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THE KING OPENS £6,000,000 RESERVOIR

The valley of the Derbyshire Derwent as it was nine years ago when work on the huge Ladybower reservoir began. Today, the valley presents a different aspect. A six million pound enterprise, the finished reservoir covers more than 500 acres. 50,000 tons of local grit stone were used on the Dam. The project brought work to the area and also some regrets for the pleasant village of Asheton and many hamlets had to be submerged when the valleys were flooded. For the official opening of the Reservoir, the King, accompanied by the Queen, made the 12 mile drive from Sheffield. The King first unveiled a tablet commemorating the opening ceremony.

The first Derwent Valley water scheme goes back to 1889. The Ladybower Reservoir is its greatest achievement. Later, the King deposited a copper cylinder under a 3 ton block of stone containing newspapers and coins of 1945 - a find for historians if archeologists ever have to sort out the ruins of the atomic age. The 320 feet depth of water will contain more than 6 thousand million gallons.

Many people braved transport difficulties to see the King open the valves to release the first head of water.

Sheffield, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham will draw water from the Ladybower Reservoir. An impressive conclusion to nine years of engineering skill.