

Came from Sellemiers Deck

Protect the Salmon --- VOTE 332 (X) YES

(The Fish-Wheel, Trap, Seine and Gill Net Bill)

This picture shows why the salmon cannot reach their spawning grounds on the upper Columbia River

Although the deadly fish wheel can be effectively used on any river above tide water, THE COLUMBIA RIVER IS THE ONLY STREAM IN THE WORLD WHERE THIS MERCILESS GEAR IS PERMITTED.

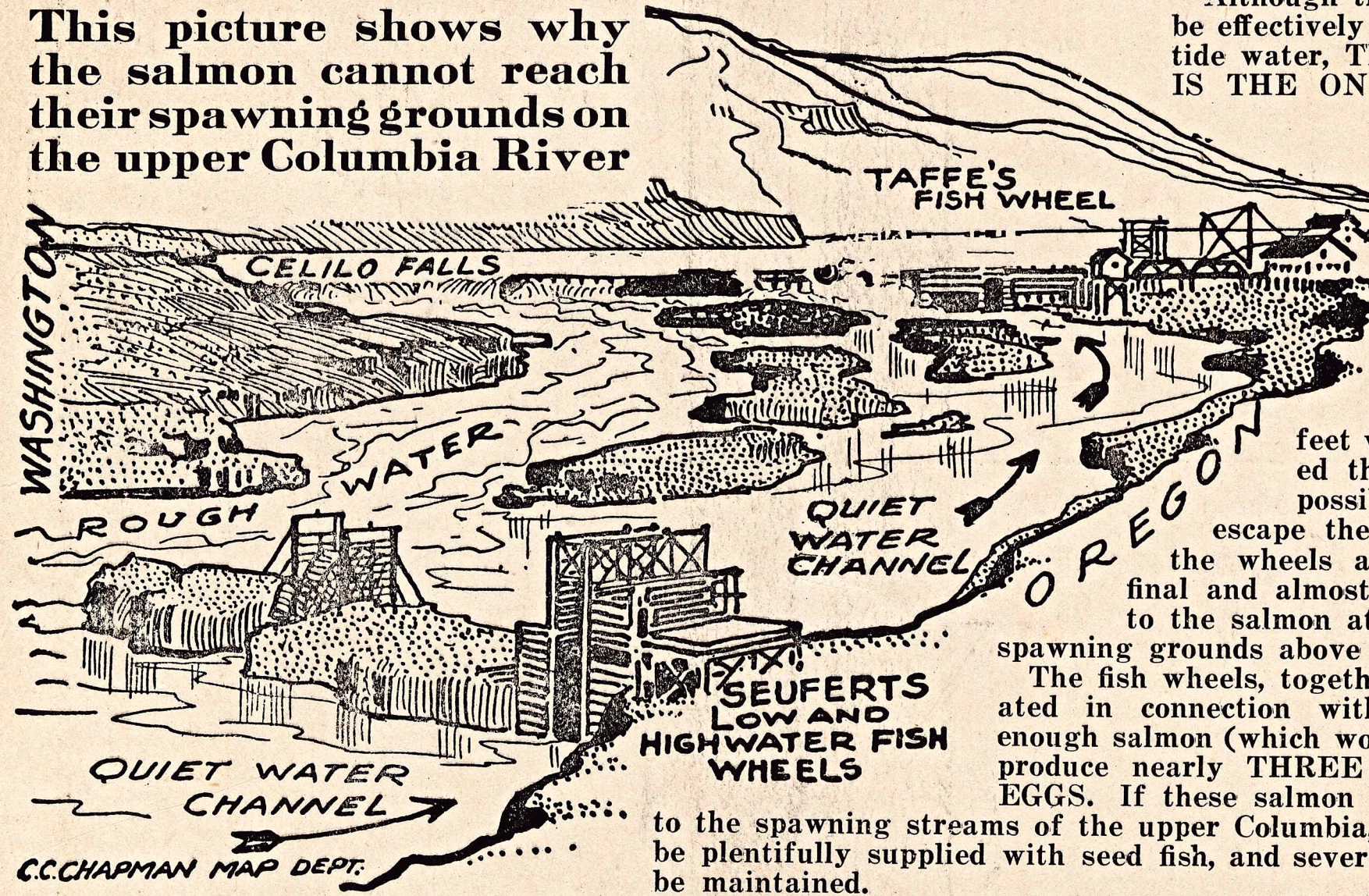
They are located in the narrow gorge of the Columbia at Cascade Falls, The Dalles Rapids and Celilo Falls, where the river at some points is less than 200

feet wide. They are so situated that it is practically impossible for the salmon to

escape them. This picture shows the wheels at Celilo, which form a final and almost insurmountable barrier to the salmon attempting to reach their spawning grounds above the falls.

