

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## WORK IS RUSHED ON TEMPORARY PLANT ON UPPER SKAGIT

### PLANT NEEDED FOR USE DURING BUILDING OF MAIN PROJECT WILL BE READY BY NEXT APRIL, SAYS ENGINEER.

The city of Seattle voted Monday to appropriate an additional \$175,000 for the hydro-electric power project on the upper Skagit River, and it is stated that the major part of the appropriation will be used for the completion of the temporary power plant which is now being built near the mouth of Newhalem creek. Work on this plant is being rushed as rapidly as weather and working conditions will permit, and it is stated by C. F. Uhden, engineer in charge, that unless unforeseen obstacles occur, the plant will be ready for use by April, 1921.

A tunnel measuring six feet by seven feet is being constructed from Newhalem creek through a hill to the site of the temporary plant, a distant of 2,700 feet. This tunnel, with a steel penstock 900 feet in length, the contract for which was recently let by the board of public works of the city of Seattle, will have a fall of five hundred feet, giving a head of water capable of producing over 3,000 horsepower.

With the completion of the temporary electric plant, all the preliminary work will be about completed, and everything will be ready to being actual construct work on the main project, and it is expected the work on the huge damn will be started by early summer. The railway from Rockport to the site of the main plant is not finished, but work has gone ahead rapidly during the summer, and indications are that the road will be open

for the traffic soon after the power plant is completed. The sawmill at the Seattle camp has been running steadily for several months, and huge piles of lumber, for use in preparing forms and for other purposes during the main construction work, are piled up around the mill for seasoning and will be ready for use long before the work begins.

Although it takes considerable time to make much of a showing on a project of the magnitude of that undertaken on the upper Skagit, the progress made so far is very satisfactory, and it is likely that by this time next year the big dams and the main power plant will be well underway. But even at the present rate of progress it will be several years before the first unit is ready for use.