

U. C. CO. SUCCEEDED IN LANDING BIG DAM CONTRACT

Secretary of Interior Authorizes
Award of \$48,890,995 Con-
tract; Six Companies in on
Deal; Fix \$5,000,000 Bond

Secretary Wilbur, by a stroke of the pen, set in motion Wednesday the activities for actual construction of the great Hoover dam and power plant, key parts of the \$165,000,000 Boulder Canyon project, which will reclaim millions of acres in the arid valley of the Colorado river.

Wilbur authorized award of the contract for building the dam and power system, to cost finally approximately \$109,000,000, to the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, a combination of western construction companies, at \$48,890,995.

To speed up getting the dam under way. Reclamation Commissioner Mead immediately telegraphed the Denver office to draw the contract. When signed, the company will post a \$5,000,000 surety bond guaranteeing completion in the allotted six and one-half years, or paying a penalty of \$3000 daily for delay.

The Six Companies, Inc., was a merger of as many western construction companies, several of which have constructed other projects for the reclamation bureau.

The organization includes the Utah Construction company, Henry J. Keiser and W. A. Bechtel, McDonald & Kahn, Morrison-Knudson company, J. F. Shea company, and the Pacific Bridge company.

Opening the way for actual construction of the great dam, which will rear its crest 727 feet above the bottom of the Colorado river in Black canyon near Las Vegas, Nev., signalizes the beginning of the central part of the Boulder canyon project.

The dam, which will be 1180 feet long, spanning the river between Nevada and Arizona, will be the largest in the world. It will be 650 feet thick at the base, of the arch gravity type, or curving between the two ends, and 45 feet thick at the top.

Between 2000 and 300 men will be employed in building the dam when work gets into full stride.