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NEW FISH HATCHERY NEAR CONCRETE IS PLANNED FOR YEAR

ANNUAL BUDGET OF PUGET SOUND P. & L. C. INCLUDES ITEM FOR HATCHERY HERE-BUDGET IS LARGEST YET

The budget of the Puget Sound Power and Light company for 1929, which has been awaited by local people who were anxious to learn what improvements, if any, were planned for this vicinity, was released this week. According to Mr. Sewell, manager of the Northern district, the budget for 1929 is the largest in the history of the company and covers the most ambitious program of power development and service extension and improvement ever undertaken in a single year. The total budget for this district is about nine million dollars. The budget for 1928 was about five million dollars, and the only year in which the total has approximated the expenditures contemplated for 1929 as in 1925, when over \$8,000,000 was appropriated, mainly to cover the cost of construction on the Baker river hydro-electric development.

The budget for this year does not include any appropriation for any new dam or a new unit in connection with the Baker river project. An appropriation is made for the construction of a new fish hatchery on the Baker river to obviate the necessity of transporting salmon over the dam and to replace the government hatchery on the Baker river to obviate the necessity of transporting salmon over the dam and to replace the government hatchery which has heretofore been operated at Baker lake. It is expected the new hatchery will be built before the dam, and will probably be somewhere in east Concrete.

No information has been received as to when construction work would start or in regard to the size of the hatchery. This item is included in an appropriation of \$300,000 for betterments and improvements to existing plants, and it is probably that some other work will be done here during the year, in addition to the usual routine of operating the plant.

The largest single item is one of \$5,000,000 for the completion of the Shuffleton steam plant at Renton, which is now under construction. It is expected that this will be in operation by next September. The sum of \$225,000 is appropriated for installing a 7500 kilowatt unit at Electron, to replace the unit burned out last year.

Perhaps the most significant item in the budget is the sum of \$1,413,600 which has been appropriated for line extensions and connecting new light and power customers. It is estimated that during 1929 not less than 500 miles of new distribution lines will be constructed, taking electric service to about 4,000 farms and to about 8,000 other customers.

The balance of the budget is for improvements and betterments, replacements and extensions covering the huge system operated by the company in western and central Washington. The total of the budget of \$9,000,000 does not include pay roll and operating expenses nor interest on outstanding securities and tax payments.