

# BEGINS 6-YEAR WORK AT THE HOOVER DAM

Chief Engineer Sets Men to  
Building Camps—Plans to  
Start the Railroad Soon.

FULL ACTIVITY BY JULY

Force Will Reach 2,400 as Soon as  
Power Is Available to Begin  
Huge Structure Itself.

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

Frank T. Crowe, construction su-  
perintendent, whose outfit, the Six  
Companies, Inc., of San Francisco,  
has received the \$48,890,995 contract  
to build the Boulder Dam and power  
houses, started the day by opening  
an office here. 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.

"That's the beginning," he went  
on, "and the first real job is the  
construction of a railroad down the  
canyon connecting the government  
railroad with the dam site. \* \* \* It  
will be carved out of the walls of  
the canyon and will be partly tunnel  
almost all of the way. It 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 be-  
fore the four diversion tunnels are  
started.

"The availability of power is the  
determining factor in actually get-  
ting construction underway 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 'hi-balling' the job."

He said that between 200 and 300  
men would start the work and 1,000  
would be employed on the project by  
the middle of April. When the big  
work starts in the Summer the max-  
imum will reach 2,400. He warned,  
however, against men seeking em-  
ployment coming to Las Vegas, since  
there is already a serious problem  
in caring for those here seeking  
work