

# California Firms Over Dam Melon

## Cement Contract for Lining Diversion Tunnels Goes to "Big Four"

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Southern California sliced its first big Hoover dam melon yesterday when four cement firms of that section turned in the low bid for about \$500,000 worth of cement with which to line the four huge diversion tunnels now being driven thru the rocky walls of Black canyon, as a preliminary job of the dam project.

At the Denver office of the reclamation bureau, bids on this item were opened and it was found that the one submitted jointly by the four companies, was 1 cent a barrel lower than the next low estimate.

The companies, which participated in the successful bidding were the California Portland Cement company, with mills at Colton; the Monolith company, at Monolith; the Riverside company, at Riverside, and the Southwestern company, at Victorville.

The concerns will deliver, on call to Boulder City, 380,000 barrels, at \$2.20 a barrel. This is a mill price of \$1.287 a barrel, the remainder of the figure representing freight charges.

Officials of the companies said that several hundred men will be

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placed at work, as soon as the bid is confirmed by the interior department at Washington. This official okeh is expected within the next week and the companies will start production of the contract of the contract shortly thereafter.

It is expected that the lining process will be started shortly after March 1, at which time the new machinery for the work will have been completed and most of the excavation work done.

While the cement work will be started at that time, it is not entirely certain that all of the excavation work will have been completed. It is probable, according to government engineers, that at least two of the huge bores will be completed and ready for lining at that time, and while the machines are busy on these two the tunneling work on the other two will be pushed with all possible speed.

Cement bids were called unexpectedly about two weeks ago when it was announced that contractors building Hoover dam are nearly a year ahead in their construction program and that the four diversion tunnels are nearing completion. The 380,000 barrels of cement called for in the contract will be used during the current year.

In an explanatory letter accompanying their bid the Southern California group stated that in submitting a joint bid they had "mutually agreed to divide the responsibilities involved in proportions roughly corresponding to the capacities of their several plants." The companies also agreed to make themselves jointly and severally responsible for the faithful performance and completion of the contract.

The joint low bid was made, according to local officials of the companies involved, in order that the Southern California mills can maintain as high a rate of operation as possible during the depression and give employment to the maximum number of men.