

UNCLE SAM'S MODEL C

A BURNING DESE

Boulder City, Now Under Construction b
Dam Site, Twenty-five Miles From L
rial and Moral Safeguards—The Gre
Thought to Assure Its Future.

OUT on the sun-baked, desert bank of the Colorado River, in Nevada, where the temperature hits 100 more often than not, and where nothing but a few gnarled and wrinkled cacti and mesquites grow, the United States is planting and expecting to grow (figuratively speaking) a lush, fresh lily.

Amid the newly created but far-flaunted wickedness of the state of Nevada, with its famous divorce mill, its wide-open gambling and its famous liberality toward those who would disregard the eighteenth amendment, Uncle Sam is building himself a model city.

Life in Boulder City, Nev., for that is the name of Uncle Sam's new municipal ward, is to be about like life in Washington—except for

the heat. Like Washingtonians, Boulder City folk won't be able to vote—they will live in a federal district and they will be governed by the federal government—but they will pay for it. Boulder City, Nev., is the town the government is building in the coolest place that could be found in the Nevada desert in the immediate vicinity of Hoover Dam, the gigantic structure that is to be reared in the bed of the Colorado to back up a lake 115 miles long and seventy feet deep.

Sims Ely of Arizona has been installed as city manager and, under the bureau of reclamation of the interior department, he will govern the newest federal district with the help of a police force of nine deputy United States marshals, an advisory commission composed of John C. Page, a government engineer; James R. Alexander, district counsel, representing the government, and V. G. Evans, who will represent the contractors building the big dam—and last, but not least, a government leasing system.

DIFFERENT FROM ITS NEIGHBORS.

This leasing system, writes A. W. Gilliam in the Washington Star, is expected to make Boulder City vastly different in moral tone from the rest of the flamboyant cities of Nevada. For there is a clause in the leases under which all business and even residence, for that matter, will be regulated, which reads in part as follows:

. . . . If any premises . . . shall be used for the purpose of manufacturing, selling or otherwise disposing of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, or narcotics or habit-forming drugs, or for gambling, prostitution or any unlawful purpose . . . or if loose or immoral characters shall be harbored or sheltered thereon . . . all rights . . . shall terminate . . .

With the broad powers provided by this leasing law, and the other legal appurtenances, including a United States commissioner to hold court, Mr. Ely will rule this twelve square miles of desert. He will be answerable directly to Walker R. Young, the government's construction engineer on the dam project.

In spite of all the obstructions Nature has put in the way of comfortable life in the Nevada desert, it is more than likely that Uncle Sam, in his customary way, will make a huge go of this Boulder City project.

No mere construction camp is this to be. True, there is some construction camp aspect now, what with the frame dwellings of the Six Companies, the contractors on the job, mostly in evidence, but on the site of Boulder City already have arisen some of the government's residence buildings, little models of comfort for the desert dweller.

The town boasts a population already of 2,000 souls and when completed is expected to have more than twice as many. Plows, graders, ex-

cavators, concrete mixers, steam rollers and all the machines used in the laying of water and sewer pipes, grading streets, water mains, pavements and sidewalks are already in operation.

' STREET SCHEME NOW COMPLETE.

The street scheme of Boulder City is complete and on the basis of an idealized ground plan worked out by skilled city planners in advance of its making that the town might have every reasonable convenience. The town was completely zoned in advance of its building, with special sections given over to administration buildings, business structures, repair shops, government employees' homes, contractors' employees' homes, temporary residences, auto camps, recreation fields and parks

and a host of other things necessary in the life of every complete community.

The Six Companies already have completed several hundred homes in their section of the city for their employees and more are going up every day. More than 1,000 men are being fed at every meal in the huge contractors' boarding house that at present is Boulder City's principal building. The contractors' hospital, a brick structure, built for service long after Boulder Dam has reared its eminence high above the bed of the Colorado River, is under construction.

The fine looking government administration building is about one-fourth completed. The town hall, which will be a model of modern municipal construction and will house the offices of the new city manager, the town clerk, a public auditorium, the courtroom and the jail, has been started. A dozen homes, built for government employees, have been completed and a dozen more are about half finished. So, it may be seen, the government, with a characteristic thoroughness, is going about building a city in the last place anyone would think of building a city—in the middle of a desert.

No school has as yet been planned. There is some legal hitch, and the government is waiting for the decision of Controller General J. Raymond McCarl. There seems to be some doubt as to whether the government can, out of the appropriations it has for the city building job, erect and support schools. On the other hand, it has been maintained that Boulder City is a government reservation, paying no taxes to the state of Nevada, contributing nothing to the support of the state schools, and that the schools should be maintained by the federal government.

THE DAM COSTS 165 MILLION DOLLARS.

Electricity has ridden into Boulder City on a big transmission line from California. Later it will come from the dam site. The sewer system already is in operation. The big reservoir which is to supply water to the finished town already is established, with pumps, which bring the supply up from the Colorado River, in operation. Distribution pipes have not yet been laid, but will be in place shortly. Filters are being constructed.

