

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANE LEMLEY

The planting of catfish in various streams and lakes have furnished plenty of sport and supplied many a table with food, especially during those lean years of our most recent depression. In fact, much can be said in favor of the catfish. It does not take a clever angler to catch them and their taking by small kiddies has brought joy to more than a few youngsters. Oldsters, those too feeble to chase about after the more elusive trout, as well as fat ladies and gentlemen who are inclined to "nigger fish," obtain special delight in catching the catfish.

Yes, it is true, indeed, that his advent to Oregon's streams and lakes have furnished a lot of people with splendid fishing that would not otherwise have been enjoyed and have been the means of supplying hundreds of families with palatable food. All this we grant. But there is another side to the story, for it is becoming apparent each season that the catfish, which propagate at an astounding rate, are gradually crowding the trout from the lakes and streams, by eating their spawn as well as the fingerlings. Take for instance Ten Mile Lake.

This lake at one time was simply overflowing with trout. There were thousands upon thousands of them. During the hatch of mayflies, when the flies were bursting from their cocoons and rising to the surface to take wing, the trout were leaping for the mayflies by the thousands. As far as the eye could reach upon the lake there were hundreds of trout leaping for the mayflies. And this occurred season after season for years and years. And then, several years ago the catfish were planted in this lake. And since that time the trout have been growing scarcer and scarcer.

It is true that the trout still leap for the mayflies and it is true that many trout are still taken from the lake by anglers, but season after season, we are told by anglers who fish the lake, that each season the angling is becoming poorer and that there isn't one trout in evidence during the flight of the mayflies compared to hundreds of them in past days, before the planting of the catfish.

And on the Coquille river it is also true that trout fishing is not what it was before the advent of the catfish. And anglers are wondering if even-

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., May 12—Definite assurance was given by the War Production Board this week that the first plant in America to manufacture alcohol from wood waste (sawdust) would be constructed. This plant will be located in Springfield, Oregon. Thus successfully ends something of a battle to establish this method of making needed alcohol from a product that has heretofore been wasted in vast quantity.

You may recall that the Requirements Committee of WPB considered this project a few weeks ago and refused to approve it. That action was rather generally announced as being the death of the idea. What actually happened was that Mr. Nelson went on a vacation fully believing that the Springfield plant application would be sent right on through to approval. But WPB is an enormous organization. It has numerous

committees and many top executives—men who have considerable authority in their various divisions. Our application was progressing nicely when it crossed the desk of one of the vice-presidents of the Board who was unfamiliar with the background of the proposal and who considered it only on the basis of whether or not we had to have four million gallons more alcohol. After all, that amount of alcohol is a very small quantity in the whole program of alcohol production (830,000,000 gallons). Another point was that this vice-president thought the plan was to build a big "experimental" plant. He did not realize that the proposed plant will be very nearly identical to 20 plants which have been operating in Germany for ten years or more, and identical to ten plants in Russia, three in Italy and two in Japan. At any rate, by the time Donald Nelson returned from his needed rest, the project was stopped, disapproved, and "rigor mortis" was beginning to set in.

Mr. Nelson, however, has long been deeply concerned over the fact that vast quantities of grain are going into alcohol when grain is very badly needed as feed. He has made an exhaustive personal study of the possibilities of meeting alcohol requirements from non-food and non-critical sources. As a matter of fact, I am certain that Nelson knows more about this entire subject than any member of his executive staff. His knowledge of it is exceeded only by the technical men of the chemicals division.

Accordingly, the alcohol from wood waste project was immediately taken up and reconsidered. The complete story was placed before the other key men in WPB with the result that all concerned are now in agreement with Nelson as to the need for the plant. In other words, when Governor Earl Snell wired the War Production Board, saying that the proposal must not have been fully understood, he was absolutely right.

Although it may seem that this matter has been under consideration by WPB for a long time and that there has been long and unreasonable delay, I think it only fair to point out that the original project application was filed only 93 days ago and that the revised application was completed some three or four weeks after that. Considering the size of this government's organization for production for war, I think our project was handled with fair rapidity.

usually the cats will not crowd the trout completely from the waters of the lakes and streams where the former has been planted. A scarcity of suckers is also reported in certain renowned sucker holes in the Coquille river, which also works a hardship on trout fishermen owing to the fact that at various seasons of the year sucker bait is the prime lure for trout in the Coquille. Fishermen attribute the shortage of suckers also to the catfish.

As we stated earlier in this article, catfish have contributed a lot in the way of sport and food to fishermen, but on the other hand we are wondering if it is worth the price—the decrease in the ranks of our game fish and the possible complete "freezing out" of trout in many lakes and streams by the imported "horned fish."

Many anglers will not fish for the cats at all, owing to the fact that they are sluggish and no thrill is derived from catching them and it is true that most people who fish for them do so expressly for the food value and not for the sport itself, which is a drab sport indeed when compared to the angling for the gamey trout. But it looks as though the cats are here to stay and we'll have to make the best of it. However we are betting that the time is not far distant when all trout fishermen will be cursing the untimely advent of that long whiskered, horned headed son of Satan known as the catfish.

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Full advertisement, free, on the Senator Committee, Ray B. Burt, Chairman, Headquarters, 631 Morgan Building, Portland, Oregon

For some weeks I have been endeavoring to get some reasonably positive information regarding selective service. There has been much confusion and uncertainty. Finally this week the air seems to have been fully well cleared. The new statement of general politics issued yesterday to the state directors is the clearest statement to come out of selective service headquarters in more than six months.

The war handling of the manpower problem in general and the selective service problem in particular has not been good. The army has contributed its percentage of error in the over all picture, too. For example, local boards have been driven night and day to meet large quotas for induction. In our state the quotas have been met on the dot. General Hershey told me not long ago that the record of Oregon was superior in every way. But what did the army do with the men called by the local boards? Between November 1, 1940, and December 31, 1943, 62,200 men were received in the army from Oregon. During that same period 12,263 men were DISCHARGED. In other words, out of every five men inducted and sent to training, one is kept in the army for months and is then discharged. Many of the discharges are for no stated reason—merely carrying the line "discharged at the convenience of the government." If the army had kept all of the men inducted, our quotas could have been reduced 20 per cent. Fortunately (at last), a stop has been put to this wasteful practice—at least it is partially stopped.

Right now selective service has a million men ready for induction, but the armed forces are not ready to receive them.

Here are some statistics that may give an idea regarding the possibility of men over 26 being called. In the 18-24 age group, 1,200,000 are registered—are available. This does not mean that number of men will be called and accepted—some 40 per cent will not be inducted for one reason or another. However, the rate of induction is now only 100,000 per month. Accordingly, I do not see much likelihood of men over 26 being called into the service during the remainder of this year.

Now, on the less cheerful side, I must point out that today's figures will mean nothing if the contemplated invasion goes badly and more troops and heavy replacements are required.

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