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STONE & WEBSTER WILL HAVE BIG DAM FINISHED BY NOV. 1

HUGE POWER PLANT ON BAKER RIVER WILL BE IN OPERATION SOON AFTER FIRST OF NOVEMBER-DAM NEARLY DONE

The huge power project of the Stone & Webster Company in the Baker river canyon is now nearing completion, and another month or so will see the big plant in operation. The work has gone ahead rapidly for the past few months, and the monster job is now getting down to finishing touches in many places. The crew of 1,000 or more men, that has been kept busy on construction work for twenty-four hours a day through the summer, is now being gradually reduced, and as each phase of the job is finished more men will be let out. It is generally believed that by the end of the next thirty days there will be only a few hundred men left on the job, and in about sixty days there will be no one left except the operating crews and a crew to clean up the odds and ends of the project.

The huge dam, which is the largest part of the construction of the local project, is rapidly nearing completion. On the west side of the Baker the dam is almost finished. Cement has been poured to the full height of the structure and practically all work on this end of the dam is done. The gate piers have been placed, and on the east end of the dam there are several sections to be poured yet. The work on this end has been delayed on account of rotten rock on the surface, requiring considerable blasting and excavation work to get down to a solid foundation for the east wall. It is expected that all the

construction work on the dam will be finished by October 15, and then the spillways will be sealed and the big dam filled with water.

The tunnel from the dam to the power plant is practically completed. All the work that now remains to be done is the sealing of the adits and the general cleaning up in the tunnel and this can all be done within the next two weeks. The penstocks leading from the main tunnel to the turbines are all in place and are ready for use today.

The work on the power house has gone ahead faster than anticipated, and this structure is already about ready for use. Indications are that the plant will be all ready for operation before October 1. The huge turbines and generators are already in place and the massive transformers are being installed this week. The building itself is just about fully completed, and about all that remains to be done now is the cleaning of odds and ends incidental to a job of this size. The intake to the tunnel is not finished yet, but work on this is going ahead rapidly, and it is estimated that this will be done about October 15.

According to present calculations, the gates of the dam will be closed about November 1. The length of time it will take for the dam to fill up will depend on the stage of water in the river at that time. If the river is at its present stage at that time, it will require

nearly three weeks for the big dam to fill up. If the Baker should happen to be near flood stage during a freshet at that time, the dam will be filled in a few days. It is believed that electric power from the Baker river plant will be available for use about November 10.

It is claimed by the Stone & Webster Company that the local project has set a new record for the time required for construction of a plant of that size, and also for cost of construction per horsepower.

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