

WASHINGTON PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY

At the juncture of the Skagit and Baker rivers, in Skagit county, there has sprung up, as if by magic, the little town of Concrete, which centers about the plant of the Washington Portland Cement Company. It seems as if Nature had especially designed this spot for the purpose, because every one of the elements requisite for the manufacture of cement is found in great abundance within easy reach. Pure lime rock caps the summit of the hill which rises just back of the factory, and the base of the same hill is a hard shale rock. These two rocks are the two principal constituents which go to make up Portland Cement.

The Washington Portland Cement Company has erected a factory, composed of nine large buildings, for the manufacture of these raw materials into a high-grade Portland Cement. The massive machinery, which has been installed, is composed of huge crushers, enormous grinding machinery, and, especially noticeable, large kilns, 100 feet long by 7½ feet in diameter. The plant is equipped with every modern appliance, each machine of importance and each elevator and conveyor being driven by an individual motor, so that any one machine can be controlled separately from the others. A machine shop is connected with the plant, equipped with tools for all kinds of machine work.

The company is constructing a dam across Baker river, and has a flume, 6 by 10 feet, connecting therewith, three miles long, discharging through a large penstock into a 1,250 H. P. turbine, directly connected with a generator of equal capacity. The power plant is located 5,000 feet from the cement plant. As an auxiliary of this power plant, the company is installing a 1,000 H. P. steam plant, composed of Reynolds-Corliss engines, Cahall water tube boilers, and two large generators. In this power plant is being installed the large air compressor to operate the drills at the quarries. Crude oil will be used for fuel in the steam plant and for burning the clinker in the rotaries. A large storage tank has been erected to contain the oil. For fire protection the company has put in its own water works system, which is as elaborate as any small city would install. It has an 8-inch water main encircling the plant, with many hydrants on the line, and has installed, on the hill, 200 feet above the factory, a 2,500-barrel storage tank. Water is furnished for this system from Baker river by a 600-gallon per minute fire pump. The system is well equipped with fire hose.

The factory is built with the idea of increasing its capacity. All elevators, conveyors and crushing machinery were purchased for a plant many times its present size. The present capacity of the plant will be from 600 to 800 barrels per day. The company has begun the installing of another unit, which will increase the capacity to 1,500 barrels per day, which will take care of the present demand for cement in Washington and adjoining states.

The raw materials this company will use in the manufacture of Portland Cement are as nearly perfect as can be secured. Before the company decided on the location of its factory the management examined a large number of deposits, but could not find another in the state that runs so uniform and so high grade as the one they secured.

The brand of the company's cement will be known as the Washington Brand. No cement will leave the factory, the manager states, until it is thoroughly aged, and the quality of the highest standard, no matter what the market conditions are, nor how great a demand there may be.

Speaking generally, one cannot help but be impressed with the very systematic plan of this plant, and the manner in which it is handled; the process being one that requires perfection in the minutest detail to turn out a satisfactory product.

The directors of the company are:

S. M. Anderson	President
E. E. Caine	Vice President
A. F. Coats	Treasurer

E. C. Miller	Secretary and General Manager
A. W. Middleton	

The operating of the factory is looked after by:

E. C. Miller	General Manager
N. L. Warford	Superintendent
A. G. Smith	Chief Chemist
H. W. Ryland	Assistant Chemist

I. H. Thomas	Electrician
S. O. Pease	Master Mechanic
A. A. McKillop	Accountant
Bates & Clark Co.	Consulting Engineers

Concrete possesses, in the Cement City Hotel, a comfortable, homelike hotel, equipped with modern conveniences, supplied with water from a clear mountain stream, having its own sewer system and electric lights. It not only provides a home for the employees of the company, but looks after the comfort of the traveling public as well. When the scenic beauties of the upper Skagit valley become better known and devotees of rod and gun find that good fishing and shooting are to be had within easy distance, it is expected that many sportsmen and others seeking rest and recreation will find in the Cement City Hotel a pleasant and convenient stopping place.