

## HOUSE PASSES ROGUE RIVER FISH COMPROMISE BILL

Substitute H. B. 167 Goes Through  
Without Change—Measure Is a  
Compromise One, Giving Each Sec-  
tion Something.

Reames Pleads Cause of Jackson  
County Citizens Who Want Their  
Rights to Fish Protected.

SALEM, Feb. 14.—The Rogue river fish bill, (substitute H. B. 167) passed the house yesterday afternoon without amendment, after a hot debate upon amendments offered by Belland to cut out all seining, and Blanchard to make the season at Grants Pass from May 1 to August 1, both of which were defeated. Grants Pass has had a large lobby here for a month asking for an open river, and the mouth of the river interests have also been represented. Reames of Jackson led the fight for the sportsmen and closed river interests.

The bill is a compromise. It classifies steelhead as trout and forbids catching them except by hook and line, or their sale or purchase. It closes the river above the mouth of the Illinois to fishing except with hook and line except from Jump-Off-Joe creek to Grants Pass where from April 15 to May 15, gill nets may be used. It opens the lower river to nets from April 15 to August 10 and to nets and seines from September 1 to November 20. A 36-hour Sunday closed season throughout the open season is provided and nets limited to 8 1/2-inch mesh.

In his argument on the bill Mr. Reames said:

Reames Talks For Anglers  
Representative Reames spoke for the up-river interests as follows:

"The subject of the proper regulation of fishing in Rogue river is not by any means a new subject, and this is not the first legislature that has been called upon to settle the differences between conflicting interests on this river. For over twenty years the fight has been waged. It has been a fight between the interests at the lower end, or the mouth of the river, on the one side and thousands of residents in Jackson county on the other. These citizens of Jackson county have year after year prior to the year 1910, petitioned succeeding legislatures for relief and every time the legislature has decided the question adversely to the interests of Jackson county. I do not say this in criticism of the legislatures of the past, but it is a fact that until Jackson county made her appeal to the people of Oregon in the year 1910 it was impossible for our interests in Jackson county to be protected at all. This is probably due to the fact that the people in Jackson county have never cared to avail themselves of the privilege of using the Rogue river so as to commercialize the fish industry. We have always taken the position that every man in the county should be given the right to the fish in Rogue river and an equal right to catch them for the purpose of food.

**A Mountain Stream**  
"The Rogue river is one of the mountain streams of Southern Oregon. It rises in the eastern portion of Jackson county near the Douglas-Jackson county line and flows westerly through Jackson county, through the beautiful and fertile Rogue river valley, a distance of approximately seventy miles before it reaches the Josephine county line.

"Jackson county has a population of 25,756 and of this number over 15,000 people live within ten miles of the banks of this beautiful mountain stream. The largest city in the county is my home city, the city of Medford, with a population of 8,840, as shown by the last Federal census, and this city is located but ten miles from the banks of Rogue river.

**Tons of Fish Killed**

"Prior to the year 1910 the fishing laws on Rogue river were changed at every succeeding session of the legislature and, while commercial fishing was permitted by law at the mouth of the Rogue and for some years in Josephine county, the laws were most flagrantly violated and held in the most supreme contempt. In Curry county located at the mouth of the river, nets were used having such a small mesh that tons of our finest steelhead trout were taken and either thrown upon the banks and left to die and rot or shipped to the cities of Portland and San Francisco where they were sold.

**Ament Dam Mess**

"In Josephine county, situated at

## WANTS FISHING KEPT FOR THE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN



Representative C. L. Reames

a place about four miles up the river from the city of Grants Pass is located what is known as Ament dam, a great wooden structure serving no good purpose and doing no body any good; a structure that never has been and probably never will be put to any beneficial use and that serves no other purpose than that of keeping fish from going up the river. For the past five years at the foot of this dam fish have battled in an heroic effort to perform the almost impossible feat of getting over the dam. Not content with robbing and stripping the riffles of all the fish as they come up the stream, the gill net fishermen fished right at the fishway in this dam and took tons of fish from the fishway, defying all of the efforts of the fish and game wardens to make them desist.

**Appeal to the People**  
In the year 1910 the citizens of Jackson county, Oregon, appealed their cause to the people of the whole state and asked the people of the entire state to decide the question for them. If you will examine the official voters pamphlet for the year 1910, you will see how fairly this question was submitted to the voters of the state. I am going into this question at this time because certain people have charged that the act of the people passed in the year 1910 was not understood by them at the time they voted upon it. The act was simply drawn and was placed upon the ballot in such a way that no voter could possibly be misled. It provided simply that it should be unlawful for any person to take any fish from Rogue river in any manner except by the means of hook and line, commonly called angling. The people of Jackson county had a page in the official pamphlet and in that page they told the people of the state of Oregon that the Rogue river was a mountain stream, as it is. They told them that the people at the lower end of the river were taking all of the fish and that commercial fishing should not be permitted in so small a stream. There was not a fact or circumstance set out in that argument but what was absolutely true. The people of Josephine county had a page in the pamphlet and there they set forth reasons why the river should not be closed to commercial fishing. The interests at the mouth of the river also had a page in the pamphlet and the matter was given the widest publicity.

