

Skagit County Times

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DAM BUILDING DOES NOT LOOK TOO GOOD

Several years ago The Times quit building newspaper railroads. This was after it had learned good and well that when railroad officials (?) got mixed up in an interview and "divulged" a lot of plans for the future, that the statement was either an explosion of overworked imagination, or was just the reverse of any real intention. Hence, The Times is skeptical of the big dam story about what Stone & Webster are going to do on Baker river this year and immediately following. Talking with another Stone & Webster employe the other day we asked him about the building of the dam, and he told us that when the rumor came down the valley that he had talked with some pretty substantial Stone & Webster officials, and that they had no knowledge of the matter. There is no doubt that Stone & Webster engineers have been somewhat active about the dam site, but that may not mean anything more than doing something to justify being kept on the pay roll. If the presence of engineers meant building a railroad the Milwaukee would be now completed right through this section. Under the most favorable conditions the building of the Baker river dam is going to cost lots of money, and just why the Stone & Webster should begin construction work while the price of every factor to construction is abnormally high and still ascending and transportation precarious, is a mystery. Good advice to everybody, we think now, would be to not invest too heavily on Stone & Webster's dam building prospects, and for no one to try to hold their breath until work is begun on the dam. Be patient, keep your money in your pocket, and wait.