

# O'MALLEY KNOCKS OUT GILNETTERS

## Miniature War Between Them and Proprietors of Salmon Wheels.

### EXPERT AGAINST ASTORIA

#### Gilnetters Allege Things Concerning Salmon Which Government Superintendent Does Not Agree With.

Miniature war between salmon wheels and gilnetters was enacted yesterday afternoon before members of the fish committee of the Oregon conservation commission—an organization which is probing the salmon trade to determine the best way of saving the chinook industry of the Columbia River. The gilnetters were knocked down on practically every one of their contentions by the testimony of H. M. Warren, superintendent of the United States hatcheries in Columbia waters, who was authorized to announce the opinions of the Bureau of Fisheries and of himself by H. M. Bowers, Commissioner of the bureau.

The conflict was especially noteworthy, since it was the first time that a United States expert has thrown the authority of the Government opinion against the Astoria fish interests, in a public meeting, and in defense of the fishermen of the upper river. H. M. Warren, secretary of the Fishermen's Union at Astoria, represented the gilnetters, and F. M. Warren and F. A. Seufert, the wheelmen, the latter being the biggest owners of that class of gear. The inquiring committee was composed of Richard W. Montague and Dr. J. R. Wilson, numerous salmon men had been invited to attend, but those who came were only H. C. McAllister, Oregon Fish Warden, Lornisen, Warren, Seufert and O'Malley, shortly this week another hearing will be held for the purpose of receiving testimony from other fish men.

#### Swords Crossed as Usual.

Gilnetters and wheelmen crossed swords in the old familiar way, on the following propositions, and on each of them O'Malley sided with the wheelmen:

Less fishing in Spring and in August.

No fishing on Sundays.

Regulation of all classes of gear and abolition of none (meaning wheels).

On none of these contentions could Lornisen cope, and in fact he found himself though he put up a stiff-necked fight, after the manner that he and Ed Rosenberg, secretary of the Fishermen of the Pacific, have fought many times before committees of the Oregon and the Washington Legislatures.

Lornisen urged propagation theories, characteristic of the Astoria interest, which O'Malley declared were at variance with the simplest observed facts. For example, Lornisen declared that many parent chinook salmon live after spawning. He quoted an unheard-of Government expert named Moffet as proof and declared that he had caught one salmon that had come down stream from the spawning grounds, stripped of eggs. Then he confessed that he had never seen hatchery work nor visited the spawning grounds. O'Malley invited him to come to the hatchery and see for himself, and promised him speedy conversion.

#### Shorten Open Season.

The Government expert was authorized to speak by Commissioner Bowers, in a letter from that official, which followed the lines of the well-known letter of Secretary Straus, written to Senator Patton. The Straus letter declared that the open season should be shortened, Sundays should be closed, all gear should be regulated and none abolished. The Bowers letter urged these remedies and in addition, the closing of two days every week in the open season. O'Malley did not, however, feel bound to speak entirely free. His remarks were guarded and he fought shy of factional troubles of the rival schools.

O'Malley signified indirectly that the chief part of the failure of Oregon and Washington to enact and enforce concurrent legislation is due to Oregon lawmakers and fish wardens, by remarking: "The Washington people always have been easy to get along with. Meet them half way and they will go the other half. If they were Federal control of fisheries, the laws would be enforced."

Here E. M. Warren turned the blame on H. C. Van Dusen, ex-Fish Warden, and H. C. McAllister's predecessor, by interjecting:

#### McAllister Enforces Law.

"The laws in Oregon have been rigidly enforced since McAllister was warden," McAllister smiled modestly and O'Malley assented.

The Government expert recommended that Clackamas River be closed to fishing, and be made wholly a hatchery stream. The law, he said, would allow only a few gilnetters, who could then take salmon in the Willamette River. Seufert declared that some years ago the Clackamas was closed to fishing, but that in 1901 the Astorians got in and opened it—a sally that made Lornisen glare at the Dalles man, and would have started a clash, had not some friends interrupted with a question for O'Malley:

"What per cent of hatchery fry, on the way down the Willamette River from the Mackenzie station, are destroyed at Oregon City in the power wheels?"

"I wouldn't care for a fish," was the response, "that went through a power wheel."

"Doesn't every drop of water go through the wheels?" asked Warren.

