

GOVERNMENT OKEHS HOOVER DAM CONTRACT

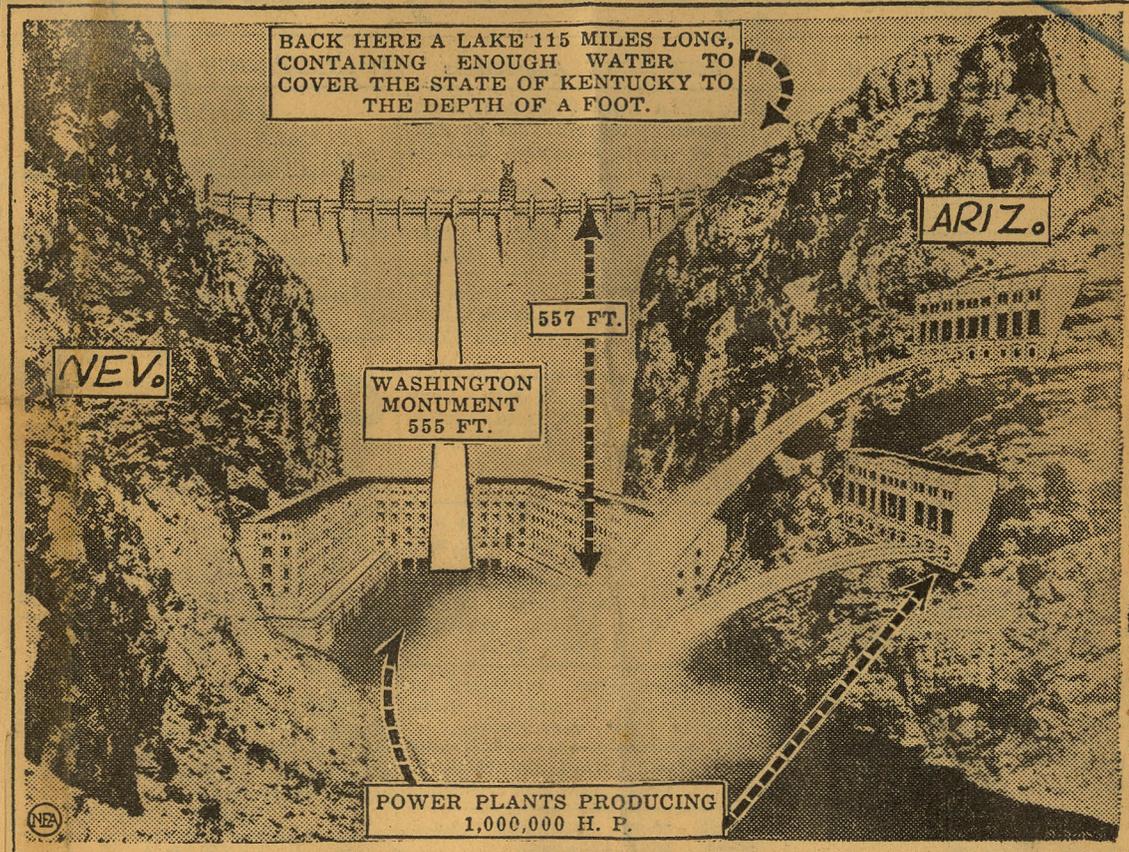
Six Companies Inc. of San Francisco Expected to Start Work Shortly on Boulder Canyon Project.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12.- (P)-Secretary Wilbur has accepted the \$48,890,995 bid of the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, for building the Hoover dam, power house and appurtenant works at the Boulder canyon project.

Recognition of the company's offer as the low bid was tantamount to awarding the contract and cleared the way for starting construction on one of the greatest piece time engineering feats ever attempted. Estimated cost of the dam, power system and appurtenances, such as the intake towers, spillways and diversion tunnels, totals \$109,000,000, but approximately half of this will be supplied by the government in materials.

The specifications require that work be started within 30 days after the builder is given notice to proceed, and the dam must be completed within six and one-half years, with a penalty of \$3,000 daily for each day longer.

HUGE BOULDER DAM PROJECT AT A GLANCE



With the contract for the construction of the huge \$49,000,000 Boulder dam project signed yesterday, work was started this morning by the Six Companies, Inc., contractors, when an initial crew of 350 hard rock men went to work. A picture of the world's highest dam and the greatest feat of engineering since the Panama canal as it will appear when completed is shown here. The diagram shows that this massive concrete wall (653 feet thick at the bottom and 45 feet thick at the top) will tower higher than the Washington monument; that three power houses will supply a maximum of one million horsepower, the two upper ones receiving water through long tunnels 50 feet in diameter drilled through solid rock so that maximum supply can be used effectively during periods of high water; that a deep natural reservoir having an area of 227 square miles will pen up the Colorado river's water for man to make use of as he pleases. The dam is expected to cost \$55,000,000 and the total project \$165,000,000, all of which—plus operation cost and maintenance—is to be repaid to the government in 50 years with interest at four per cent by power contracts already made with the City of Los Angeles and the Southern California Edison Co.