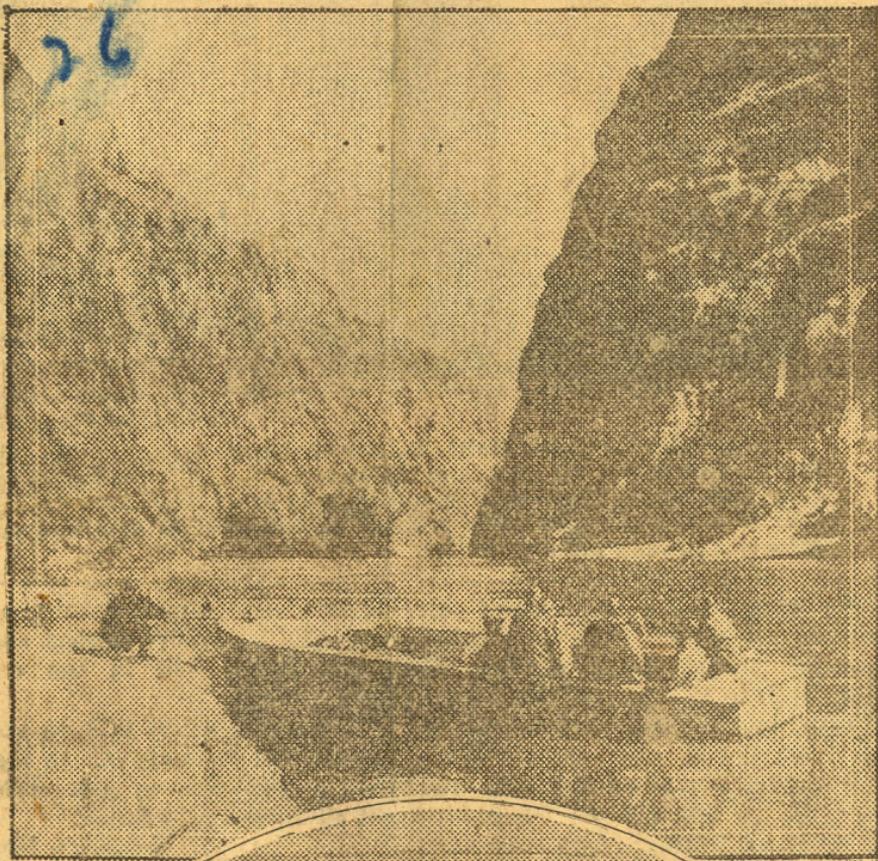


Hoover Dam Contractors Mobilize Army for 6-Year Task of Harnessing Colorado



Workers and materials are assembled at the point shown in the upper part of the picture (below) which will

be the six-year task of building the walls of the Colorado river canyon. Work is already well advanced and supplies to the dam site.

By FRANK H. FRAWLEY

DENVER, Colo., Mar. 14 (AP)—

After more than eight years of planning and agitation, the major offensive against the turbulent Colorado river has been started.

Among the first steps the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, successful bidder on the general contract for Hoover dam and power plant, will take approximately 1,000 workers to Nevada's wastelands to build a railroad to carry supplies to the dam site in Black canyon.

Another railroad, built on contract for the government, is under construction now. It will extend from Las Vegas to the site of the dam.

The government already has advertised for bids on the construction of living quarters for its engineers and workers at Boulder City, Nev., where 4,000 men and their families will make their temporary or permanent homes.

Boulder City will rise from a wilderness of sagebrush. A sum of \$525,000 has been provided for laying out this model city and starting the construction of a highway to the dam site.

Tunnels to Divert Flow

One of the striking engineering feats facing the contractors is diversion of the flow of the great stream from its bed between the huge cliffs where the dam is to be built.

To accomplish the diversion it will be necessary to drive four tunnels 50 feet in diameter through the solid rock on both sides of the gorge—two tunnels on each side. These tunnels will be lined with concrete, and they will carry the water from the regular course of the river while the dam itself is under construction.

The dam will be the largest in the world, and will create the world's largest artificial lake. The Colorado's waters, backing up before the huge pile of masonry, will form a great reservoir 115 miles long, with a shore line of 550 miles. At high water, its surface will be 1,228 feet above sea level.

The power development will overshadow both Niagara Falls and Muscle Shoals. The former generates 550,000 horsepower for the United States. Muscle Shoals' ultimate de-

velopment is put at 600,000 horsepower. The Hoover dam will generate between 1,000,000 and 1,200,000.

The materials needed for the great dam are counted in millions. There will be 3,600,000 yards of concrete masonry, requiring 5,000,000 barrels of cement and 19,000,000 pounds of reinforcing steel.

Six Years For Task

The government, in accepting the bid of the Six Companies, Inc., on March 11, specified that actual work shall start within 30 days, and that the whole project shall be completed in six years.

It will take four years to complete the concrete work alone. By September, 1936, the electric plant at the dam will be supplying current to the City of Los Angeles and the Southern California Edison Company under contract.

In about a year another government contract will be let for construction of the All-American canal which will deliver water to Southern California. This project will cost approximately \$38,500,000.

To Repay Cost in 34 Years

The cost of the entire flood control, water supply and power program in the Colorado will approximate \$165,000,000. The sale of power and the delivery of water for irrigation purposes is to repay the government that sum in 34 years.

Boulder City will be completed within a year. The water and power system will be finished by June, and after that the building will go ahead.

Frank Crowe of Boise, Ida., for many years an engineer for the United States Reclamation Service, will act as general superintendent in charge of the entire construction. He was employed as general manager for the Six Companies, Inc., a group which pooled its resources and equipment because the job was considered too big for a single concern.

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