"Yes," replied O'Malley, and Seufert added: "It will be worse next year."

Seufert said this with particular pleasure, since he fought Van Dusen at the installation of the Mackenzie hatchery, contending that that plant should be used only as a taking station and that the infant salmon should be liberated below Willamette Falls, instead of being allowed to work their own way down river.

#### Locks Do Not Help Fish.

"If I had Mackenzie on my hands," went on O'Malley, "I'd want to see the fish liberated below the Falls."

"What effect have the locks?" asked Dr. J. R. Wilson.

"They are not open enough to help the salmon," answered O'Malley.

"Do you think it would be well to free the young fish near salt water?" asked McAllister, who had in mind a central hatchery for Oregon, to which would be carried the eggs taken at Ontario, Mackenzie and other plants.

"I wouldn't put it too near." Later in the conference Seufert recommended such a central station at the mouth of the Deschutes River. This place O'Malley agreed would be suitable. O'Malley showed that salmon take

longer to spawn in some streams than in others, due to variations of water temperature; also that streams vary from year to year in the number of salmon they receive. These two conditions have much to do with propagating, both natural and artificial. Cold water retards the development of the salmon eggs.

Warren here put in a dig at the Astorians by quoting from an Astoria newspaper the assertion that Eagle Creek, a Columbia stream, near Bonneville, has had more salmon this year than usual because the Celio wheels have not been working. As the wheels have been in operation and Eagle Creek is a long distance downstream from Celio, Warren thought he had presented evidence of what the Upper River men designate as the complete ignorance of Lower River men.

#### Lornisen Bristles Up.

This was a "dare" to Lornisen, and he at once bristled up, but O'Malley came between, saying:

"Last year was a poor season at the Big White Salmon. The egg take was 2,672,000. This season is good." (The eggs being 5,000,000.) He added that this season's take at the United States hatcheries is up to the average. Already it amounts to 24,000,000 eggs, as follows: Little White Salmon, 10,000,000; Big White Salmon, 5,000,000; Clackamas, 2,000,000; Casasco, 1,000,000. Last year the take was 15,000,000. The Oregon state hatcheries this year will obtain 8,000,000 chinooks, whereas the number last year was 4,250,000. These figures indicate that hatchery supplies of salmon have not fallen off from last season. However, they have not gained, according to the needs of the industry.

Van Dusen's Ontario hatchery came in for a rap at this stage. McAllister has recommended abandonment of that costly plant, because Snake River water is too muddy for salmon-eggs; because the hatchery has not a gravity water supply and because it is out of the way as a central station. Seufert remarked that Deschutes River is a suitable location. Then O'Malley said:

"What is needed is a natural salmon stream. You must use water that salmon naturally spawn in."

#### Eggs Need Warm Water.

Seufert cited that while water at 60 degrees would hatch salmon in say 32 days at 40 degrees the time would be 120 days. "Cold," he explained, "retards the eggs. That is Nature's provision to hold the eggs dormant till Spring." He added that the infant fish immediately fed on the carcass of the parent fish, which always lay near by. That was another wise provision of Nature, this time to afford the infant food. He had planted young fry in an enclosed lake near Celio and had observed that that was the food they subsisted on. O'Malley remarked that in the Spring there is much more food of that sort for the young salmon than in Winter.

Seufert gave as a reason for the later return of salmon than formerly the retarding influence of water in the Columbia. "Between March 15 and May 15 the river is almost black. This is caused by the soft wash of a vast area of forested land. The water is not so. Salmon move slower through this water than they used to do. The open season should not begin until May."

#### Writes His Last Message.

Ross sauntered about the place, watched the players at the billiard tables for a few moments and then returned to the bar to chat with Keith. "Keith, old man," said he, "have you got a piece of paper? I must write a message, that I've forgotten, that's very important. Keith went over to his safe and took out a pad of writing paper and handed Ross a sheet. After thanking him for it, Ross walked to the rear of the room, seated himself at a table and wrote the following:

"Please notify Miss Agnes Skibbee, of the Dalles, Or.; also my sister, Miss Elsie Ross, 624 East Twenty-fifth street, Los Angeles; also my brother who runs the Fashionables there at 212 East First street."

