

~~SURPLUS OF LABORERS~~ AT BOULDER DAM SITE

— By WILLIAM WARNE —

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Mar. 7. (AP)—What gold was to Bodie, Aurora and Goldfield, silver to Tombstone and oil to Hobbs, Hoover dam will be to Las Vegas.

This little city is booming and on the desert between Las Vegas and Damsite, on the Colorado river 21 miles away, more than a score of tent cities have sprung up.

From Maine and Florida, Arkansas and the Dakotas, Podunk and New York City, families arrive each day, not in covered wagons but in battered automobiles. They are, for the most part, from the ranks of the unemployed and few have money for even a few days more of idleness.

Fifty families constitute a tent city on the very brink of Black Canyon, where the dam will be built. They have but little food and clothing, but it is warm in the canyon and the food goes a long way.

Those drawn to Las Vegas by the prospect of work have brought hunger and squalor with them. Despite the long bread line, however, an undercurrent of optimism runs in the city.

Many prospective real estate investors are waiting only to see what regulations will be applied to the government's Boulder city, that town for dam workers near the site.

Some 500 men are at work on the railroad, highways and telephone and telegraph lines which are penetrating the desert to the river for the first time. An additional 1,500 are expected to be set to work by the successful bidder as soon as the dam contract has been let. There already are more than two men for every potential job.

Leonard Blood, superintendent of the government employment bureau, has warned laboring men to stay away from Las Vegas until they should be advised work was available.

The hundreds who have failed to heed that advice threatened a riot yesterday upon a report contractors had signified their intentions of recruiting labor in Los Angeles.