

IDAHO ENGINEER WILL SUPERVISE BOULDER DAM

BOISE FIRM ONE OF SIX CONTRACTORS ON GREAT GOVERNMENT PROJECT

"Civil engineering is a starving profession," Frank T. Crowe, 1006 North Seventeenth street, remarked casually on the eve of his departure to Boulder City, Nev., to superintend construction of the \$49,000,000 Hoover dam and power plant across the Colorado river, says the Boise Statesman.

"Because," he continued, "a builder forgets all about the pay and is heart and soul into the job."

And Frank Crowe is one of this type. Tall, full-chested, sparsely built, and modest, the superintendent of one of the most magnificent construction jobs in the world betrays his love for his work in his eyes and in his ready smile.

Seven-Year Job

He leaves Boise Monday morning for a seven-year job on the wide treeless desert—the job with Morrison-Knudsen company of Boise—of directing some 300 men of the six companies bidding low on the government project. Although official acceptance of the bid has not as yet been received, Crowe said that federal men seemed pleased with the six firms' figures, which indicated approval.

Respect for the power of unbridled water led Crowe from a strictly civil engineering career to make a life work of hydraulics soon after his graduation from the University of Maine. Since then he has been building dams and other water projects filling a variety of jobs from water boy to superintendent of construction.

Controlled Water Beautiful

"Water when under control is beautiful," he observed, "and a pleasant scene to the ordinary person, but it's just like fire when once it gets free. It's the battle with the river—making it run through other than its usual channels—that holds my interest.

"Did you ever see a boy building a mud dam across a gutter? A kid never tires of his work as long as water flows down to his dam. For the same reason we never get tired or bored even on the longest jobs. Building dams is our work, hobby and recreation. I never think of anything else until the job is completed."

A broad grin came over his tanned face.

Town Will Grow

"No, sir, we don't need any other fun. Sometimes it's in the rugged mountain country, some times under a hot sun in a near-tropical climate, often on the bare plains, and this time the job is on the desert. What difference is that? I've just got the habit of building dams."

The much-talked-of Boulder City, Crowe explained, is today just a tiny knoll on the desert with a few stakes set up. The railroad is there, but that's all. Houses will spring up and streets will be laid out as soon as his crews begin the task of throttling the mighty river in order to get the dam foundations in place.

Six Times Arrowrock

Four tunnels must be built to divert the flow before any work on the dam proper can be started. These tunnels alone will cost 13 million dollars.

The entire piece of work which Frank Crowe is about to tackle is approximately six times the job of building Arrowrock, but not so broad.

With complete unconcern except for bouncing his 5-year-old daughter, Betty, on his knee, he talked of dams, tunnels, millions of dollars and thousands of men with the same mien that a person would employ in talking over a day's toil.

Heat Considered

The heat of Nevada's southeast corner apparently provided a hot problem for the government to solve when it planned its model town, Boulder City, for workers on the Hoover dam and the Boulder canyon project.

Reclamation Commissioner Mead indicated as much Sunday in a statement outlining difficulties encountered in selecting a site for the city and presenting a picture of how it will look when the government has spent two million dollars to build it.

"Due to the inaccessibility of the work, the magnitude of operations, and the severe weather conditions during the hot summer months, and having in mind the health, comfort and general welfare of those engaged

in the work," Mead said, "the town has been located at an elevation of 2500 feet which is about 2000 feet higher than the top of the canyon at the dam site."