

Botanist Predicts Boston, Mass., Christ- Great Arboretum For Puget Sound

Special to The Christian Science Monitor
 SEATTLE—Contending that the

University of Washington Arbore-
 tum will become "the greatest in-
 stitution of its kind in the world,"
 J. Bert Forbes, botanist of Puyal-
 lup, Wash., says that "a more com-
 prehensive representation of the
 earth's vegetation can be grown
 on the southeastern shore of Puget
 Sound than in any other place in
 the world."

This contention was made,
 partly because at a point some-
 where between Everett and Ten-
 ino, Washington, can be found the
 center of plant distribution for the
 entire Pacific Coast.

"Botanists have known for over
 150 years that within this small
 area a more comprehensive repre-
 sentation of the earth's vegetation
 can be grown than in any other
 place in the world," says Mr.
 Forbes.

Since comparison is one of the
 principal sources of information,
 and hybridization is the greatest
 method of improvement of plants,
 it is obvious that the scientific in-
 vestigation and improvement of
 plants could be conducted with
 greater accuracy and dispatch with
 specimens growing side by side
 than with specimens distantly sep-
 arated, the botanist continued. A
 location "where the greatest num-
 ber of genera and species could be
 represented would be the best for
 such scientific study and develop-
 ment." Thus an establishment of
 an arboretum on Puget Sound
 seemed inevitable.

Since the earliest explorations,
 the botanist said, foreign bota-
 nists have collected Pacific Coast
 plants and sent them to their coun-
 tries for development. That ac-
 counts for the fact that Douglas
 Fir, one of the outstanding plants
 of the northwest, is named for
 David Douglas who collected it
 at the mouth of the Columbia
 River in 1824 for the Arboretum
 at Kew, England. The develop-
 ment and use of Pacific Coast
 plants by distant Arboreta was
 extensive and their frank acknowl-
 edgments were among the first
 indications of the unparalleled
 magnificence of the Pacific Coast
 flora, Forbes said. With these ex-
 periments being conducted in the
 University Arboretum, with ac-
 climated plants in the midst of
 climatic conditions which caused
 their growth, they will become
 much more comprehensive, he
 added.

There are still hundreds of un-
 developed plants in the Pacific
 Coast states, according to Forbes,
 which have decorative and eco-
 nomic values unknown to all but
 a few who have lacked the facili-
 ties for their development. These
 facilities, he showed, can be sup-
 plied by an arboretum.

May 5, 1939 THIRTEEN FISH Salem, Ore.
 Capital Press
 Dr. William L. Findley is a noted naturalist and
 is one who is doing effective work in the National
 Wildlife Association to stop the destruction of wild
 animals, birds and fish. He is admirably zealous in
 his work; but, as is perfectly natural, he loses sight
 of all save his own side of the picture. In his recent
 address before the Salem chamber of commerce he
 opposed the Willamette valley flood control project,
 his opposition being based on his claim that the pro-
 posed flood control dams on the Santiam and Mc-
 Kenzie would stop the run of salmon up those
 streams. The same cry was made regarding Bonne-
 ville, but was proved without foundation by an of-
 ficial count of millions of salmon going up the fish-
 ways provided for them, and Dr. Findley's objections
 might be dismissed by merely citing this experience.
 But this paper has a further grouch against Dr.
 Findley and the National Wildlife association. As
 far as saving the salmon in the Santiam and the Mc-
 Kenzie is concerned, the point has been reached
 where it is scarcely worth while. At the last esti-
 mate there were about seven of the fish in the San-
 tiam and maybe six in the McKenzie, although there
 was a time when there were millions of them. The
 reason they are not there is not because of dams.
 They have been suffocated while trying to swim up
 the poisonous sewer called the "beautiful Willa-
 mette". For many years a great many of us have
 been howling about this condition and trying to get
 the river purified so that the fish could be invited
 to come back. If we had the active help of the Na-
 tional Wildlife association we might have been able
 to accomplish something along that line. The fail-
 ure of the association to get into the game when there
 were some fish to save cannot be offset now by its
 lectures about savnig fish when there are none left
 to save. Dr. Findley's idea that we must continue
 to suffer damaging floods and the destruction of
 hundreds of acres of valuable garden land in order
 to save thirteen fish is sublimely idealistic—but also
 fantastic and ridiculous.