

A boom that so far has been a dud is that at Las Vegas, Nev., where throngs of people have gone expecting to get work and fortune in connection with the Boulder Dam project. The permanent residents of Las Vegas have been nearly swamped by the people who have flocked into their community without funds or jobs and who have waited in vain for dreamed-of opportunities.

According to recent reports, the chief activities at present in connection with the huge dam are involved in construction of a road from Las Vegas across the desert to the site of the dam, and a little preliminary drilling work in the bed of the Colorado river. These jobs require a comparatively small force of workers. Dozens and scores of other workers are tramping the streets, unemployed, hungry, being helped a little by local charity.

It is another example of mistaken application of hope. In spite of warnings that no jobs are to be had, the jobless rush to another place where they imagine there is to be a boom of some sort or easier fortune than at home, and then become burdens to the local residents: It has been so in Hollywood for years. It has been so in various cities in recent months. Far pastures are greenest.

Hope is a fine thing. It enables distressed human beings to look beyond immediate troubles to a better future. It encourages constructive planning ahead. But when it is followed blindly and without judgment and good sense, it causes more hardship for everybody.