The fish wheels, together with the seines operated in connection with them, take annually enough salmon (which would otherwise escape) to produce nearly THREE HUNDRED MILLION EGGS. If these salmon were allowed to escape

to the spawning streams of the upper Columbia, these tributaries would be plentifully supplied with seed fish, and several large hatcheries could be maintained.



C.C. CHAPMAN MAP DEPT.

Under present conditions not enough salmon escape these wheels and seines to warrant the State in maintaining even an egg-taking station on these tributaries, which were once teeming with fish. Practically all of the Royal Chinook salmon eggs which are now used in the Columbia River Hatcheries must be taken from the Willamette river. The many millions eggs taken by two states and the Federal Bureau of Fisheries west of the Celilo Falls are of the fall chinook (or tullie) variety, which are of little value to the industry. This variety of fish this year sold on the market as low as two cents per pound.



FACTS CONCERNING THE FISH WHEEL, TRAP, SEINE AND GILL NET BILL

This bill was initiated and is officially sponsored by the Fish Commission of Oregon, the Oregon State Federation of Labor, and the Oregon State Grange.

Its purpose is to allow more seed fish to escape to their spawning grounds by prohibiting the taking of salmon by means of fish wheels, prohibiting the operation of traps and seines in the narrow gorges of the Columbia, and reducing the length of gill nets on the entire river.

The fish wheels are destroying one of Oregon's greatest industries by preventing the salmon from reaching their spawning grounds so that they can deposit their eggs and reproduce their species. With the wheels eliminated the industry can expand to many times its present magnitude, and will furnish employment to thousands of our citizens.

Not only is the Columbia River the only stream in the world where fishing with wheels is permitted, but it is the only stream in the world on which traps and seines are allowed above tide water.

The handful of men who now own all the fish wheels have an absolute monopoly on the fishing industry on the Columbia above tide water, a single man owning more than nine miles of fishing grounds of both sides of the river. On this nine mile stretch no citizen of this state may even go upon the public river without the consent of this owner.

Practically all the wheels are owned by two wealthy families, and these two families annually take more than 85 per cent of all the fish caught on the Columbia above tide water.

A single wheel owned by one of these men has been known to take 24 tons of fish in a single day—which is more fish than the average individual fisherman takes in four years.

All the fish wheel owners together employ less than thirty men in their entire operations.

The claim of the fish wheel owners that the elimination of the wheels and seines would give the gill net fisherman a monopoly is absurd. The gill net fisherman operates on a stretch of tide water 150 miles long and from two to ten miles wide, reaching from the Pacific Ocean to a point a few miles below Cascade Rapids. On this vast stretch of tide water every citizen of the state, who wishes to do so, has the right to fish in common with every other citizen.

The records of the State Fish Commission show that the salmon pack for the five years ending March 31, 1926, was thirty-two million pounds less than for the preceding five years.

The elimination of the wheels, by increasing the run, will lower the price of salmon.

Voters are asked not to be misled by the claim of the fish wheel owners that this bill would be unconstitutional on account of the Oregon-Washington fishing compact. The state of Oregon has the absolute right to regulate its own fixed fishing appliances and none of the provisions of this bill come under the compact.

If the fish wheel owners really believed this bill would be unconstitutional they would not now be spending thousands of dollars to defeat it.

The passage of this bill will not mean confiscation of property, as the fish wheel owners have claimed. The operation of a fish wheel is not a property right. It is merely a privilege enjoyed under a license by the state and is revokable by the state at any time. For that matter, most of the fish wheels have paid for themselves many times over, some of them having taken fish enough in a single season to more than pay for the cost of their construction.

Anglers should support this bill because it will stop the destruction of hundreds of tons of steel head trout taken by the seines now operating directly under the falls at Celilo.

FISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

By George A. Palmiter, Hood River, Ore.,
President.

Ben. T. Osborne, Labor Temple, Portland,
Ore., Secretary.