

# 48 Million Award Is Largest Ever Made by U. S. Government

Contractors Say They Will Be Ready to Begin Their Operations Within 36 Hours

## SIX COMPANIES COMBINE

Wilbur Signs Authorization While Group of Western Senators, Congressmen Watch

Secretary Wilbur today signed an authorization awarding the construction of the giant Hoover Dam and power plant on the Black Canyon of the Colorado River to the Six Companies, Inc.

Last week Six Companies, Inc., a combination of as many construction firms, made a low bid of \$48,890,999 for the contract to build the dam and power plant. F. T. Crowe, manager of the companies and for many years a construction engineer in the Interior Department, has notified Wilbur that his organization is prepared to start work within 36 hours after it receives formal notification to proceed.

### Largest U. S. Contract

The firms which merged under Crowe to take the low bid on this, the largest construction contract ever let by the Federal Government, include: Utah Construction Co., Henry J. Kaiser and W. A. Bechtel, McDonald & Kahn, Morrison-Knudson Co., J. F. Shea Co. and the Pacific Bridge Co.

An impressive ceremony marked Wilbur's ratification of the contract for Hoover Dam, a project which is expected to turn a desert of the far West into a garden land supporting 5,000,000 people.

Wilbur signed the authorization in his outer office under the eyes of a group of senators and congressmen from the western states. A little knot of Interior Department officials, headed by Reclamation Commissioner Elwood Mead, to whom Hoover Dam will be the crowning achievement of a lifetime of public service, followed the final act with smiling faces.

### Must Build Four Tunnels

The first task which will face the construction company at the dam site will be that of driving four tunnels, 50 feet in diameter and about one mile long, thru the solid volcanic rock on each side of the canyon. These tunnels alone are expected to cost approximately \$15,000,000. A cofferdam, 80 feet high, will then be constructed above the site of the permanent dam, and a similar one below. When these temporary dams are constructed, it will insure the dryness of the river bed during the construction period.

When preliminary work is accomplished a great concrete structure will be erected from the base of the canyon. This structure, the dam proper, will be 650 feet long at the base, sloping to a width of 45 feet at the top and will be 727 feet high