

Why Hasn't The Power Company Provided Enough Capacity To Insure Them Against A Water Shortage

**That Is a Very Logical Question to Ask and the Answer Is
Just As Logical.**

Ever since the great Gold Dredges at Sumpter began to operate, it has been known that they would not operate indefinitely. Three years ago the operators themselves said they would be through with the ground about the middle of 1922. As late as February of 1922 they confirmed that prediction. These dredges have always been enormous users of our power. In 1921 they took ONE-THIRD of our ENTIRE OUTPUT. It did not require much foresight or business ability to know that if we were going to lose one-third of our load in 1922, and could satisfactorily take care of the demand upon us until we did lose it, we should not invest \$100,000.00 or more in developing additional capacity.

To take care of the demand until the dredges were to get through, we used every means at our command. We increased our storage capacity and efficiency at all plants. We adopted methods of supervision and distribution which got every Kilowatt hour possible and eliminated leaks and losses. At a considerable cost for new equipment and for operating expenses we increased our output until at the end of 1922 we had reached the point where we could get an average of EIGHTEEN PER CENT MORE out of our equipment than ever before. We had succeeded in meeting the demand on us.

But the Dredges Did Not Quit

We don't blame them. We would not either if we had been in their place. They acquired more land. They were able to see several years of operation ahead of them. Naturally they would not quit. They came and told us about it in July of last year (1922). We told them we would serve them as long as we could without seriously jeopardizing our other service. Right here let us say that the management of those dredges have shown a splendid spirit of co-operation. They realized the justice of our contentions. When the time came that we had to ask them to discontinue operations they did it without a murmur. They are suffering losses, but they understand that we have to serve our permanent load first.

Then came the long unusually dry fall and winter. All low records of stream-flow in the history of the company for the past ten years were lowered. Our precious storage dropped faster than ever before. The Baker steam plant, running 24 hours a day since October first at full capacity could not take up the shortage. True, we had some warm weather and rains in the valleys but high up in the mountains we got but little help.

But daylight is ahead. We are still serving everybody but the dredges. If, by being constantly alert, day and night we can avoid break-downs, we feel sure that we can continue to serve everybody until new water comes.

**We Are Asking You To
Save Kilowatt - Hours
To Help Us Serve You With All Your Needs.**

We are going to have more capacity this year. As soon as we can determine which of the several alternatives is the best suited for our requirements and assures the most economical operation so we can serve you at the lowest cost, we will tell you about it.

We thank you for your interest as evidenced thus far---we did not realize how many friends we have. From all over our system the response has come in many ways---We appreciate it and it spurs on to continue giving the best service than is possible.

Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co.