

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

A week ago, Frank T. Crowe, general superintendent for Six Companies ever since the start of Boulder dam, went onto the air on a nation-wide hook-up as part of the Boulder City program over the NBC's national net-work. He was given no particular subject, but chose the one nearest his heart—the men who have formed the finest construction crew in history, and with whom he has worked side by side in bringing this gigantic enterprise to realization.

Upon my return home last week, I found a copy of that radio address on my desk. It appealed to me as a splendid tribute to the toilers who have been at work for four years down there in the canyon. It was rather touching, to me, that of all the million and one phases of activity that Crowe might have touched upon, he chose his men, and took THAT opportunity to express appreciation for their fine cooperation.

That choice to me, was a tribute to the man himself and the organization he represents. It speaks volumes in revealing the reason for their success. For I have seen many construction outfits in my time, and have never found one to whom the welfare of their workers was so great a consideration as it has been to Crowe and other Six Companies executives.

You'll enjoy the speech; I hope you'll enjoy it as much as I did,

perhaps even to experiencing the pang of sorrow inspired by the last paragraph. Here it is:

“On February 1st of this year, when the gates were closed at Boulder dam, although the structure was not quite finished, Boulder dam started two phases of its life-work, namely, storage of water for irrigation and municipal use and control of the floods which have menaced the lower Colorado river country and Imperial Valley for years.

“The crew that built this structure started in March, 1931, and consisted of about 4,000 young men, some from every state in the Union. They have put in over thirty two million man-hours of labor, tempered with courage, energy and enthusiasm.

“These men are the cream of the construction industry. Never before were such high scalers, riggers, truck drivers, cableway operators seen in action operating bigger and faster equipment than was ever used on this class of work.

“The goal was the control of the Colorado river. To win this goal they gave their best.

“The job is now nearing completion and these boys, now “vets,” will soon be scattered, looking for new cliffs to scale and new rivers to battle.”