

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## SEATTLE PLANT AT NEWHALEM NOT TO BE READY THIS YEAR

### BIG POWER PLANT ON UPPER SKAGIT WILL NOT BE FINISHED UNTIL NEXT JUNE OR EVEN LATER

Although the contract for the construction of the huge power project for the city of Seattle on the upper Skagit river provides that the plant shall be ready for operation by January 1, 1924, present indications are that the project will not be completed before next summer, and it may be even later before electric current can be transmitted to Seattle. It is reported that delays have occurred in all parts of the work, and there is considerable controversy between the contractors and the engineers for the city as to who is responsible for the delay.

The R. C. Storrie Company, which has the contract for the construction of the plant, claims that the city of Seattle is to blame for the delay in completion of the plant because of failure to deliver equipment and material from Rockport to the power site as rapidly as needed, and the city saw mill at Newhalem has not been cutting lumber as fast as it was needed on the construction work. The board of public works of the city and Chief Engineer Uhden deny that there has been any delay on the part of the city and are inclined to hold the contractors liable under the penalty clause of the contract. It is expected that litigation will be necessary to settle this controversy, as there is a large sum of money involved.

The tunnel for the Gorge creek plant was to have been completed, according to the contract, about two months ago, but it will be at least a month yet before this job is finished, and other parts of the work are at about the

stage. Practically all the machinery for the huge power plant is now on the ground and is being installed as rapidly as buildings and foundations are ready. It was planned to transmit current from the new plant to Seattle by New Year's Day, but all hopes of this have been abandoned and about the best that is expected now is to have the plant in operation by June 1.

The task of installing the transmission line from Newhalem to the city limits of Seattle has been going ahead rapidly and it appears that the contract for this job will be completed soon after the first of the year.