

# DAM BUILDERS RETURN HERE TO PLAN WORK

## Contractors Announce Colorado Project Will Be Directed From S. F.

Bringing assurance that "San Francisco will be the headquarters for the biggest contracting job ever undertaken in this country, and that means the world too," Felix Kahn, treasurer of Six Companies, Inc., which submitted the low bid for construction of Hoover dam at Black canyon on the Colorado river, returned yesterday from Denver where the bids were opened last Wednesday.

He was accorded an impromptu reception at the Ferry building by officials and members of the new contracting firm and friends.

"This is almost a bigger surprise than our getting the contract and certainly a lot more embarrassing," he said.

### KAHN VISITS WATTIS

Kahn, after a brief conference with his partner, Allen MacDonald of MacDonald & Kahn, one of the six companies, went at once to St. Francis Hospital to shake hands with William H. Wattis, president of the company and also head of the Utah Construction Company. Wattis has been in the hospital several weeks but has kept up daily contact with his associates.

"The contract, we feel, will be awarded to us, as our figure was within \$200,000 of the Federal estimates and \$5,000,000 less than the next lowest bidder," said Kahn.

"It will mean much to San Francisco, for our general headquarters will be here, millions of dollars will be distributed through local banks in payment for the millions of dollars worth of supplies, and all pay checks will eventually come back here."

### W. A. BETCHEL BACK TODAY

K. K. Betchel, son of W. A. Betchel, first vice president of Six Companies, also returned from Denver. W. A. Betchel will return tomorrow as will E. O. Wattis, second vice president.

Tomorrow the officials, directors and engineers of Six Companies will confer on the work program. The contract will call for inaugurating work within thirty days after the Federal Government notifies the companies to start.

"We will beat that and want to have every detail in hand when we get the notice," President Wattis said.

Cement manufacturers who will be called upon to furnish approximately 5,000,000 barrels of Portland Cement for the dam and all its appurtenances yesterday were considering a new plan for supplying the material.

### TO WORK NEW PLANT

It calls for making the clinker at to raw materials and nearer the existing plants or at locations close dam site than existing plants and then hauling the dry clinker to the Hoover Dam, where power generated by the temporary hydroelectric plant to be used in the construction work will grind the clinker as needed for the concrete work.

Adoption of the plan, which was first given a tryout two years ago in the construction of a Federal irrigation project in Idaho, will depend upon what saving can be made.

This will be figured out during the next year, as the quantity of cement to be used during the first two years of construction will be comparatively small.

# FIVE MILLION BOND FOR DAM JOB RAISED

"San Francisco will receive more favorable recognition and advertising from the Hoover dam contract than any other source in its history."

President Leland W. Cutler of the Chamber of Commerce, and vice president and director of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, who returned yesterday from the East, thus expressed his view of the success of the Six Companies, Inc., which submitted the lowest bid.

Cutler had an interesting report to make upon the measures taken to underwrite the \$5,000,000 bond that must be deposited by the successful bidder.

In connection with Edwin C. Porter, manager of the United States Fidelity and Indemnity Company and A. C. Posey, manager of the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, Cutler arranged the necessary reinsurance for the contract bond.

"Because of the unusual size of the bond, it was necessary that practically every surety company in the country participate," said Cutler. "San Francisco representatives of surety companies greatly helped in obtaining this bond. They realized that during the next seven years San Francisco will be the clearing house and headquarters of the entire project."

Cutler also announced that the highest executives of many of the largest manufacturers of engineering equipment will make San Francisco their headquarters during the construction of the dam, in order to secure contracts for the millions of dollars worth of machinery and other equipment.