

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

Usually the sportsman a person meets in the fields, in the marshes, the hills or along the rivers and streams is a fellow well met. He is one who will gladly share his last pipe of tobacco with a man, the last cigarette. But occasionally a person encounters a hunter or a fisherman who wishes to hog everything; a person who will cut loose at ducks far beyond range with the evident express purpose of spoiling a good shot for another hunter; or on the other hand, some angler will be encountered along a stream who will fairly break his neck in order to beat you to a certain fishing hole or riffle. For example, not long ago while fishing in Sixes river, I parked my car near a riffle in the river and was digging my tackle out of the car when another car skidded to a halt just behind my own car. A fisherman leaped from the car and inquired, "Are you going to fish that riffle?" I informed him that that was what I figured on doing; whereupon he grabbed his rod and bait and took off on the dead run for said riffle. I followed along slowly. When I caught up with him he left the head of the riffle and started fishing just ahead of me on down the river, never allowing me to cast ahead of him. He had no luck and for that matter neither did I. Finally, from many yards ahead of me, he shouted back, "It ain't a very fishy day is it?" And I answered back, "No, it isn't, but it's a f—d good day for hogs." I trust he got my meaning.

But, as already stated, most sportsmen are men well met and the case cited above is an exception to the rule and such persons are usually found amongst those who have never hunted or fished a great deal, for it is seldom that you find an old timer who fails to give a brother sportsman a break and who seeks to hog everything for himself. The game hog, the regular law violator, the man who sells game birds, animals and fish, cannot be classed as a true sportsman in any sense of the word.

Any person who has fished mountain streams over a period of years, if he is observant, has seen or caught on a baited hook that repulsive denizen of the streams known as a salamander or sorn. They are from five to ten inches in length, a dark brown-bluish color and resemble somewhat in appearance a common water-dog. But that is as far as the resemblance goes, for a salamander is of a vicious nature and his jaws are lined with an array of very fine, sharp teeth. He is one of the greatest enemies of our game fish—that is, small fry, such as fingerlings, and any fish hatchery man will tell you that one salamander, alone will clean out hundreds of fingerlings within a short space of time.

Last trout season I was cleaning my catch on the South fork of the Coquille, far above Powers. I dipped a trout in a small riffle to wash it off, when like a flash a salamander came from beneath a rock and fastened his strong jaws upon my thumb. Pain raced clear to my elbow as I withdrew my hand from the water, the salamander hanging grimly to my thumb. I shook my hand and dislodged it with the result that the sharp teeth tore a ragged gash.

They are supposed to be poisonous and, if bitten by one, care should be taken of the wound, such as suck-

The Salem Sampler

One of the seemingly necessary evils of American life is the small loans situation.

Oregon has, in my opinion, one of the best small loan plans in the nation. It is supervised by the State Banking Department and its operations are strictly limited by statutes. Of necessity, since the risk is high, interest rates are also high. Present companies are permitted to charge three per cent per month which seemed exorbitant until it was shown that losses from bad loans coupled with high over-head charges of administration limited profits on invested capital to about seven per cent for 1942.

A well-intended bill, introduced by Representative Bull, reduced the interest rate from 3 to 1½ per cent. In the light of facts shown by the Judiciary committee, the bill was defeated because it would have destroyed the small loan business in the state and would have invited the return of the old loan shark system.

Coos county is fortunate in having a small loans set-up which is available to anyone habitually paying his bills. Close personal contact, possible in small towns, is invaluable in this instance. Therefore, the small loans problem centers chiefly in the Portland area and is not a Coos county problem.

School youngsters who are living near the capital city have one advantage over those from up-state districts.

They are brought to witness proceedings in the House and Senate as a part of their civics instruction. The teacher acts as chaperon and I have noted that she quite often has her hands full when her class consists of boys and girls.

Hardly a day passes that there is no class occupying seats in the gallery.

It is a pity that all school youngsters cannot be brought to the halls of the legislature at some time during their high school course. I believe that even a short stay as spectators would give them valuable information concerning the machinery of our state government which would work to the betterment of the general public.

The courtesy of the House is practically always asked for these youngsters and is always extended by the speaker. It is a fine gesture and leaves a good impression on both House members and visitors.

The truck bill has come and gone. Looking over the battle field one can see here and there the wrecks of vanished hopes.

I shall always believe that it was defeated solely because of the clumsiness of the truck lobby in letting themselves be maneuvered into the position of appearing to use the Federal Government to push the legislature around into a forced passage of the bill.

Many members who were personally sympathetic with the truck industry voted against the bill because of high resentment against interfering the blood from it and applying iodine.

An angler should take pains to dispose of any of these creatures seen in creek beds, for by so doing he will save thousands of fish. But do not confuse them with water dogs. The latter have yellow bellies and are much smaller than their big dark-bodied brothers (the salamander) of the swift streams.

ence in state government by the Federal Government.

One thing is certain. These larger truck units are now in use on our highways. They will be in use for the next two years probably. The public and the state officials will be able to see exactly what effect the use of such units will have on our highways.

If, after trial, it is found that there will be no great effect on the highway maintenance, nor on the traveling public, then our laws should be changed to permit the permanent use of these vehicles. We must not take a position wherein we are a bottleneck of truck traffic between neighboring states. In my opinion, this would neither be in the interest of the traveling public nor in the interests of state development. We must keep in step with the rest of the nation.

