

## *Boulder Canyon Project Construction Work Starts*

On the desert about 7 miles south of Las Vegas, Nev., near Bracken, Secretary Wilbur on September 17 formally inaugurated construction work on the Boulder Canyon project. He drove a spike of Nevada silver into a railroad tie on the 22-mile branch railroad, which is to be built under a contract with the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Co. from its main line to Summit, which is about 7 miles west of the dam site.

Officials from six Colorado River Basin States, Nevada, California, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico, attended the ceremony. The Bureau of Reclamation was officially represented by Dr. Elwood Mead, commissioner; Raymond F. Walter, chief engineer; and Walker R. Young, construction engineer. The day was declared a State holiday in Nevada, and special trains were run from Las Vegas and other points to "Boulder Junction."

Governor Fred B. Balzar, of Nevada, presented the silver spike to Carl R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, who in turn presented it to Secretary Wilbur. The Secretary in driving the spike became the first workman on the project.

In a brief dedicatory address, Secretary Wilbur said, in part:

"I have the honor to name this dam after a great engineer, who really started this greatest project of all time—the Hoover Dam.

"This is one of man's greatest victories over nature. It is as if our country suddenly had a new State added to it, for a new and wider use of this controlled water will care for millions of people and create billions of wealth.

"Such great projects of engineering, financial and social skill as the Panama Canal and this dam are the just pride of our people—greater than victories in war or the harvesting of existing natural products hidden in or grown from the soil.

"Floods, like fire, are the enemies of man, but they can be tamed to be his servants. Here we will hold back those floods which could wipe out Imperial Valley and make them give aid instead of concern to its farmers. From here we are to deflect hundreds of millions of gallons of water to the southern California plain, where the water resources of the semiarid region are strained almost to the danger point."

The Secretary said that commencement of construction marks "the beginning of a new era in the handling by States, working together, of those common problems upon the solution of which the continued vitality of our Nation depends."

The celebration was continued in the evening in Las Vegas, with the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Metropolitan Water District of southern California in charge of the festivities.