

SKAGIT LOWEST IN 30 YEARS, U. S. MEN BUSY

The Skagit river is now at the lowest stage of flow that it has been for almost thirty years. This startling fact was revealed today by a group of eight field engineers of the United States geological survey who have been obtaining measure on the river discharge measurements.

The water situation throughout the northwest has reached an alarming situation and in many places, streams which were filled a year ago have practically dried up during the continued dry period.

Reports from the Upper Skagit district state that the river in that district shows less channel depth this month than at any time during the past twenty-seven years.

In places the waters are so low that it is possible to cross the river, hopping from boulder to boulder without getting one's feet wet, according to C. H. Park, supervisor of the Mount Baker National forest, whose office is in Bellingham.

The situation in the Skagit river has reached a most serious condition. It was brought out in the investigation which is being conducted by geological surveyors that the river bed in many places has raised twenty feet between here and the mouth of the river. This condition alone is cause for alarm.

RAINFALL WELCOMED

Abnormal decrease in precipitation, which reached its height yesterday, has for some weeks been causing the concern of many, and the rainfall today is welcomed all over the northwest.

Rain was believed to be the only remedy for the fog blanket which has hovered over the entire Puget Sound basin almost without cessation for the past two weeks. The fog caused by the cold air striking the dry, warm earth has been the cause of heavy financial losses in shipping, navigation and business in general. Many accidents resulted from the fog blanket shutting off vision in traffic, and a minor epidemic of colds and la-grippe resulted from the condition of dryness and the fog.

OTHER STREAMS LOW

Condition of dryness is prevalent all over this section of the northwest, with low stages in flow being recorded for the Nooksack and Stillaguamish rivers and many of the smaller creeks and streams, making it impossible to obtain water from streams in many vicinities. Other places report the drying up of wells, making it necessary to carry water from many miles away.

HUGE ARTIFICIAL LAKE IS FORMED

Forming of the huge artificial lake to be known as Shannon lake at the Baker River project was started this week when the Baker river was turned against the power dam at Concrete.

During the first day that the course of the river was turned to the lake, the lake rose eleven feet.

The huge artificially constructed lake is eight miles in length with a maximum width of about a mile. Its depth approximates 200 feet. The dam is 245 feet high from bedrock to the top of the flood gates, and is 450 feet long.

As soon as the huge lake, forming behind the Puget Sound Power & Light company's power dam, has been filled with sufficient water from the Baker river, rushing down from Mount Baker, power may be obtained from the plant. The plant will serve a large area in the northwest.

Construction of the dam started about eighteen months ago, on April 1, 1924.