

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Dams and Fish

The Astorian-Budget urges that the Willamette flood control project be reexamined "with the purpose of accomplishing maximum benefits with a minimum of loss to the state." Published in the salmon capital of the state, the A-B is naturally thinking of the great spring run of chinook salmon, whose sole spawning ground now is in the Willamette and its tributaries. The fear is that the proposed dams will destroy this fish run by preventing the salmon from ascending to their spawning grounds.

There are powerful arguments on both sides of this question. Flood control, irrigation, power, navigation are made possible by the storage dams. High dams will interfere with natural spawning of salmon, and the still pools above the dams will interfere with trout habits. The Statesman's view is that the need and merits of the engineering project are so great that it should go forward; and that plans can be worked out which will provide the benefits and avoid most of the dangers.

As to the four low dams there is no objection from any source. Already there is a call for using the stored water in Fern Ridge dam for irrigating lands down the Long Tom. Two high dams, which in our judgment should not be built or should be deferred to the very last are the McKenzie and Oak Ridge dams. The former will destroy one of the most beautiful sections of the lovely McKenzie, one of the state's greatest tourist attractions, and the latter will be extremely costly as well as destructive to natural beauty and fish life. The Niagara dam on the North Fork of the Santiam is not so objectionable from a scenic and game fishing standpoint—there are miles of mountain stream above the proposed pool. On the south Santiam, Sweet Home has been spared, and another dam site found. On this stream a series of low dams might suffice.

It is clearly the duty of the state fish and game commissions to work with the army engineers and with the Willamette Valley commission to iron out differences; and this interim period offers a fine opportunity to hold conferences and discuss problems. The governor through his post-war planning commission might properly take the lead in this matter.

So that residents of the valley may know the objections raised by the Astoria paper, we reprint the major portion of its editorial on the subject:

"Take the Willamette valley flood control project. Primarily it was conceived as a project to control the flood waters of the Willamette and its tributaries which have in the past done considerable damage to adjacent property. Its original sponsors pointed also to possible benefits from irrigation and from increasing the navigability of the parent stream. More recently the possibility of electric power production has been related to the building of the proposed dams.

"It has been more or less popularly supposed that the whole Willamette valley is enthusiastic for the completion of this project but we do think that any impartial survey will fail to disclose that there are many residents of the valley who have positive objections to the program as now planned. We know that in Lane county there are prominent objectors upon the grounds that the high dams would stop all natural propagation of fish in the higher spawning waters of the Willamette system and will drown out miles of the best sport fishing waters of the McKenzie and Willamette which have become a major asset of that part of the state. We have heard agricultural faculty members of the state college at Corvallis disavow any sponsorship of the theory that benefits to farming would justify the costs. We have heard residents of the upriver cities scoffingly discount the possibility of the project resulting in steamboat navigation up the Willamette, pointing out that, with train, truck and air transportation facilities available for quick service, steamboat transportation up the Willamette belongs to pioneer days. We have heard hog growers complain that control of the flood waters would devalue their lands which are enriched by the alluvial deposits from the overflow. And we know that biologists of the United States fish and wildlife service, after complete studies, have filed reports stating that the proposed dams, if and when built, would do irreparable damage to the salmon and trout populations of these streams.

"It is recalled that in the original report of the US engineers, they stated that the control of the Willamette's flood waters could be effectively accomplished by a system of levees and revetments and at about half the cost of the proposed dams, but apparently this plan was not seriously considered by the proponents of the project. To bolster the arguments for the dams, hydro-electric power possibilities were more and more discussed even though flood control dams as such are not power producers since they are built for storage reservoirs and the water, gathered in the fresher seasons, released gradually through the dry season. Auxiliary dams would have to be built to secure power.

"Power is a magic word politically speaking, one to conjure with in the promotion of federal projects, but sober judgment dictates that there be an attempt made to estimate the demands for power in the northwest in the post-war period before proceeding with the building of two score more power dams on the Columbia and its tributaries.

"The fishing resources of the rivers, commercial and game, are one of the state's richest assets and producers of revenue. The defenders of these resources do not seek to retard or interfere with the development of other resources. They only ask that the fisheries, already established and of great proven value, be considered in relation to any new projects and be protected in so far as possible. There is certainly no sense in sacrificing what we have in an effort to get something we hope for."

A threatened shortage in wedding rings is reported, because of the unusual demand; and the news item says that brides may have to wear a string instead of a ring around their fingers. If a string is used, it should go around the fourth finger instead of the third—that would help the bride remember she's married.

Farm tractors will get their rubber tires again, according to report from the farm war board. Riding tractor is not very soft, even with pneumatic tires. And tractor tires, by the way, are filled with water instead of air.

Bank Stock Sale

An announcement of importance in the banking world is that Transamerica corporation has made a deal to sell shares in the First National Bank of Portland, which will result in reducing its interest in the bank from around 60 per cent (including holdings of its subsidiary insurance companies) to around one-third. While Transamerica will remain the largest single stockholder and hence occupy a very powerful position, it will no longer hold absolute voting control.

According to the Wall Street Journal this action from Transamerica's standpoint "is in continuation of the extensive portfolio changes it has been making, mainly away from controlling bank stock positions." It is understood that it no longer has voting control of Bank of America, and last spring it offered to trade its stock in National City Bank of New York for stock in Citizens National of Los Angeles.

