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FIRST POWER FROM BAKER RIVER PLANT TURNED OUT TODAY

ONE UNIT IS NOW IN ACTUAL OPERATION AND SECOND WILL BE STARTED EARLY NEXT WEEK-DAM ALMOST FULL

The first electric power generated at the Baker river plant of the Puget Sound Power & Light company was carried over the transmission lines from the plant to the substation at Sedro-Woolley today. Unit No. 1 is now in actual operation and is working as smoothly-as an old and tested machine. It is generating 14,000 horsepower of electricity, and after this goes through the transformers at the plant here, 110,000 volts are sent over the wires to Sedro-Woolley. When Unit No. 2 was started it was found that some small adjustments were needed, and it is expected that these will be made and this unit placed in operation early next week. Unless unforeseen troubles develop the plant will hereafter be in continuous operation, and power troubles of the company in this section of the state will be a thing of the past.

The water in Lake Shannon reached the intake of the tunnel last Saturday and then the water was turned into the tunnel and the machinery turned over for the first time Sunday afternoon. The first few days of the week were spent in making final adjustments and it was not until today that everything was ready to start manufacturing power.

The water in the dam is still steadily rising and it is now within about 35 feet of the top. The water is now spreading over such a large area that it only rises a few inches a day, even through the heavy rains of the past week have raised the water in the river. With the

plant in operation and using the water, the dam will fill more slowly and it is not likely that the water will flow over the top for some months, unless there is a real flood in the river.

Although the plant is finally in operation, it does not mean that the Stone & Webster construction work is finished. There are still several hundred men on the job, finishing up odd jobs, tearing down construction buildings, housing, packing machinery, and clearing up the rubbish left during the time of construction. The crews are being gradually reduced and in a short time there will only be a small crew here as compared with the maximum of 1300 men a few months ago.