

Governor Clarence D. Martin of the State of Washington, when invited recently to speak before the Progressive Business Men's Club of Portland, called attention to the great value of the outdoor resources of Oregon and Washington. At the same time, he put Mayor Carson on the spot when he asked why Portland does not stop polluting the Willamette River. This is a violation of the state law. It is a menace to public health. It is gradually killing off our most valuable runs of salmon.

After the city of Portland turned the Willamette River into a public sewer, the city Health Officer decreed that it was unlawful to go swimming in the Willamette and it was dangerous to even touch the water. The Mayor and the City Commissioners face a problem which up to the present time they have lacked the ability to solve.

The same conditions prevail in Oregon City where the mills and factories dump their waste products and the city empties its raw sewage into the Willamette. Recently a resident who has a home on the Willamette River just below Oregon City asked the following question:

"If I were to take my garbage and dump it on the streets of Oregon City, what would happen?"

This taxpayer answered the question himself. He said he would be arrested and fined for violating the health ordinances of the city.

On the other hand, the city itself violates a state law which provides that it is unlawful for any corporation to dump sewage into the rivers of Oregon.



The above taxpayer owns a sandy beach just below his home. The filth from Oregon City washes up on his shore preventing him and his family from using their property. The city in the violation of a state law has lowered the value of the taxpayer's property, and for this he has no recourse.

Someone suggested that he could take the matter into court if his property were injured. "I haven't the funds to hire attorneys to fight the illegal actions of the city. My taxes help support state officers who should enforce state laws. Sooner or later, the state law will prevail." he replied.