

AN UNDESIRABLE BOOM.

A dispatch from Las Vegas, Nevada, states that "this little town is booming." Las Vegas is something more than twenty-one miles distant from the site of the dam to be constructed on the Colorado River. Originally it was called Boulder Dam, but has since been promoted to Hoover Dam. This boom spoken of refers to large numbers of people who have come in from outside, seeking employment in construction work.

They are strung in tent colonies all over the desert between the town and the dam site. They came mostly in battered automobiles, "and few have money for even a few days more of idleness." Also it is stated that "those drawn to Las Vegas by the prospect of work have brought hunger and squalor with them"; while "there already are more than two men for every potential job."

All in all, that would appear to be a most undesirable boom, and one with all the elements of tragedy in it. Repeated warnings have been given against workers going there unless sent for. Leonard Blood, superintendent of

the government employment bureau at Las Vegas, again warns laboring men to stay away until they are advised that work is available.

There is the further complication reported that contractors have signified their intention of recruiting such labor as is needed from Los Angeles. Fortunately, the region is reported to be warm and comfortable for outdoor and tent living; but there is always the inescapable fact that human beings cannot subsist entirely on climate; they require food.

Yet the reports show that very many of the people who have made their way to Las Vegas and vicinity are exceedingly poor; next door to destitute. The best can be hoped for them, but present indications are that stations will have to be set up for their relief.