

## A SEVEN-YEAR JOB

WORK was begun this week on one of the biggest engineering operations in modern history—the Hoover Dam project. With the contract finally approved in Washington and the price for their part of the work set at \$48,890,995, six of the biggest engineering firms in the West in combination have put men in the field to build construction camps. There will follow the construction of a railroad from the brink of Boulder Canyon to the dam site to handle the materials brought in over the Government railroad now being built.

Before the work on the dam itself can be started, four tunnels, each fifty feet in diameter and 2000 feet long, must be drilled through the walls of the canyon to carry the flow of the stream, which will be diverted into them by coffer dams. With that done, work on the dam can be started.

The whole project can be compared, in time required and men and materials to be used, best of all with the construction of the Panama Canal. It dwarfs all previous reclamation projects, and even the quantity of concrete and masonry to go into it will be greater than the combined total for all other Government dams built for the reclamation service. Construction will require

nearly seven years, and on the plateaus back from the canyon a special town, Boulder City, will be built to house workmen and their families.

Meanwhile, although construction is getting under way, the State of Arizona's suit to block the whole project is still pending in the Supreme Court and has taken on the nature of a futile gesture against what many still deem an invasion of the State's rights.