Transamerica has been getting over more into the industrial field. It owns or controls Axton-Fisher tobacco concern, and has bought into some war industries. Its principal officers, members of the Gianinni family, are astute financiers. They may see better opportunities for use of capital in other lines than banking, although they have been most successful in the banking business.

Under the program stock in the First National of Portland is to be exchanged on an eight-for-one basis, that is, stockholders will get eight shares of \$12.50 par value for one share of \$100 par. This exchange awaits the approval of the SEC. If that is received a group of New York bankers will take over a block of 100,000 shares of the new \$12.50 par stock at a price of \$40 a share. At this price the seller will realize a very considerable profit.

While this stock is to be offered on the national market, it is quite probable that a large portion of it will be acquired in the Portland area. It may even result that the control will come back to "public" hands here in Oregon. The bank has been very successful. It has been aggressive in its expansion policy, and now has 41 branches with total deposits of about \$300,000,000. There is local interest because one of its branches is located in this city.

Too Much Rubber?

Americans always go to extremes. A year ago the air was full of hoots and jeers, and dead cats were being thrown in all directions because of slowness in getting the job of making synthetic rubber to going. Bill Jeffers of the Union Pacific was called in to give the program the highball and ride it through. He has done his job so well that now it is claimed the rubber factories will be spewing out so much synthetic next year the tire factories will not be able to handle it. These factories, in the meantime, have been devoting their facilities and materials to making rubber rafts and other products for war use.

This also has come to pass, the production of grain alcohol for butadiene, used in synthetic rubber making has gone so far the War Food administration is worried about its inroads on grain stocks needed for human and animal food. It is recalled that Sen. Gillette of Iowa led the drive for building grain alcohol plants, and a number of them were authorized. Distilleries, also using grain, were diverted to grain alcohol production. Meantime the price of grain has risen so the RFC had to subsidize the alcohol plants for the difference between the ceiling price of 48c a gallon and the production cost of 75c a gallon at present grain prices. Also, in the interval, the shipping situation has improved so more molasses is available from the West Indies, and that is the cheapest base for alcohol production.

It's the American habit to drive; and often to drive so hard we overshoot the mark. The emergency was real a year ago; but in a few more months we will have ample quantities of synthetic rubber. And we are not hearing anything about WPB's discrimination against grain for the making of synthetic rubber. Our radiators like Fulton Lewis didn't have the answers all correct, when they were berating Donald Nelson and Jesse James a year ago.

Soldiers landing at Kiska had the same experience as those who pushed into Messina: no fighting because the enemy had cleared out. That news from Kiska is most welcome. We had been told there were 10,000 Japs on Kiska, well entrenched; and that taking it would be far more costly than taking Attu. The good news of its fall without the necessity of firing a bullet comes as great and welcome surprise. We have to remember that "he who fights and runs away" lives to fight another day. We'll catch up with the Kiska Japs on Honshu island or the Kuriles, probably.

Even the government is said to be moving out of Berlin. But with bombs falling near Vienna and the Russians thundering on the east be the be-medaled Reichsmarshal Goering must be all dressed up with no place to go. Frau Goering was smart, though—she went to Switzerland.

Los Angeles has been famed for its acquisitiveness; but now comes an illustrated booklet on "Pictorial California," which includes double page spreads on the Aleutian islands in the north Pacific and of Kolombangara in the south Pacific. California hasn't signed the Atlantic charter disclaiming territorial ambitions.

OWI, which got its ears boxed by His Nibs for jibing at the Italian king and tacking the fascist label on the new premier, Badoglio, ought to be let out of the doghouse now. Events have shown that OWI guessed right the first time.

What a good word "flak" will be when the next political campaign comes along.

'Pickle' Season

Today's Radio Programs

Station	Time	Program
KSLM—SUNDAY—1230 Kc.	8:00	Langworth Foursome.
	8:30	Gospel.
	9:00	News in Brief.
	9:15	Moonbeam Trio.
	9:30	Popular Salute.
	10:00	World in Review.
	10:15	Commando Mary.
	10:30	Hit Tunes of Tomorrow.
	11:30	American Lutheran Church.
	12:00	Sunset Trio.
	12:15	News Commentary.
	12:30	Golden Melody.
KALE—MSS—SUNDAY—1330 Kc.	8:00	Wesley Radio League.
	8:30	Central Church of Christ.
	8:45	Little Show.
	9:00	Wesley Bible Class.
	9:30	News.
	9:45	Letters to My Son.
	10:00	Romance of the Hi-Ways.
	10:15	Pucker Up.
	10:30	Pilgrim Hour.
	10:45	Concert.
	11:00	Lutheran Hour.
	KEX—SN—SUNDAY—1190 Kc.	8:00
8:30		African Trek.
9:00		The Quiet Hour.
9:30		St. Mark's Blue.
10:00		This is Offical.
10:30		The Kidodiers.
11:00		Farm and War Fronts.
11:30		Speaking of Gingham.
12:00		Those Good Old Days.
12:15		Hanson V. Baldwin.
12:30		Hot Copy.
KOIN—CBS—SUNDAY—930 Kc.		8:00
	8:30	Music.
	9:00	Church of the Air.
	9:30	Wings Over Jordan.
	10:00	Warren Sweeney, News.
	10:30	Invitation to Learning.
	11:00	Salt Lake Tabernacle.
	11:30	Music.
	12:00	Church of the Air.
	12:30	Travis At the Call.
	1:00	Ceiling Unlimited.
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