

# SECRETARY WILBUR SIGNS CONTRACT FOR HOOVER DAM

Washington, March 11.—(By Associated Press.)—Secretary Wilbur Wednesday accepted the \$48,890,995 bid of the Six Companies, Incorporated, of San Francisco for building the Hoover dam, powerhouse and appurtenant works at the Boulder canon project.

Recognition of the company's offer as the low bid was tantamount to awarding the contract and cleared the way for starting construction on one of the greatest peace time engineering feats ever attempted. Estimated cost of the dam, power system and appurtenances, such as the

intake towers, spillways and diversion tunnels totals 109 million dollars, but approximately half of this will be supplied by the government in materials.

The company will be notified immediately that its bid was accepted

(Turn to Page 5—Col. 4.)

# CONTRACT FOR HOOVER DAM

(Continued From Page One)

and instructed to start work when ready. The contract will be delayed several days, as it must be accepted by the company and a surety bond of 5 million dollars be posted and approved by Secretary Wilbur.

The specifications require that work be started within thirty days after the builder is given notice to proceed, and the dam must be completed within six and one-half years, with a penalty of \$3,000 daily for each day longer.

F. T. Crowe, chief of construction operations for the Six Companies, Inc., a former construction engineer for the reclamation bureau, and his company have notified the department work could be started within a few days.

Wilbur used an old, heavy personal pen, which he refers to as his "important pen," to sign the "award of bid," the technical term applied to accepting the low offer.

With the same pen he signed the agreement putting the rich Kettleman Hills oil field of California on the unit plan of operation, and other important contracts of the interior department.

The notification of acceptance was signed also by Reclamation Commissioner Mead, Assistant Reclamation Commissioner Dent, Solicitor Finney of the interior department, by Executive Assistants Dobell and Ely and E. K. Burlew, assistant to Secretary Wilbur.

Senator Johnson of California, who was to have been present, sent regrets by Representative Swing that he was unable to attend because of illness.

The Six Companies, Inc., was a merger of as many western construction companies, several of whom have constructed other projects for the reclamation bureau.

The organization includes: The Utah Construction company, Henry J. Keiser and W. A. Bechtel, McDonald & Kahn, Morrison-Knudson company, J. F. Shea company, and the Pacific Bridge company.