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A large number of fishermen who make a living catching salmon along the Columbia have reached the conclusion that they have been "sold down the river." The valuable fish resources upon which they depend are gradually strangling to death. Fingerling salmon cannot thrive in poisoned waters any better than people can in a gas tank.

A month and a half ago it was reported that the pulp mill at St. Helens dumped a stream of brown liquid acid in the Willamette Slough that spread a fifteen mile blanket of death over the various species of fish that inhabited these waters. Photographs were taken of the steelhead and silver-side salmon killed from the waste of the mills, and samples of the poisonous waters were taken. The State Game Commission sent a special letter ordering the mill to cease polluting the Willamette River. The State Fish Commission called the mill on the telephone.

~~It is a clear violation of the State law~~

The State Game and commercial fish codes are full of legal restrictions to conserve fish. If an angler or commercial fisherman violates a regulation, he is quickly arrested and fined. The pollution law is plain and clear. Various cities daily violate this law. Every day mills along the shoreline dump poisonous fluids into public waters. There are no arrests, no fines for violators. The pollution law just sleeps in the hands of a hundred state officers from the governor down who are sworn to enforce it.

The Columbia River Fishermen's Association has heralded the fact that they intend to take court action to enjoin cities, mills, and factories from further polluting salmon streams. Since the Ixaak Walton League, other sportsmen's groups, civic organizations and

women's clubs, the State Board of Health, and thousands of individuals, have been unable to put a dent in the hard old pollution nut, this army interested in the conservation of fish and the protection of public health should gather their cohorts and back up the fishermen in their attack on private and municipal corporations. It's not an easy battle. The truth might as well be known. The war munitions of the enemies of clean streams and pure water are supplied by the taxpayers who are unwilling to put up the cash for corrective measures.

It is well known that citizens of Portland voted to install a sewage system when they thought the government would dig up the funds. When these funds were not forthcoming, they voted against the same measure when it was recommended that the money be taken from the pockets of property holders.

It is well known that corrective measures cannot be taken immediately by mills, factories, and cities when they have been permitted to violate a state law for many years. Yet there is no reason why each case should not be taken into court. Let a period of from two to four years be established by the Judge for necessary changes to be made, after which each corporation is to cease violating the state pollution law.