

MAMMOTH JOB OF BUILDING BOULDER DAM

Biggest Engineering Project
of Modern Times Is
Quietly Started.

**SIX AND HALF YEARS
BEFORE WORK IS DONE**

Besides Boulder City Many
Camps Must Be Erected.
To Build Railroad.

Las Vegas, Nev., March 12.—(AP)
—A hard rock engineer today quietly started one of the biggest engineering jobs of modern history, the taming of the Colorado river.

Frank T. Crowe, construction superintendent whose outfit, the Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco has been awarded the \$48,890,995 contract to build the Boulder dam and power houses, started the day by opening an office. Then he went to Black canyon, where during the next six and a half years his job will be to build a dam 727 feet high, larger than any ever before constructed.

“We must have a place to eat and sleep before we can put men to work there,” he said, and he spread out plans for the construction camp. “This starts at once, for while 80 per cent of our men, as set forth in specifications, will live in the government’s Boulder City, we must have several small camps.

“This is the beginning and the first real job is the construction of a railroad down the canyon connecting the government railroad with the dam site. This railroad will handle all the equipment going into the canyon, and all the waste materials coming out.

“It will be carved out of the walls of the canyon and will be part tunnel almost all of the way. It

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will be main line construction throughout, probably double tracked, because while we are pouring concrete we must carry more traffic than the main line of the Southern Pacific leading out of San Francisco."

This line, he said, will cost about \$600,000, and must be completed before the four diversion tunnels are started.

"The availability of power is the determining factor in actually getting construction under way on a big scale," he added. "This is a

job for machines and all of these machines will be power driven. I am informed power will be ready about June 25, in the lines from California.

"That's when we'll start 'hiballing' the job."