

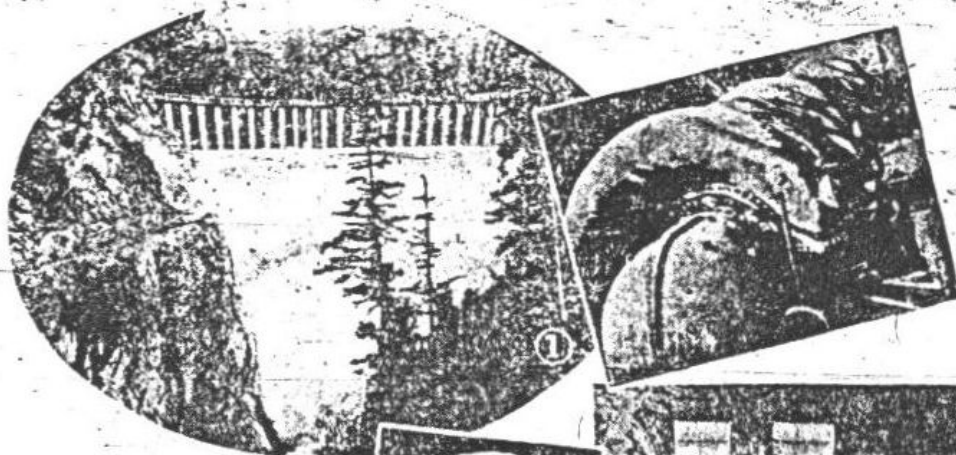
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CONCRETE, SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1925

GREAT NEW BAKER RIVER PLANT COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME



1. New Baker River Dam, of the Puget Sound Power & Light Company, at Concrete, Wash., higher than an 18-story building.
2. Giant turbines and generators in Baker River power plant.
3. Concrete power plant, Baker River.
4. A. W. Leonard, president, Puget Sound Power & Light Co.
5. Harry B. Sewall, manager, Northwest Division, Puget Sound Power & Light Co.

Following less than nineteen months elapsed time since the beginning of construction, President A. W. Leonard of the Puget Sound Power & Light company last week pressed a button that marked the official beginning of Washington's newest hydroelectric power development on the Baker river, and which increased the county's power output by 40,000 kilowatt-hours.

Construction, begun April 1, 1924, delayed by a season and hampered by one of the severest winters on record in that part of the country, when the flooding waters of the river erased progress made after time, the completion of this plant under the direction of W. D. Leonard, mon-~~ing~~ engineer in charge of construction, is regarded as one of the outstanding feats of engineering hitherto accomplished on the Pacific coast, had it not been for an unusual

tax rolls and thus helps to reduce the tax worth, which could be purchased within the state of Washington, were purchased within the state, and to a burden upon all taxpayers of the state.

The dam, which is one of the main features of this plant, is 245 feet high from bedrock to the top of the flood-gates—many feet higher than any building in the Northwest, with the single exception of the Smith building tower—and contains enough concrete to construct five hotels similar in size and type to that of the new

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GREAT NEW BAKER RIVER PLANT COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME

Following less than nineteen months elapsed time since the beginning of construction, President A. W. Leonard of the Puget Sound Power & Light company last week pressed the button that marked the official opening of Washington's newest hydro-electric power development on the Baker River, and which increased the company's power output by 40,000 horsepower.

Begun April 1, 1924, delayed by a strike and hampered by one of the most severe winters on record in that part of the country, when the flooding waters of the river erased progress time after time, the completion of this plant under the direction of W. D. Shannon, engineer in charge of construction, is regarded as one of the outstanding feats of engineering hitherto accomplished on the Pacific coast and had it not been for an unusual fall through, which materially delayed the filling of the reservoir, it is probable that the lapse of time between the actual commencement of construction and the delivery of power would have been still further reduced.

The construction program included not only a dam, power house and connecting tunnel, all capable of increasing the power out-put by little more than the mere installation of more generators, but also included ninety-two miles of high tension transmission lines as well as two huge substations-one at Everett, being the largest out-door substation in the Northwest, and the other at Sedro-Woolley. By means of these transmission lines and substations power from the new Baker river plant may be delivered to almost any part of Western and Central Washington now served by the Puget Sound Power & Light company, and when the new cable is laid, connecting the mainland with the Olympic peninsula to Port Angeles, Port

Townsend, Bremerton and intermediate points.

All of the materials entering into the construction of this project, amounting to many millions of dollars security holders, while at the same time the entire plant has been added to the tax rolls and thus helps to reduce the worth, which could be purchased within the state of Washington, were purchased within the state, and to a burden upon all taxpayers of the state.

The dam, which is one of the main features of this plant, is 245 feet high from bedrock to the top of the floodgates-many feet higher than any building in the Northwest, with the single exception of the Smith building tower-and contains enough concrete to construct five hotels similar in size and type of that of the new Olympic in Seattle.

Draining a watershed of 270 square miles, including snow-capped Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan, a reservoir of 1850 acres in extent and of a maximum depth of 200 feet will be formed behind the dam. From the intake at the dam to the penstock a tunnel 900 feet in length and 22 feet in diameter, inside the concrete lining has been constructed.

By increasing the operating head from 200 feet, as originally planned to 230 feet, each of the big Allis-Chalmers turbines now installed will deliver about 25,000 horsepower, as compared with a present output of 20,000 horsepower each.

"I regard the opening of the Baker river hydro-electric plant as one of the largest industrial accomplishments in Washington during the past year," said H. B. Sewall, manager of the Northern district of the Puget Sound Power & Light company this morning.

"Apart altogether from its being an important addition to taxable property within the state, it is a project which, by providing against all present as well as against any likely

demand of the immediate future for power, insures that no prospective large extent financed by the sale of securities within the territory served by the company. As a result of this its earnings will be distributed widely among company customers and see new industry seeking a location in any part of our territory will {not} be disappointed either in the matter of immediately available supply of electricity or in prevailing rates, since on average is the lowest in the United States.

“Since the Baker river plant is tied in with one transmission system, which covers practically all of Western Washington, we are enabled to deliver its power at almost any point where it may be needed, and as a result of this by obviating the necessity of operating isolated steam plants, we have recently reduced rates for domestic and commercial lighting.

“It must also be borne in mind that although the Baker River generates about 40,000 horsepower at present, the plant is so constructed that by the mere addition of another unit to the power house and the installation of more machinery a very material increase in its output may be attained on very short notice and at comparatively nominal cost.

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