**Majority Was 16,000**  
"There were 49,712 votes cast for the Rogue river fishing bill and but 33,397 against it and the measure had a clear majority of over 16,000 votes.  
"At the session in 1911 held but a few months after this act had taken effect, it was claimed by the people of Josephine county and the people of Curry county that a great wrong had been done and that it would be unfair to permit this wrong to remain upon the statutes for a period of two years. They claimed that they should be given an opportunity to submit the law to the people of the country for their approval or rejection and that, inasmuch as an election could not be held for two years, that it would be wrong to require them to wait for so long a time. Accordingly, at the session in 1911, there was introduced by Mr. Pierce House bill No. 218, which act was practically a repeal of the law which the people had passed but a few months before. This bill passed the house by a vote of 32 to 15, and it passed the senate by a vote of 18 to 12. It was vetoed by the governor on the ground that it was an attempt on the part of the legislature to set aside the plain law of the people, and that bill has never been taken up for

consideration by this house, at this session.  
**No Effort to Remedy**  
"I am going into the history of the fishing laws on Rogue river so that all may understand at the outset of the argument that this act now before us if enacted into law will repeal the law passed by the people in the year 1910. It must also be borne in mind that at the general election in 1912 no attempt was made by either the people of Curry or by the people of Josephine county to have this law repealed, although both counties claimed that the law was confiscatory and harsh and that it should be repealed.

"I believe that I represent the wishes of the people of Jackson county when I say that if the matter were to be left to their wishes alone that they would rather have the law remain just as it is now. The way the law is now, the greatest number of people derive the greatest amount of good from the fish product in Rogue river. During the spring, summer and fall months of the year there are hundreds of men, women and children who line this stream on practically every day and take from it for food hundreds and hundreds of fish with hook and line. During the year just closed there were issued in Jackson county to people who fished in the Rogue river fish thousand anglers' licenses at one dollar each, and every dollar of this money went into the game and fish fund of the state for the better protection of fish and game.

**Curry County's Claim**  
"But our neighbors in Curry county are claiming that the citizens of Jackson county have destroyed one of the principal industries of that county. They claim that they have an industry at the mouth of the river in which they have invested nearly a quarter of a million dollars and that it is selfish of us to insist that they should be required to take these fish by means of hook and line, the same way that we do. You must bear in mind that the people of Jackson county do not want to permit commercial fishing in Rogue river in Jackson county because by so doing it would give to a few gill net fishermen all the fish that are now enjoyed by thousands of citizens of Jackson county.  
"The committee on fishing has wrestled with this problem for over two weeks and I do not believe that there is a man on that committee of seven who will say that, as a matter of right and wrong between the citizenship of Jackson county and the citizenship of Josephine, that the citizens of Josephine should be permitted to take these fish with nets in competition with the men and women fishing further up the stream in Jackson county with hook and line.  
**Only a Mountain Stream**  
"I have lived all of my life in the Rogue river valley and I know thoroughly Jackson and Josephine county. I say to you that it is simply a mountain stream where commercial fishing should not be permitted. If it is permitted, it simply means that a few gill net fishermen will take from the Rogue river the fish that should rightfully belong to all of the citizens.  
"As the river passes through Josephine county, every riffle is a spawning bed, and these spawning beds are located not over one hundred yards apart. Across practically every one of these riffles a man can easily wade and he will not be in water over his waist; on many of them a man can wade out to the center of the river and walk for a quarter or half of a mile down the river, crossing from bank to bank at pleasure. On practically every riffle a man can

wade out waist deep and cast a fly on the opposite bank.

"Two expert gill net fishermen on a stream like this can take all of the fish that are in the river. These fish as they travel up the river will travel approximately 12 or 15 miles a day. In a stream like this the gill net fisherman goes to the lowest riffle, makes a catch, and the next day travels fifteen miles up the river and that night takes what is left of the school that were fortunate enough to get by him the night before. With twenty or thirty of such experts at work, the fish that got past the gill net fishermen and over the Ament dam into Jackson county would not be, and experience has shown that they have not been very numerous.

"In the present bill now up for consideration, it will be noted that the steel head is classified as a trout and that the steel head cannot be

taken in any other manner except with hook and line, commonly called angling. The Rogue river steel head is admitted by all fish culturists to be a sea going rainbow—a true trout. We have tried to make the restrictions in this bill such that none of the steel head or other trout can be taken in any part of the river except by hook and line but that the chinooks and the silversides may be fished for with nets in Curry county.

**Concession to Josephine**

"In the bill it is provided as a concession to Josephine county that they may be permitted for thirty days, being that period of time from April 15th to May 15th, to catch fish with gill nets. The reason that the season was made from April 15th to May 15th is that during this season of the year there is the largest run of chinook salmon in the river in Josephine county; at the same time the

river during this period of time is higher than it is during the summer and fall months, and there will be some chance for a few of the fish to elude the gill netters and get to Jackson county. If the season should be longer, you would permit net fishing in this little stream at a time when the water was shallow and when the gill net fishers could take all of the fish in the river in Josephine county.

