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NEW CONSTRUCTION ON BAKER RIVER DAM DOUBLES CAPACITY

POWER DAM HERE IS NOW 33 FEET HIGHER, ADDING TO WATER STORAGE—WORK IS NEARING COMPLETION

A few months ago the Puget Sound Power & Light company started work on raising the height of the big power dam on the Baker River, just north of town, and this work is now nearing completion. The dam has been raised 33 feet from the former level and is now 293 feet high from the bottom of the river. While the new work is only a small proportion of the total height of the dam, it just about doubles the water storage capacity of the dam, the total being increased from 70,000 acre-feet to 130,000 acre feet and so makes it one of the highest concrete structures of its kind in the world.

In technical terms the new construction means that thirteen million kilowatt hours of new storage will be available for conversion into electrical energy. This added storage capacity is not only needed for the growing needs of the company's operations, but will be especially valuable during the low water season in the summer and early fall.

The new construction on the dam was finished just in time to avoid the spring freshet on the Baker River, the employees just having time to pour the last of the cement and remove the tools before the water started flowing over the dam, with the additional 33 feet in place. There is now about eighteen inches of water falling over the dam, and the waterfall is one of the most beautiful in the state. The construction work here has been delayed by the high water, but some of the incidental

work is now being completed, and as soon as the freshet is over, the balance of the work will be finished, including the apron in front of the dam which is intended to spread the fall of the water and avoid all danger of having the dam undermined. The apron is also expected to greatly lessen the loss of salmon fry from the Baker Lake hatchery, a considerable percentage of which is now killed in passing over the dam. While the number of fish killed has been comparatively low, considering the millions of fry passing over the dam, it is reported that the construction of the apron will reduce the loss by more than half.

The fishway over the dam will be extended to cover the new construction at an estimated cost of \$15,000 and the ladder is being improved in other ways to increase its efficiency. This is the first time that fish have ever been lifted to even half this height, and the success of the plan has attracted attention from power plan engineers in all parts of the world. The Baker River salmon ranks as one of the best fish in the world for table use, and but for the construction of the new plan of ladder and fishway they could not have survived the construction of the dam.