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POWER COMPANY TO CONTINUE WORK ON BAKER RIVER PLANT

REAL WORK ON PROJECT WILL START NEXT WEEK-CREW OF 150 MEN TO BE EMPLOYED AT START AND INCREASE LATER

The Stone & Webster Corporation has definitely decided to proceed with the development of the Baker River project, and the latest reports are that actual work towards building the huge dam and power plant will be started next week. The men in charge of the preliminary work at the camp and at the dam site have been notified to have everything in readiness for a crew of 150 men by April 1, and the buildings are being rushed, provisions, and supplies hauled in and other work hurried to completion in order that the camp will be ready for the new men.

It is expected that a number of men employed will be increased to 350 or 400 later in the summer when the water in the river is at its lowest stage, when the men can be employed to the best advantage. No word has been received in regard to any change in the original plan to complete the dam and plant within two years and it is believed that the work will be rushed as rapidly as conditions will permit.

The erection of the camp buildings on the hill northeast of town has been going ahead rapidly and there is now quite a city on the heights. Water mains and sewers have been laid and a lighting system installed. A transmission line has been built from the Stone & Webster substation at the old Washington plant over the hill to the dam site, with a side line in to the camp to light the camp grounds and buildings. The road

construction work has progressed rapidly during the good weather and there is now a good wagon road from the city pavement to the dam site, and this will be further surfaced and leveled until it will be equal to a paved road for the heavy traffic during the construction work.

Dennis Winn of the United States Bureau of Fisheries has filed a protest with the state against granting a permit for the dam, claiming that it will put the Baker lake fish hatchery out of commission. The Baker lake hatchery is the only hatchery in the country handling sockeye salmon, and if the fish are stopped from coming up the Baker river, the plant will be unable to secure eggs for hatching. It is believed that this matter will be adjusted at the hearing before the state board next month.

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