

WILBUR APPROVES PROJECT CONTRACT

**Morrison, Knudsen & Co.
One of Six Concerns to
Get Boulder Dam Job.**

Washington, March 11.—(AP)—Secretary Wilbur, by a stroke of the pen, set in motion today the activities for actual construction of the great Hoover dam and power plant, key parts of the \$165,000,000 Boulder canyon project which will re-

claim millions of acres in the arid valley of the Colorado river.

Wilbur authorized award of the contract for building the dam and power system, to cost finally approximately \$109,000,000, to the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, a combination of Western construction companies, at \$48,890,995.

To speed up getting the dam under way, Reclamation Commissioner Mead immediately telegraphed the Denver office to draw the contract. When signed, the company will post a \$5,000,000 surety bond guaranteeing completion in the allotted six and one-half years or paying a penalty of \$3,000 daily for delay.

Word came from the company it is ready to go when told to start. Preliminary activities, it is expected, will be well under way before the

contract is signed, approved and in force. Specifications require construction be started within 30 days from receipt of notice.

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Morrison, Knudsen & Co., Boise, Idaho, contractors, one of the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, awarded the general contract on the Hoover dam in Nevada, have held important contracts in Western Montana.

The company built the east side railroad in the Bitter Root valley several years ago, when the branch was changed from the west to the east side of the Bitter Root river.

The same company last year built the South side sewer system in Missoula, and the company is again active in Western Montana where it

has a contract for highway construction near Superior. Equipment and machinery is now being delivered to Superior, preparatory to the construction on the road project which will get under way in April.