

AWARD OF CONTRACT

In order to assist in relieving unemployment conditions existing in 1930, Secretary Wilbur requested the Bureau of Reclamation to speed up preparation of plans and specifications for the Hoover Dam and appurtenant works, so that a contract for construction could be awarded at the earliest possible date. The engineers of the Denver office responded by having the specifications printed in December 1930, or 6 months ahead of the original program. Bids were opened at Denver, Colo., on March 4, 1931, and three regular bids were received. Six Companies (Inc.) of San Francisco, Calif., submitted the low bid of \$48,890.995.50. This concern is made up of the Utah Construction Co., Ogden, Utah; Henry J. Kaiser & W. A. Bechtel Co., Oakland, Calif.; McDonald & Kahn (Ltd.), Los Angeles, Calif.; Morrison-Knudsen Co., Boise, Idaho; J. F. Shea Co., Portland, Oregon; and the Pacific Bridge Co., Portland, Oregon.

The contract was awarded to the Six Companies (Inc.) on March 11, 1931, one week after the opening of bids. The contractor was notified to proceed with the work on April 16, 1931, and in a few days workmen had established a temporary camp and the project was underway. Frank T. Crowe is general superintendent for the contractor.

The contractors were obliged to build the roads and railroads necessary to their operations, beyond those built by the Union Pacific and the Government. The difficult nature of the country made this a costly undertaking and involved the construction of 30 miles of hard-surfaced highway and 25 miles of standard-gage railroad. The railroad connects the dam with the gravel pits located about 8 miles up the river on the Arizona side.