

# FEW ACCIDENTS FATAL SO FAR AT DAM SITE

## Only 13 Men Killed Since Work Started on Huge Project Eight Months Ago

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third of four stories describing actual conditions at Boulder Dam.*

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**BOULDER CITY, Nev.** — Black Canyon, where Boulder Dam will rise, is an inferno under a summer sun and a gloomy, damp chasm in winter.

The toll of death on the project was expected to be enormous. Two hundred men killed the first year was an estimate of bonding companies as quoted in the Journal of Electrical Workers and Operators at the time operations started.

Forty-one persons have died on the dam reservation since work started eight months ago, official records show. But reports of the bureau of reclamation, official U. S. guardians of the project, show only 13 men have been killed as result of accidents while in the employ of the Six Companies, Inc., contractors. The other 28 deaths have been listed at "natural causes."

### 580 Accidents So Far

The Six Companies' records reveal 580 accidents since work started and this total includes even a scratched finger if treated by company doctors. Tools and material have caused 131 injuries, falling rocks 129, and blasting 15.

The accident record was praised by a committee representing the Associated General Contractors of America and the American Engineering council. The committee concluded that the average of one death for every 200,000 man hours of labor was not to be criticized.

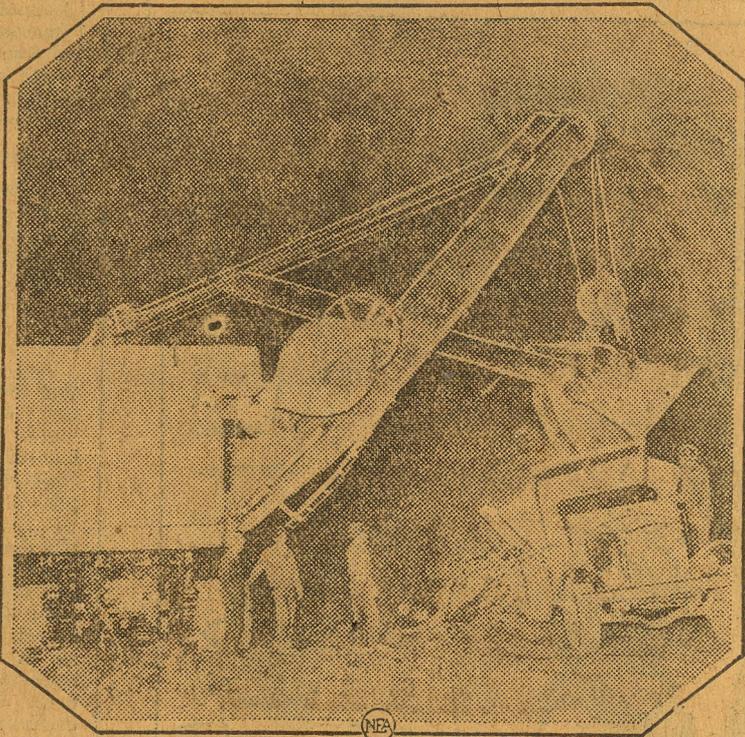
Nowhere has the Six Companies been more criticized than for its wage scale. Violation "in spirit" of the U. S. wage scale law has been charged by union officials. Rep. Bacon, co-author of the law, has announced he will attempt to strengthen it definitely to bring Boulder Dam under its provisions.

### Reports on Wages

Edward H. Fitzgerald, U. S. commissioner of conciliation, has visited Boulder City and Las Vegas, interviewed union leaders and sent a confidential report on dam wages the Sec. of Labor Doak.

The Six Companies has a stalwart

# Charge Dam Builders Violate Law



A 100-ton electric shovel is shown excavating blasted rock in one of the four diversion tunnels at Boulder dam in this picture. State officials maintain the use of these machines is contrary to state safety laws and the Six Companies, Inc., is fighting the case in the courts.

defender in Leonard Blood, superintendent of the federal-state employment office in Las Vegas.

Blood has handled employment for the dam contractors, combining with this work the duties of deputy state labor commissioner for Nevada. In the latter role he has called on the Six Companies to fall in line with Nevada labor laws.

"I haven't made a recommendation that the contractors have not acted upon favorably," Blood said. "They have made every effort to cooperate and have shown their respect for Nevada laws."

**NEXT: Espionage among Boulder City Workers.**