

Old Town Enterprise

O. W. ROBBINS, Publisher.

We clip from the columns of an exchange the following notice, upon which the ENTERPRISE has a few suggestions to make:

LEGISLATIVE NOTICE.

BANGOR, Me. Dec. 6, '94

Notice is hereby given that A. J. King, E. F. Adams, E. E. Ring and others will ask the next Legislature of this State for a charter to erect a dam and dams at the outlet of Pushaw Pond for the purpose of storing water to facilitate the driving of logs and provide for an increase volume of water for mills situated on the Stillwater river.

We do not wish to oppose any projects which would seem to be of benefit to the mill owners interested in the scheme

above outlined; but in this matter the possible benefit to them appears to be more than offset by much greater liability of harm to the interests of our city, as well as to those of Bangor and our neighboring towns.

In earlier years hundreds of thousands of feet of heavy pine lumber, the size of which can be surmised by the few scattering survivors now standing on the

lake shores, have been driven down Pushaw outlet without a dam, together with some large quantities of spruce and hemlock lumber. It is, therefore, difficult to see why a dam is now needed to "facilitate the floating of logs" when the drive consists of a few small rafts of small pulp logs, hardly larger than fence rails. It may be safely assumed, therefore, that the real object of the proposed dam is to hold water for the use of the mills only. Were a dam built merely for driving purposes comparatively little damage would result, as the period for which the water would be held would be short and early in the spring. But where the water is stored and held from the season of the spring floods which fill the lake to the time of the summer droughts in August or September, and then is drawn off for use below, a very different result is brought about. Pushaw lake is a comparatively shallow body of water, as every one knows who is at all familiar with it. It has substantially but one inlet, through which the inflow during the summer is not in ordinary years sufficient to make up for the loss of water by evaporation, and by the natural flow through the outlet. Any dam which may be built must allow through its gates the natural flow of the outlet, no

one having the right to check or diminish this flow. Therefore, in order to obtain sufficient water to offset this constant loss by outflow and by evaporation and have enough at the end of about six months to be of any benefit to the mills below, the dam must be sufficient to hold a head upon the lake which would be above the height of the present spring floods. Now, what would result from this? Any of our readers who have ever seen the Androscoggin lakes or other bodies of water whose shores are flooded by dams, can readily answer. Every tree or bush which is reached and kept surrounded for any length of time by the water is killed as by fire; and in a few years, by the decay of its roots and the loosening of the soil around them by the action of the water, the dead growth can no longer stand and is blown over; or if the roots hold, the tree decays above the water line and breaks off, leaving an unsightly and ragged stub. Thus instead of greenly wooded shores, there is to be seen a desolate strip of whitened stubs and floating masses of tangled drift-wood, the latter in many places wholly preventing the landing of boats, and the beauty of the lake and its surroundings is ruined. The effect is worse than that of fire; for fire destroys speedily and then allows new growth to spring up, but flooded lands can produce nothing.

Parts of the drift wood, detached by the motion of the waves from the larger masses, are carried to all parts of the lake, and either become stranded in the shallow portions or drift to the shores elsewhere. No part of a lake upon which the growth is thus killed is free from drifting tree trunks; and this condition lasts not for a few years only, but for a generation or more.

The shores of Pushaw lake are generally quite low, and almost wholly wooded to the water's edge. The beauty of its shore growth is its principal element of attraction in point of picturesqueness; and the damage done to it in this respect would be irreparable. Other objections to the proposed flowage might easily be enumerated—the practical destruction of the lake as a resort for temporary camping out and for pleasure excursions by reason of the many inconveniences which would destroy the pleasure of the excursionist; and in particular the danger attending any prolonged stay near a lake whose low shores would be covered with pools of stagnant water, black with decaying vegetation and spreading through the air noisome smells and seeds of malaria. But the destruction of the beauty of the lake is sufficient of itself to condemn the project, and this not only as a matter of taste, but as a question of the destruction of valuable property.

For during the past year **Pushaw** lake has been opened to this city at large cost as a summer resort by the construction of new and expensive streets. Cottage lots have been laid out along its easterly shores for a distance of two miles, and roads built for their accommodation along the lake. A number of cottages has already been built. — Over one hundred and fifty cottage lots are now held by our citizens, and the Kukunsook club and the city have already expended nearly four thousand dollars upon these east side improvements, to say nothing of the expenditures of private owners in the erection and furnishing of their cottages and the improvement of their lots. The tax valuation of the land on the lake shore has been increased from less than one dollar to nearly two hundred dollars per acre. Farther improvements are already planned, more cottages are even now building, and the place is destined in the near future to become Old Town's principal summer resort. On the westerly side of the lake Bangor parties have this year expended over five thousand dollars in improvements, and much more has been spent there in previous years.

The filling of the lake even to high water mark will flow out and make impassable portions of the new streets, of which nearly three hundred rods are built across the low lands on the east side, and will render worthless many of the cottage lots held by parties who contemplate building. Pushaw lake is the only neighboring sheet of water which we have. The city and the citizens need

it as a cottage resort. Ought we to allow its beauty and its usefulness to be ruined by the erection of dams which hitherto have never been needed, even when the Stillwater river below had more than double the number of mills which now stand upon it?