The government expects Boulder City to thrive on after the big dam and its appurtenances, on which the government is spending 165 million dollars, is completed. This in spite of the fact that whatever Boulder citizens may eat will have to be removed from cans or brought long distances across the desert, for prospective leaseholders are warned that none of the irrigation projects incident to the construction of the dam will be in the vicinity of Boulder City. Of course, the borders of the great lake that will be backed up by Hoover Dam are expected to become verdant in years to come, but that will be only a slight encroachment into the desert at best.

So, when the dam is built, Boulder City must find something more than construction camp justification for being. Of course, the dam will always need a construction, maintenance and operation force, and this undoubtedly will form the nucleus for Boulder City's permanent population. It may be that manufacturing concerns, attracted by the cheap power available from Hoover Dam, will locate at Boulder City or nearby and send their employees into Boulder City to occupy its model desert homes. Whatever may be the outcome of the model desert city, the fact remains that Uncle Sam has confidence in its ultimate success.

Within the boundaries of Boulder City undoubtedly legalized vices for which Nevada has been publicized will not be countenanced, but without there are already signs of activity, government officials sadly admit. Without, the state of Nevada legalizes gambling, makes divorce easy and does many other things designed to entice a sporting element to come within her borders and spend its money freely.

A BOON TO LAS VEGAS.

Las Vegas, Nev., twenty-five miles away, already is booming under the influx of pleasure seekers from the government town. Its gambling halls are knowing increased business. No great amount of liquor flows, however, thanks to the vigilant enforcement of the prohibition law by the federal government.

Even along the road from Las Vegas to Boulder City, recently made smooth and passable for present-day high-speed motor cars, there are springing up, it is said, places of pleasure for the Boulder City populace. Boulder City will have no power to interfere with them outside the federal district limits, and, if the government-owned town makes a go of it, it is not likely Nevada will deed over any more land to the government to be administered under the laws of the government of the United States and not the laws of the state of Nevada. Already Nevada's state treasury has felt the effect of the government coming in and building a town, what with licenses for gambling places in Clark County, nearby to Boulder City, with increased trade in Las Vegas and with the other benefits that accrue to a state from the influx of a large body of people.

Uncle Sam is paying 2 million dollars for Boulder City. Of the total, about \$450,000 has gone for the construction of the water system. Water is the most valuable thing right now on the Nevada desert bank of the Colorado River. Paving will amount to nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mil-

lion. Sewerage and lighting systems will cost another \$150,000 or \$200,000.

The interior department estimates it will cost close to \$200,000 annually to administer the town of Boulder City, including interest on the investment, salaries, maintenance, repairs and other expenses. From the sale of power the government expects to get about \$25,000, from rental about \$60,000 and water rents about \$30,000 or \$35,000. The Six Companies' annual rental bill will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000.

THE GREAT DAM PROJECT.

The subject of taxation is one which has not yet been ironed out by the interior department. From the present looks of things, it is likely the new city will cost the government some money for a few years. There is a chance to make money, but there are few big chances in Boulder City, the government warns. Prospective lessors of business property in Boulder City are given every warning and all the advice at hand in the interior department. There is a pay roll of \$100,000 weekly in the new municipal ward of Uncle Sam, but just how much of this can be released into the channels of trade remains for the Boulder City business men of the future to discover.

Until 1938 the dam will be building and Boulder City can expect a reasonable prosperity. For those six years the security of the town is practically assured. After then nobody knows how the model town experiment will turn out.

The magnitude of the dam project itself is almost beyond conception. When completed it will be the largest in the world. The dam and reservoir alone will cost \$70,600,000. It will tower 730 feet above the foundation rock in Black Canyon and will raise the water surface of the Colorado River 582 feet. Along the crest the dam will be 1,180 feet long. It will be 650 feet, or about two city blocks, thick at the base and forty-five feet thick at the top. Into it will go about 5½ million barrels of cement. In the twenty-six years it has been in existence the bureau of reclamation of the interior department has used only 4,926,000 barrels of cement.

The entire Colorado River, which through the years has eaten into the bed rock to form canyons that are the marvels of the western world, will be diverted while the dam is building through four tunnels, each fifty feet in diameter, two on each side. Through these tunnels the mighty Colorado will roar while workmen will go peacefully about the task of stopping up the natural river bed. The tunnels are being bored through solid rock and their total length will be about three and one-tenth miles.

BIG POWER PRODUCING CAPACITY.

Later on these gigantic tunnels will be used in the dam's operation both for the power plant and the spillway. The two inner tunnels will be used to generate power and the outer ones will be used as spillway outlets.

The power plant at the dam will produce from 1 million to 1¼ million horsepower, depending on the requirements of the contractors who purchase the power. Niagara Falls, on the American side, can produce only 557,500 horsepower, and Muscle Shoals has an ultimate capacity of only 600,000 horsepower.

The estimated average annual income from power from the dam is 6½ million dollars over the 50-year repayment period.

The vast lake backed up by the dam is expected to provide plenty of water to irrigate 2 million acres. This is to be divided as follows: California, 1 million acres; Nevada, 15,000 acres; Arizona, 900,000 acres.

Irrigation facilities will be provided by the All-American Canal, which will be run seventy-five miles into Imperial Valley, Cal., with a 115-mile extension into Coachella Valley, Cal., at a cost of 38½ million dollars.