportsmen. When Mr. Adams finished speaking Dr. Downs asked if "I was not a fact that most of Mr. Adams' business was selling canned fish, and Mr. Adams answered that he has not sold a can of salmon in three years."

Wardens Asleep, Says White.
Speaking for the Field Trial club, Dr. Calvin White charged that the game laws are not enforced; that no one has ever asked to see his license; that the deputy wardens are paying more attention to politics than to seeking game law violators and that all the deputies, from the highest to the lowest, had to contribute to a campaign fund last year and take up political posters of their candidate.

He charged that deputies are going around now inducing people to send letters and telegrams to the governor in which the statement is made that the charges against the commission are inspired by Portland game hogs. In Marion county, the doctor said, the reports of guns can be heard before the season opens for upland birds, but the deputies give no heed to these offenders.

Dr. White asserted that the present game farm for propagating pheasants is not being used, yet the commission wants to establish another game farm.

Commercial Fishermen Satisfied.
T. Nelson and Fred Barker of Astoria said commercial fishermen are well satisfied with the work of the commission and have nothing but commendation for that body. Mr. Barker declared that aside from the license tax he has paid, the tax on fish has contributed \$10,000 since 1916 to aid in the fish propagation. But for the hatcheries, said Mr. Barker, the salmon business would have become extinct, and he said that once he left the Columbia some ten years ago when the water was so low that the bottom had dropped out of the industry.

To these men, Mr. Price explained that the critics of the commission are nothing but praise for the way the commission has developed the fish propagation for commercial purposes. The point, he stressed, Mr. Price, is that the trout propagation has not been as successful as the propagation of commercial fish.

Fletcher Denies Charges.
Commissioner N. Fletcher denied that Commissioner Warren has ever attempted to influence the commission in favor of the commercial interests. Master Fish Warden Clanton admitted that the system of distributing trout is not perfect, but that it is the one followed by other states and the United States Fisheries Bureau. Many fish are lost by the way sportsmen put them in the streams.

He contended that he scored points when it was admitted that fish was sent on request, without inquiry whether the kind of fish applied for were good for the streams they were intended for, and that the method of distribution is not the best. State Game Warden Shoemaker read accounts from the press of abundant game and fish in various parts of Oregon, and among those reported to have got the limit of fish was Mr. Fletcher and other critics of the commission.

EUGENE TO BACK UP WARREN
Chamber of Commerce Fish and Game Bureau Takes Stand.

EUGENE, Or., June 6.—(Special.)—The Eugene chamber of commerce, through its fish and game bureau, stands behind State Game Commissioner Warren and the present commission.

Conners was seen from a distance of a quarter of a mile by four men who know him, night before last. Conners was born and raised in the region where he now is hiding and his acquaintance with every possible hiding place is to his advantage. Officers asserted that Conners was surrounded and that his capture seemed certain in the end.

GAMBLERS' APPEAL FUTILE
Six Chinese Offenders Pay Fines Totalling \$450.

Fines totalling \$450 were collected in the circuit court from six Chinese gamblers by Judge Gatens yesterday, practically confirming sentences of the municipal court from which the celestials had appealed. All were convicted in the lower court of conducting lottery games or participating in them, and, though appealing, decided not to fight the cases yesterday.

Attorney W. W. Banks entered the plea and the fine was levied in disregard of the recommendation of Deputy City Attorney E. Y. Lansing for the limit under the law.

Ah Ju, Ah Sing and Ah Jung were fined on two charges each; Ah Jung, Ah Gin and Ah Jim on one charge each.

Veterans to Join Forces.
SPOKANE, Wash., June 6.—As a step toward the organization of a unified body of world war veterans, and later toward the unification of all United States war veterans into one body, veterans of the great war today were invited by E. R. Ennis of this city, department commander of the United Spanish War Veterans of Washington and Alaska, to meet with the organization in encampment at Billings June 12 and 13. Mr. Ennis said he expected 300 Spanish war veterans at the encampment.

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MAJESTIC

CATHOLIC TOTAL 17,500,000

DIRECTORY FOR 1919 SHOWS INCREASE FOR YEAR.

Nine Dioceses Report Decrease in Membership—Estimates Place Adherents of Faith at 19,500,000.

NEW YORK, June 7.—There are 17,549,324 Catholics in the 48 states of the union, according to the 1919 edition of "The Official Catholic Directory" just published and copyrighted by P. J. Kennedy & Sons of New York. This shows a net increase of 133,021 in the number of Catholics over the preceding year. Only nine dioceses show decreases.

Although this is the smallest increase shown in many a year, it is accounted for by the fact that in various dioceses no new census was taken during the unsettled conditions of last year.

This Catholic population figure is not overestimated or exaggerated, but according to Joseph H. Meier, who has compiled the directory for the past 14 years, the figure 17,549,324 is low and very conservative. If the "floating" Catholic population could be recorded, and if it had been possible for every diocese in the country to take a new 1918 census, the Catholic population would total over 19,500,000, according to Mr. Meier.

During the last 25 years the Catholic church has made giant strides, as is evidenced by comparing the figures in former directories. Tracing back the population figure 25 years it is shown that the increase in the number of Catholics in the United States during the past quarter of a century has amounted to 8,471,455.

Adding to the figure 17,549,324, which is the Catholic population of the United States proper, the number of Catholics in Alaska, the canal zone, the Virgin islands, Guam, the United States posses-

sions in Samoa, the Hawaiian islands, Porto Rico and in the Philippines, it develops that there are 35,335,550 Catholics under the protection of the United States flag.

Highway Campaign Approved.
WARRENTON, Or., June 6.—(Special.)—Senator A. W. Niblack of Clatsop vice-president of the Roosevelt highway association, today informed G. Clifford Barlow, director of the Oregon

State Chamber of Commerce, that he fully approved the proposition of Charles H. Hall of Marshfield, president of the state chamber, that the state Chamber of Commerce endeavor to obtain a federal appropriation for the Roosevelt highway in Oregon.

President Hall is seeking the co-operation of all directors of the state chamber of this important matter.

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