

# SAFETY FIRST IN BUILDING OF DAM

## Workers on Colorado River Projects to Be Protected From Accidents.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(AP)—Safety first will be a slogan in building Hoover dam, which will stretch 1,180 feet from Nevada to Arizona across the Colorado River in Black Canyon.

Thick blankets of sand and gravel will be placed on the roofs of construction buildings in the canyon to protect workers from falling rock. The walls of the canyon will be stripped of loose masses before excavation work begins.

Every possible step has been taken by the government to insure the health and safety of the 1,000 or more laborers whose job includes preliminary work on the \$71,000,000 dam.

The dam alone will require nearly as much concrete as all previous reclamation projects of the bureau. It will contain 3,600,000 cubic yards, with the power house and intake towers bringing the total to 4,500,000, against the bureau's twenty-six-year figure of 4,392,000.

### Water 600 Feet Deep.

Taming the waters of the Colorado will require about 114,000,000 pounds of metal, of which 32,500,000 pounds will go into conduits and 20,000,000 for gates.

Tunnel and shaft excavation will remove 1,900,000 cubic yards—a hole large enough to hold comfortably several skyscrapers.

Open cut excavation for the base of the dam will total 1,800,000 cubic

yards. More than 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth and rock will have to be returned for embankments.

The dam will back up water for 115 miles in the Colorado, and forty miles in the Virgin River. The water will be approximately 600 feet deep against the dam.

### Continuous Output.

The steel gates, each 50 feet by 54 feet, will be used to release storage water. There also will be spillways. Two of the diversion tunnels will be transformed into power tunnels, while the other two will be used as part of the spillway system.

Power generation at the dam will begin during 1935. Between 1,000,000 and 1,200,000 horsepower will be generated at full capacity of the twelve power units, six of which will be in Nevada and six in Arizona. For comparison, the capacity at Niagara Falls is 557,500. Continuous output, available at any hour, is approximately 700,000 horsepower.