**Representing the people of Jackson county, I desire to say that if**

the river is to be opened it should be opened under the strictest of restrictions. I am not saying nor conceding that it should be opened at all but, if it is, then the strictest of regulations should be enforced. It must be borne in mind that a general election has taken place since this law was passed and that the people were not asked at this last general

election to express their views on this important matter again.

**Situation Summarized**  
"Summarizing the entire situation, it is as follows: First, fishing with nets should not be permitted in Josephine county at all for the reason that the stream is too small and shallow to permit fishing with nets therein. There is not another stream on the coast of this size where fishing with nets is permitted; second, if fishing with nets is permitted in Curry county, it should be permitted under the strictest of restrictions and in such a way that some of the fish may be permitted to come on up the river, where they may be taken with hook and line. If this is accomplished then we will have a live and let live policy; if it is done in any other way, Jackson county will be completely robbed of all her fishing rights on Rogue river."

# After Inventory Sale

AT

## MANN'S

CENTRAL AVE., NEAR P. O.

200 Women's tailored Waists—a few slightly soiled; up to \$1.50 values. Sale price, each 48c

200 Women's fine Lingerie Waists, nicely trimmed; values up to \$2.50. Sale price, each 69c

We have just finished taking inventory and find that we are overstocked on some lines of merchandise. For the balance of the month we will offer SPECIAL PRICE reductions in order to move these goods quickly. We must have room for new spring goods arriving daily. Don't fail to attend this sale.

**WOMEN'S \$15 COATS \$9.98**  
The balance of our \$15 Winter Coats, all this winter's styles, to be closed out in this sale at, each \$9.98

**WOMEN'S \$25.00 SUITS \$15**  
The balance of our \$25 Winter Suits, all good styles, well made, good colors, on sale Saturday, each \$15.00

**Women's \$15.00 Suits \$9.98**  
The balance of our \$15.00 Winter Suits, all good styles and colors. On sale Saturday, each \$9.98

**JUST RECEIVED—A Shipment of New Spring Suits, on Sale Saturday, each \$16.98**

**PETTICOATS**  
Black satene Petticoats to be Sold Saturday, each 48c

**CORSETS**  
Warner's "Rust-proof", up to \$3.00 values, Saturday, a pair 98c

**WAISTS**  
Children's Knit Waists. Why pay 25c? Sale price, each 15c

**GLOVES**  
Women's Cape Gloves, real \$1.00 values, Sale price, a pair 39c

**GOWNS**  
The balance of our \$1.25 Outing Flannel Gowns Saturday, each 98c

**ALL FUR MUFFS AND SCARFS AT SENSATIONAL REDUCTIONS.**

**BLANKETS**  
Grey cotton Blankets; 85c values, a pair 59c

**OUTING FLANNEL**  
Reg'lar 15c grade this sale, a yard 10c

**Flannelette**  
The balance of our 12 1/2c Flannelette, this sale, a yard 9c

**WHITE GOODS**  
For waists, up to 35c values, this sale, a yard 19c

**ROBELAND FLEECE**  
Regular price 16c, this sale, a yard 11c

**Opening Sale of the Latest Styles in Wash Goods**

36 inch Percale. Why pay 15c. Sale price, a yard 10c

Best Washing Gingham made. Sale price, a yard, 10c

Flaxon. Best grade. Sale price, a yard 15c

Nero linen for dresses. This sale, a yard, 15c

Ratine. In all colors, 36 inch, sale price, a yard 65c

**FREE—SAVE YOUR SALES SLIPS AND GET WM. ROGERS SILVER FREE.**

**\$2000 Worth of New Spring Hosiery on Sale Saturday**

Women's and children's fast black Hose. Why pay 15c? On sale at, a pair 9c

"Dan Patch" Hose for Boys; as good as most 25c grades. Saturday, a pair 15c

Infants' hile thread Hose in pink, white, blue, red and tan; good 25c values, Sale price 15c

Just received our celebrated Lavender Top Hose, the best made, a pair 50c

5000 pairs of Silk Lisle Hose, in tan and black, this sale, a pair 25c

**Opening Sale of the Biggest Line of White Goods in the City**

Fancy white Flaxons. Why pay 25c. This sale, a yard 15c

**TOWELS**  
Good size, worth 8c, this sale, each 5c

India Linon, splendid 15c grade, this sale, a yard 10c

Long Cloth Good 12 1/2c grade, sale price, a yard 9c

White Crepe for Underwear, this sale, a yard 18c

**Special Notion Bargains Saturday**

Colgate's Talcum powder a can 12c

Good Hair Nets, each 4c

Good Hair Pins, a paper 2c

Darning Cotton, a ball 2c

Good Shields, a pair 15c

D. M. C. Emb. Cotton, a skein 2c