

ARBITRATION IS UNDER WAY ON DAM STRIKE

Conciliatory Committee Is Chosen to Debate Workers' Demands

The end of the week-end strike of several hundred employes of Six Companies Incorporated, Boulder dam contractors, seemed in sight this afternoon with the announcement by Edward H. Fitzgerald, commissioner from the department of labor, that the contractors had agreed to arbitrate the wage question.

The first meeting of the arbitration board was scheduled to be held this afternoon, about four o'clock, at which time the board would be organized and a program for the negotiations set up.

Fitzgerald, who has been working constantly toward a settlement of the strike since his arrival here early this week, spent all day yesterday in almost constant conference with the various factions in the dispute, and following another series of conferences this morning announced that arbitration had been agreed to.

"I AM VERY happy to make this announcement, and to have had a part in bringing about the first and most difficult step in settling the dispute," Fitzgerald commented.

"The representative for Six Companies will be Mr. Crowe himself; for the unions, L. A. Parker, international representative of the operating engineers, and Reverend C. H. Sloan of Las Vegas.

"Reverend Sloan was appointed by Governor Kirman as the third member of the committee and will act as chairman," Fitzgerald said.

FIRST MEETING of the committee was scheduled for this afternoon as soon as they could get together in a specially provided office in the bureau of reclamation administration building.

The striking workmen were not to return to work until the decision of the arbitrating committee had been reached, Fitzgerald explained, and this led to the prediction that early way out of the impasse which seemed to have been reached yesterday, would be found by the committee.

THE SITUATION on the dam itself this morning was about the same as during the past several days. Babcock-Wilcox and the government forces were at work, while Six Companies operations were virtually at a standstill, although some additional workmen were reported to have returned to the job this morning.

THIS AFTERNOON a meeting of the union men was called at which Parker presided.

"We have won," he said, "the president of the A. F. of L. has intervened and we are certain of victory."

He congratulated the men on obtaining arbitration and during the meeting a resolution was passed expressing the hope that the matter now under consideration could be adjusted within 15 days. The resolution urged all possible speed in the arbitration.