When he had finished writing, Ross took a bottle out of his pocket and called to Keith, "Well, old man, here's good luck and good-bye to you." He drained it to the last drop, Keith, not knowing what he was drinking, nodded at him, but was astonished when he arose, walked to him and thrust the piece of paper in his hands with the request, "Please do it for me, it's in a good cause." With that he walked back to his seat and succumbed to the acid.

#### Dies at the Hospital.

The salmonman rushed back, and reading the label on the bottle, called for help. The victim was taken at once to the hospital, but when the doctors started to work they found that Ross was dead. He breathed his last just after he had been transferred from the ambulance to the second floor of the hospital surgery. The coroner was notified and took charge of the remains.

Ross was about 30 years of age and had been living in this city since the close of the baseball season, during which he had been on the team of the Dalles. During the past weeks, he had been working for various commission houses as an egg candler. He lived in rooms over the Green River Saloon with H. Herbert, an employee of the Hudson Printing Company. His relatives have been notified.

Some friends of Ross say that his act was caused by the refusal of the parents of Miss Agnes Skibbee, of the Dalles, of his offer to marry their daughter. Ross had said recently that this refusal had cut him keenly, and

# SMILES WHILE HE DRAINS ACID VIAL

## Bert Ross, Ball-Player, of The Dalles, Despondent, Takes Life.

### LOVE AFFAIR THE CAUSE

#### Former Los Angeles Man Leaves Note to Miss Agnes Skibbee, Whose Parents Objected to Victim's Suit.

Bert Ross, ex-ball player, of Los Angeles, Cal., committed suicide last night shortly before 8 o'clock by drinking two ounces of carbolic acid in the saloon at 164 1/2 Sixth street. He was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital in the Red Cross ambulance but died a few moments after his arrival there. Ross took the fatal draught while smiling and joking. He walked into the saloon and greeted Beck Keith, one of the proprietors with a cheery salutation. Keith being well acquainted with him, greeted him cordially.

"Some people make the mistake of getting bliss when they ought not to," said Ross to Keith. "Now, take me, for instance, I have had more than enough trouble but you see that I'm not blue. What's the use? You know the old saying: 'Smile and the world smiles with you, weep and you weep alone.' Well, there's more truth than poetry in that."

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### TRAVELING MEN WIN FIGHT

#### New Mileage Books Will Be Issued November 15.

After a series of conferences with the officials of the Harriman lines, the commercial traveling men of Oregon, Washington and Idaho have won their campaign for interchangeable mileage books, good over all the lines of the system in the Northwest. On November 15 these books will be distributed and will be placed on sale at all the principal stations of the Southern Pacific in Oregon and on the O. R. & N. in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The books will cost \$50 each, which means a rate of 2 1/2 cents a mile. They will be interchangeable on any of the roads and their branches, but will not be transferable.

All of the credit in securing the improvement belongs to the members of the Travelers' Protective Association of Portland. The work was in charge of the special railroad committee of the association, consisting of C. D. Fraser, C. L. Dick, J. Wood Smith and F. P. King. Now that the matter has been settled, President Willis Fisher, of the association, and his committee are arranging for the annual banquet of the associa-

### PERSONAL MENTION.

Mrs. McGlashan has been ill and is confined to her home, 140 West Park street, by a severe attack of sciatica.

Rev. M. J. Ballantyne, of Dallas, presiding elder for the United Evangelical Church, is in the city and will occupy the pulpit of the First United Evangelical Church, East Seventh and Stephens streets today, morning and evening.

#### Must Not Enter Saloons.

By an order issued by Ralph Blaisdell, auditor of the Harriman lines in this territory, the men under him are prohibited from entering a saloon for any reason whatsoever. The number of men in Mr. Blaisdell's department and acting under him directly is about 42. In explanation of his order, Mr. Blaisdell says that teetotalers are universally considered more efficient than those who tittle, even to a slight extent.

#### Contractor Gibson Fined.

Municipal Judge Van Zante fined G. S. Gibson, a contractor in charge of repairing the Banfield-Yeaves dock at the foot of Washington street, \$10 yesterday morning for throwing charred timbers into the Willamette River. The defendant admitted his guilt, but pleaded in extenuation that the debris was washed from under the wharf, where he had stored it, by a passing steamer.

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