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NEW DIABLO DAM IS GREAT PROJECT FOR UPPER VALLEY

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT PROJECT IS GIVING EMPLOYMENT TO MORE THAN 400 MEN-TUNNEL NEARING COMPLETION

The construction of the new Diablo dam for the city of Seattle about 13 miles above Newhalem is a big project, according to E. C. Forner, an engineer for the Superior company, who visited the works last Sunday and looked over the works from an engineering standpoint, rather than from the usual scenic point of view. He brought back some interesting figures in regard to the new dam, which are used in this article.

The dam is located at the southerly end of the noted Diablo canyon, and when completed will be 570 feet wide at the top and 340 feet high, figuring from the ordinary water level of the Skagit river. Winston Bros. have the contract for the construction of the dam and diversion tunnel and at the present time have a crew of over 400 men at work.

The diversion tunnel is now about 70 per cent completed. It will be about 600 feet long and 24 feet square and will be used to carry the water of the Skagit river while the dam is under construction, and will possibly be used later to carry water from the dam to a new power plant. Actual work on the Diablo dam is expected to start within the next three months, with the actual pouring of concrete started within that time. A lot of preliminary work on the dam has already been done, and everything is now about ready to start construction as soon as the tunnel is completed. The work is being rushed as rapidly as conditions will permit, but it is not

expected that any more men will be needed, as the crew is now about the maximum for the job.

The City of Seattle railroad, from Rockport to Newhalem, has been extended to the camp, and is still being extended, the terminal at the present time being the site of the proposed Ruby creek dam, about 15 miles above the Diablo dam.

The Winston camp is located a short distance down the river from the dam and is a model camp in every way. There are about 40 bunkhouses, all of the latest construction and arrangements, with private houses for almost as many families, and other homes for families have been built on the Davis farm, a short distance below the dam.

The Seattle city council is now fighting over whether to build a new power house at Diablo or to enlarge the present plant at Newhalem. No matter which way the matter is decided, there will be a lot of work in that vicinity for several years, and the whole Skagit valley will be benefited by the development..