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FLOOD SURVEYORS LOCATE POWER SITE NEAR FABER FERRY

HALF MILLION HORSEPOWER WOULD BE AVAILABLE IF DAM SITE PROVES SUITABLE-GOVERNMENT REPORT IS IN

A report just released by the U.S. Geological Survey has attracted statewide attention to a possible site for a huge power project on the Skagit River near the Faber ferry, about four miles east of this city. Two proposed dam sites were examined at this point in September, 1926, by J. T. Pardee, a geologist of the Geological Survey, whose report indicated that the dam sites were of doubtful value. At each site one end of the dam would be built on land of un-cemented silt and the depth to a solid foundation might be so great as to make the cost prohibitive. However, this could only be determined by thorough tests.

The recent flood control survey of the Skagit River again called attention to the immense amount of power that would be available if a dam 250 to 300 feet high were built at this point. It is estimated that such a dam would create sufficient storage capacity to control the combined flood waters of the Skagit and Sauk rivers and probably produce all the power needed in this section of the country for many years to come.

The Geological Survey report says that the upper Skagit River has a fall of 14,000 feet in seventy miles, nearly all of which could be used to produce power. With the natural flow about 187,000 horsepower could be generated on this stream 90 per cent of the time, and by regulation by storage reservoirs, this could be increased to 497,000 horsepower. Additional

power could be furnished by tributary streams in the Skagit river basin.

The city of Seattle, which is developing a huge power project in the Diablo canyon, above Marblemount, seems to be much interested in the report of the new power site. The city has practically all power sites on the Skagit above Newhalem tied up, but has paid no attention to the lower river. There seems to be considerable question as to what effect the development of a big project at the Faber ferry site would have on the Seattle project. It is reported that a large private concern has been making a quiet investigation of the Faber site, but the name of the company has not been learned. The development of a power project at Faber would be a big boost for the entire Skagit valley and the construction of the dam would eliminate all danger of any further destructive floods in the Skagit River.