In view of the fact that restrictions are off for the duration, it is rather hard to feel strongly on this matter at this time and all members of both Houses are very glad that the matter is now settled.

One of the casualties of the Monday truck bill debacle was the proposal originating in Coos county to measure loads hauled by logging trucks on a board-foot basis rather than poundage.

This measure was bitterly opposed by the State Highway Department. A hot debate took place before the Senate highway committee which probably decided the fate of the measure. It probably will not get out of committee because of the opposition of the State Highway people.

I still believe the measure has merit and will be eventually passed. It will benefit the small independent log trucker who owns his own machine. He wants to keep his truck operating at full capacity all the time. Large truck operators hire their drivers by the hour and therefore there is not the same interest in maintaining capacity loads. I believe the logging industry should keep plugging away on this measure so that it can be put through the next legislature.

The chief interest in Tuesday's session centered about the milk control suspension act proposed by Representative Steelhammer.

His bill proposed placing the milk control board in cold storage for the duration, leaving its assets in the hands of the State Department of Agriculture. Contrary to popular belief the bill did not propose to abolish the milk control but merely to suspend it.

The "Third House", being an entertainment provided by lobbyists and newspapermen, for the benefit of legislators, was held in the House Tuesday evening, Feb. 23rd.

The honorable Frank Lonergan acted as speaker and master of ceremonies. Tommy Luke was song leader, and a delegation of stars from KOIN furnished the musical numbers.

The legislators were given nicknames. The Coos county delegation consisted of "Ice Cream Cutlip," "Big Cheese Moore," and "Myrtlewood Walsh."

When I inquired as to the reason for being called a big cheese, not that I could make any effective argument against it, but because my business is lumber, I was told that it was because the news had leaked out that I had formed a partnership with Chic Sales called the Moore-Sales Company whose purpose was to manufacture bigger and better holes in Coos county cheese. These newspapermen! One can never keep up with them!

The main feature of the program was a take-off on the various high officials of the state, including Governor Snell, and ex-Governor Sprague. The boys did not pull their punches and some of their stuff hit pretty hard. But good sportsmanship prevailed and gifts of flowers to Mrs. Snell and Mrs. Sprague and favors to other prominent persons took the sting out of it.

An orchestra furnished music for dancing in the corridor afterwards. Young folks took full advantage of it.

One of the stand-out policies of this legislature is the allergy it has towards giving various state boards power to make their own laws.

This was manifested in Friday's session when a bill giving the department of Agriculture such powers in the case of cattle was overwhelmed by an almost unanimous move to refer it back to committee to delete the offensive section.

I feel that this is the greatest source of satisfaction to the individual members. We have had too much of this sort of thing of late and I am very glad that the people's own legislature is taking the reins firmly in their own hands again.

Our forefathers were very wise when they established the constitution wherein the people could govern themselves through representatives of their own choice. We are on dangerous ground when we permit any other system to be established.

House Bill No. 3, the much amended and hotly debated income tax measure, finally passed the House Friday evening with an amendment permitting a ten per cent reduction on this year's tax payments.

No other measure has received so much strength of feeling and vigor of debate.

From the vote, it was evident that organized farmers and those favoring the tax commission were adamant for no reduction at all. Organized labor and most of the independent members were for a degree of a reduction.

After many attempts by the committee to arrive at a decision, Friday night found them split worse than ever before with a majority and two minority reports.

The majority report providing for a ten per cent reduction prevailed. The bill will go to the Senate where the advanced hope is that the reduction will be increased to probably 15 per cent. By the time this is printed we will have known the final figure.

It is my considered opinion that the state can safely stand a 25 per cent reduction. This is based on the probability that wages will be raised and earnings of everyone greatly increased during the next biennium. Notwithstanding the heavy drain of the Federal tax, the huge increase in state taxpayers will cause the tax report to soar to high figures. Therefore it seems hardly in keeping with the times to impound large sums of the people's money in the state treasurer's vault when people could better use it to purchase war bonds and stamps. For the state to take more than it needs at this time is to compete with the U. S. Treasury for the taxpayer's money. It appears to me to be the State of Oregon vs. war bonds and stamps.

Only a few in the House support this view but my opinion was not changed after hearing the spirited debate.

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An Appeal to the People of Coquille

Every American who can possibly do so has been asked to grow a Victory Garden this year, and more people will have such gardens in Coquille than ever before. It is essential that this be done and that as much produce for home consumption as possible be grown in such gardens. The City Council has relaxed the rules for the duration and has given the People of Coquille permission to use the parking strips in front of their homes for raising gardens.

It has been called to the attention of the City Administration by many prospective Victory Gardeners that their gardens will be ruined if dogs continue to run loose in the City. THEREFORE a special appeal is hereby made to dog owners in Coquille to keep their dogs tied up or in pens so that they will not destroy these gardens.

There is a City Ordinance which makes it unlawful for owners to permit dogs to run at large in the city and provides a fine against owners who permit their dogs to do so. It is the desire of the City to avoid the necessity of enforcing this Ordinance by levying such fines and creating neighborhood quarrels by having citizens sign complaints against their neighbors who impose upon them by allowing their dogs to run loose and trample the gardens but such procedure will be necessary and will be taken unless this appeal is observed and respected.

An appeal is also made to persons in the habit of cutting across parking strips and lots instead of following the sidewalks to cease doing so.

By the Mayor and the Common Council of the City of Coquille.

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